



# The Fan-atic



## Flyer

June 2006  
Volume 6, Issue 6

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### The Boys from the South – Part 2

*By Joe Cooper*

Last month, I focused on the defenses around the NFC South. In my opinion, that's where the South will make it's name in the 2006 season but limiting focus on the defenses does a terrible injustice to the NFC South.

As Falcon fans, we are aware of the Atlanta offense. We all know about Vick, Dunn, Crumpler, White, Jenkins, Finneran etc. But what about the offenses that our revamped defense will face?

Let's first look at the Falcon's main nemesis from the last few years, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Bucs will have Chris Sims steering the offense that will feature 2<sup>nd</sup> year starter Carnell "Cadillac" Williams and WRs David Boston, Ike Hilliard, Joey Galloway and Michael Clayton. And who could

forget the venerable Mike Alstott.

Even though these players will be special, it will be the Buc's O-line that will show the most improvement. They are returning all 5 starters for the first time in team history and the Bucs added much needed depth through the draft and with free agency. Look for the Bucs to be a well balanced team this year.

Now let's shift our focus to the Falcons I-85 rival, the Carolina Panthers.

Jake Delhomme will lead the Panthers again this year. Delhomme has quietly put together a solid career with the Panthers and has a Super Bowl



appearance under his belt. He will be airing the ball out to Pro Bowl receiver Steve Smith who is coming off a career year last year. Joining the team this year is WR Keyshawn Johnson.

The ground game will be covered by Nick Goings and Deshaun Foster but the

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## Season Parking

Don't miss out in the fun of Tailgating with your club.

**What we do at the Tailgate:** Come hungry, we serve up a hamburger/hotdog meal for a \$5 donation. We have a table full of Falcon collectibles including a game jersey for raffle each game. We do our raffle around one hour before the game. Raffle ticket donations are \$1 for one, \$5 for 7, and \$10 for 20 tickets ***This raffle helps our charity work.***

Get your picture on our web site [www.falconfanatics.com/Tailgate.htm](http://www.falconfanatics.com/Tailgate.htm) in front of our huge Inflatable Falcon Player #01 Talk Football and get excited and pumped up for the game.

Fee this year is \$300 which is the same as last year. I have heard from other members that the price went up everywhere in the other lots. If you wish to get in on the parking, please send a check payable to the Falcon Fanatics to 301 Meadow Lane, Auburn, GA 30011. **Do not send the check elsewhere as we need to get you on the list.** Hope to see you there.

## Annual Banquet

June 10th is the date for this year's Annual Fan-atic Banquet. It is a time prior to the season that Fan-atics could get together and socialize prior to the start of the 2006 season.

The food was great and the socializing was flowing as we met at the Hilton at Gwinnett Place and the menu and pricing will be announced at the monthly meeting and will

be included in next month's newsletter.

A silent auction will be held Last year's silent auction raised over \$800 for use in our charities. Some items included autographed footballs signed by Michael Vick, Rod Coleman, Allen Rossum, and Tommy Nobis. There was also a mini helmet signed by both Tommy Nobis and Keith Brooking. If you have anything you wish to donate to this year's silent auction, please let an officer know or email [falcon\\_fanatics@yahoo.com](mailto:falcon_fanatics@yahoo.com).

The annual banquet is always a great time so if you missed it last year, please plan on attending this year's banquet.

## Boat Trip

A small get together for Falcon Fan-atics will take place on July 22<sup>nd</sup> on Lake Lanier.

Frank Battle's son has graciously invited 25 Fan-atics to go on a cruise and cookout. There will be a \$5 cover fee to pay for the food.

More details will be given at the monthly meeting and will also be in the next newsletter.

Remember, space is limited to 25 people and a few signed up at the last meeting so let us know today if you want to have some fun in the sun with some of your fellow Fan-atics.

## Raffle Items

We have had good participation as far as people buying items for our tailgate raffles. Our stock has greatly gone up but we are still in the need of some additional items.

Items most needed now are polo shirts and small items such as license plates, cups, pencils, etc. Anything with a Falcon logo.

Keep in mind that the tailgate raffles bring in the most money for our charitable donations and our children hospital pizza parties. This money is used solely for these endeavors and are not used to fund tailgates, trips, club business, etc.

So please send in those items so that we can have another great year with our raffles.

## Players of the Year

Thank you for all those that voted on this year's Fanatic Player of the Year awards.

This year was the tightest race in all categories ever but we did have winners. Want to know who they are? Well the winners will not be announced in the newsletter until next month. If you are dying to know now and I know you are, you need to come to the annual banquet where we will announce the winners. Thanks again for taking the time to vote.

## Moving/Change of Address or E-mail

If any member has a change of address or e-mail or is planning to have a change of address, please let Joe Cooper at [falcon\\_fanatics.com](http://falcon_fanatics.com) know so he can update the records so that he can make sure you continue to get your newsletter. Thank you.

# NFL to implement flexible scheduling during final eight Sundays of 2006 season

The NFL this season will implement for the first time in its history a primetime "flexible scheduling" element on Sundays in Weeks 10-15 and in Week 17.

Flexible scheduling will ensure quality matchups on Sunday night in those weeks and give surprise teams a chance to play their way onto primetime.

The 2006 NFL schedule will list start times for all Sunday games during the "flex" weeks as 1:00 PM ET, except for games played in the Mountain or Pacific Time zones, which will be listed at 4:05 PM ET or 4:15 PM ET.

The NBC Sunday night time slot for "flex" weeks will list teams as "TBD."

Only Sunday afternoon games are eligible to be moved. Flexible scheduling will not be applied to games airing on Thursday, Saturday or Monday nights.

Just as the six major college football conferences have done for many years, the NFL now will have additional flexibility to move the start times of games on Sundays, using a 12-day notice format.

For example, a game scheduled for Sunday, November 26 could move from a 1:00 PM ET kickoff to an 8:15 PM start, but the change would be made and announced no later than Tuesday, November 14.

The NFL has commonly moved games between 1:00 PM ET and 4:15 PM ET (eight times last season) on Sunday afternoons. The new practice allows the NFL to employ flexible scheduling to include one of its primetime package of games -- on Sunday evenings.

Sunday afternoon games, as in the past, can still be moved between 1:00 and 4:05 or 4:15 ET.

In Week 17, in order to ensure a Sunday night game with playoff implications, the decision to move the start time may be made on six days notice.

CBS and FOX will each be able to protect a total of five games in the seven weeks of flexible scheduling, but not more than one game in any week.

During the 2005 regular season, the NFL conducted a study with mock flexible scheduling. An eight-person task force consisting of team executives, one from each division, was consulted on a weekly basis. In addition, television network partners and the NFL's broadcasting department participated weekly in the process.

## NFL Flexible Scheduling 101

- ▶ Begins Sunday, November 12, 2006 (Week 10)
- ▶ In effect Weeks 10-15 and Week 17.
- ▶ Not in effect Week 16 due to holiday weekend.
- ▶ Only Sunday afternoon games in Weeks 10-15 and 17 are subject to being moved into the Sunday night window.
- ▶ The majority of games on Sundays will be listed at 1:00 PM ET during flex weeks except for games played in Pacific or Mountain Time zones which will be listed at 4:05 or 4:15 PM ET.
- ▶ No impact on Thursday,

Saturday or Monday night games.

- ▶ The NFL will decide (after consultation with CBS, FOX, NBC) and announce on 12 days notice the game being moved to 8:15 p.m. ET and may also announce games moving to 4:15 p.m. ET.
- ▶ Week 17 start time changes could be decided on 6 days notice to ensure game with playoff implications.
- ▶ The NBC Sunday night time slot in "flex" weeks will list teams as "TBD."
- ▶ Fans and ticket holders must be aware that NFL games in flex weeks are subject to change 12 days in advance (6 days in Week 17) and should plan accordingly.
- ▶ NFL schedules all games.
- ▶ CBS and FOX each get to protect a total of 5 games in the 7 weeks of flexible scheduling, but not more than one game in any week.
- ▶ Teams will be informed as soon as they are no longer under consideration or eligible for a move to Sunday night.

Keep this new scheduling system in mind when planning on coming to the games since the Falcons will be in the play off hunt this year and Vick is a sought after commodity. If you are coming in from out of town, you might want to consider adding an extra day to your trip just in case the game gets moved to 8 PM.

The tailgates will stay the same as they always have been just delayed with the food being served at 6 pm and the raffle commencing at 7 pm.

The time doesn't matter. Fun times will still be had by all.



Panthers will be looking for rookie RB DeAngelo Williams to make a big impact on the offense this season.

Look for the Panthers offense to stay consistent.

And finally, the Falcons oldest rival, the New Orleans Saints.

To the speedster Dante' Stalworth and Mouth of the South WR Joe Horn, the Saints have added Drew Brees to lead the ship, bringing a good mix of experience and leadership to the squad.

Joining Deuce McAllister this year is Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush who the Saints picked up in this year's draft. Look for the Saint's offense to be much improved.

Yes, the South will be known for it's defense but when you look at the other teams in the South, you can see that all of those defenses will have their hands full with the South's offenses. It wouldn't surprise me to see a NFC South team make it to the Super Bowl this year. Look out NFL. Here come the boys from the South.

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here