

The Fan-atic Flyer

August 2004
Volume 4, Issue 8

Inside this Issue

- 1 Cover Story
- 2 Club News and Notes
- 3 More News and Notes

New Excitement

By Joe Cooper

There is great excitement sweeping the Falcon Nation. The season is so close; we can almost taste the tailgate food. We can hear the roar of the crowd and feel the tingling sensation of electricity flowing through the dome. But why are we this



excited? Haven't we been excited before only to be let down once again?

You can hear it every where. From sports talk radio, sports on TV news, to people talking at the local coffee shop. There is a new excitement out there and it is not just because the season is coming up.

People are talking about their expectations. There is a new hope in the organization from top to bottom. They believe in Rich McKay. They are excited by the draft. I have heard talks about the Falcons

finally having someone that knows what they are doing when it comes to handling a draft. I have to agree. On paper (we all know what on paper means around here); the draft appears to be one of the Falcons' all time best. Let's hope that the players turn out to be all we expect.

People are excited about Coach Jim Mora coming aboard and leading the Falcons this season. I

asked several people why they are excited and so confident about Mora when he has never been a head coach

before. I got pretty much the same response from everyone. It is not really his first year. He has been around the NFL for twenty years. The attitude that he has already brought through the mini camps is refreshing and the coaching staff he has assembled is made up off proven winners.

People are excited about the new offensive and defensive schemes. I have heard repeatedly that it will be refreshing to beat teams using the same offense that use to torch us. Namely, the west coast offense. They are

Continued on Page 8

Annual Fan-atic Banquet

Chuck Ruffino

Editor's note: Rerunning this article from last month as a reminder of the date and location of the annual banquet. Come out and enjoy an evening with your fellow Fan-atics. Have a drink and discuss the previous night's game. See ya'll there.

Annual Banquet is confirmed for Saturday August 21st at Lake Lanier Islands Emerald Pointe Resort & Conference Center – we will use a meeting room; a good poolside and outdoor view.

The Charges and menu are the same as before & the menu will be the same. The date for receiving the pre-paid registration is changed to **Monday 8/9/2004**; you can send in the money at any time before the due date. Discounted room rates are \$119/night that will be good for 3 days before and after 8/21 and should be booked by each individual directly with the resort by asking for the "Atlanta Falcon Fan-Atics Club" rate. Right now I have only blocked a total of 5 rooms & have claimed 1. So people wanting to stay overnight should register ASAP.

Last year bunches of us came early and enjoyed all that Lake Lanier Islands had to offer, golf, lake, Emerald Point Resort including the pool, and fellow Fan-Atics. After the banquet, we retired to the pool and rousing game of Trivia Pursuit. Of course, we all hoped for the sports question to come up. Go figure!

To make this a successful banquet we need silent auction items, attached is a letter of request directed at potential businesses for donations. Goods or services most welcome. Please, print it out and give this request form to everyone you do business with restaurants, gas stations, stores, hotels or who ever you think might want to contribute. These are some of the charities we have raised money for:

- The Tommy Nobis Center
- The Atlanta Food Bank (Keith Brooking's charity)
- The Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta (Michael Vick's charity)
- The Atlanta Women and Children's Day Shelter (Cheerleaders' charity)
- The Revitalization Programs of the Thomson-McDuffie County Chamber of Commerce (Chris Mohr's charity)

Last year we raised \$1500 for our charities from the Silent Auction alone.

As a personal note I wish to ask all members of our club to attend meet and socialize with everyone at our annual dinner. I think everyone in the club are great people and life is so short. Honor Rob Beard by coming to one his favorite charity events.

Items Needed for Silent Auction

One of the biggest fund raisers we do each year is

the silent auction at the annual banquet. Because of fund raisers like this, the Falcon Fan-atics were able to donate a total of \$3,250 in cash donations to local charities. Not to mention funding pizza parties at 3 local children's hospitals.

As you see, the money raised is used for great causes. If you have any items that you would wish to donate, please let Selinda or me know before June 19th. Items can range from autographed Falcon gear to gift certificates from local businesses.

Please help us to raise the money that we need to continue the work this club is known for.

2004 Season Parking

After thorough investigation and negotiation, the Fan-atics will continue to haunt our old spot in the gravel parking lot across from Gate D at the dome.

If you are interested in parking with us, send an e-mail to falcon_fanatics@yahoo.com. Cost for parking will \$250 and checks will need to be received by July 20th.

Fan-atics' Web Site

Be sure to check out the Fan-atics's web site at www.falconfanatics.com.

You will find copies of the newsletter, calendar of upcoming events photos of club activities, on-line registration for the club. Even a message board.

Check it out and let your friends know about it also.

Spotlight on a Falcon Fanatic

Teresa Brown has been a Falcon Fan-atic for only a short time, but an Atlantic Falcon fan for almost forever. We asked her to tell us a bit about herself and why she joined the Fan-atics. Teresa said:

"I have been an Atlanta Falcons fan since 1973. The circumstances that got me interested in the Falcons were the fact that my dad was in the Army and we had just moved to Georgia from Germany. Each weekend we would watch the Falcons play or go to a game and from then I was addicted to football. My dad taught me a lot about football and what types of plays there were and it was always fun to watch the Falcons even though they didn't win very often."

"I have only been a Falcon Fan-atic for about three or four months. I was motivated to join the Falcon Fan-atics because I wanted to get involved with other Falcons fans that loved them as much I do."

"My hobbies are collecting light houses, Precious Moments figurines, going to football games (especially the Falcons) and watching my children play their sports (soccer, football, golf and horseback riding)."

"I was born on June 9, 1963 at Ft. Belvoir, VA and I am 41 years of age. The reason for my relocation to our current residence was that my husband's company was going to go out of business and also that my father had passed away in

July, 1992. We felt the need to be closer to my mother so that we could help her out as much as possible. We relocated to Lexington, South Carolina in August, 1992."

"I am married to a wonderful man, his name is Gene and he is currently 39 years old. He will turn 40 on November 30. We have been married for 20 years. He is currently employed with The Shaw Group as a Senior Electrical Designer. He handles all the electrical problems at the Honeywell plant and designs plans for new equipment to be installed. His hobbies are golfing, coin collecting and surfing the internet. He is also the assistant coach for my son's soccer team, Goal Rush."

"I have two children. A daughter whose name is Ashleigh. She is 17 years old and will be a senior at White Knoll High School. She loves to read, ride horses and spend time with her friends. I also have a son whose name is David. He is 10 years old and will be in the 5th grade at Red Bank Elementary School. He likes to play soccer, football and play the PS2 and Game boy SP. I have been blessed with a wonderful family."

"A story that I can tell you about is one when the Falcons were playing the San Francisco 49ers in 1989 or early 1990's. A group of friends, my husband and I decided to go to see the Falcons play. The weather was supposed to be in the 60's. However, we arrived in Atlanta on Friday evening and the weather was nice and everything was going as planned. Then on Saturday night a cold front came

through and needless to say we were not prepared. We had to go out and buy gloves, scarves and blankets for the game. When we arrived at the stadium on Sunday the high was only like 32 degrees. We went to the game and froze our behinds. After half time a few of our friends decided to leave. That just left one other couple, a single guy, my husband and me. You couldn't really tell how cold the wind was until the people left and the wind was chilling to the bone. We debated whether to leave or stay. I really wanted to stay because the game was exciting. After the third quarter, the other couple left, but I was still determined to stick it out until the end. However, by the middle of the fourth quarter I was barely able to feel my feet or fingers and the gloves just weren't enough. You couldn't even find hot chocolate anywhere in the stadium. With approximately 3-4 minutes left in the fourth quarter, I couldn't take the cold any longer so we decided to leave. And I believe that they ended up winning that game.

"My all time favorite players are Steve Bartkowski, Jessie Tuggle, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, Tim Dwight and Michael Vick. I think they have all added a lot of talent to the team and have seen them through the days when they weren't doing well or even playing their best.

I think all the Falcon Fan-atics will agree that it is people like Teresa that help to make the Fan-atics a great club and I am certain we all look forward to seeing Teresa, Gene, Ashleigh and David at a future tailgate party.

excited about the 4 – 3 defense and can't wait to see LB Keith Brooking back in the position where he was outstanding in college. They are excited about watching rookie CB DeAngelo Hall and are already comparing him to Deion Sanders.

And yes, people are even excited about the return of the red jerseys.

So what does this all mean? Easy. People are excited. But is their excitement justified? Time will tell.

One last question, aren't you just as excited as they are? I know I am.

Falcon Fan-Atics
Newsletter
301 Meadow Lane
Auburn, GA 30011

Place Stamp
here