

The Fan-atic Flyer

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Inside this Issue

- 1 Cover Story
- 2 Club News and Notes
- 3 Fan-atic Spotlight

Well, We Can Still Tailgate!!!

By Joe Cooper

The regular season is over and the Falcons are flying high into the playoffs in spite of losing their last two regular season games. Games in which key components Michael Vick and Alge Crumpler where for the most part missing.

After looking flat against New Orleans when rookie QB Matt Schaub got his first career NFL start, the Falcons returned to their hard aggressive play style and only came one half of a yard short of tying the Seattle Seahawks in the last game of the year. A game in which after a slow start and costly interception, Schaub showed poise and took control of the offense like a season veteran.

The Falcons finish the regular season with a record of 11-5. With Michael Vick as the starting quarterback, this number may not surprise many people but let’s not forget what all went into this year’s record.

The Falcons started the 2004 campaign with a rookie head

coach, Jim Mora. Mora’s winning attitude and no nonsense coaching style quickly turned the Falcons around and with the 11-5 record, Mora ties the record for most wins for a rookie coach taking over a team with a losing record.

And with a new coach comes new schemes. The Falcons switch to a version of the West Coast Offense which many sports writers and announcers

have called the Vick Coast Offense. With this new offense, the Falcons finished first in the NFL



for team rushing yards, averaging 162 yards per game and broke the team rushing record by 134 yards. Warrick Dunn finished the season with his second best career rushing year with 1,102 rushing yards. TJ Duckett showed maturity and became the power rusher we have been waiting to see.

The Falcons also switched back to the 4-3 Defense. Key off season acquisition of Rod Coleman sparked the defensive line and both Coleman and DE Patrick Kerney finished the season with career highs in sacks with 11 ½ for Coleman and 14 sacks for Kerney.

Continued on Page 4

January's Fan-atic's Meeting

We will have a meeting in November and it will be at Corky's near Gwinnett Place Mall on January 11th at 7:00 p.m.

No guest speaker has been announced at this time.

**Directions to Corky's:
Phone Number: 770-564-8666**

From I-85N

- I-85N to Exit 104 (Pleasant Hill Road).
- Take a right and proceed approx. 6/10th of a mile.
- Turn right onto Sweetwater Road.
- Corky's will be on the right

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From I-85S

- I-85S to Exit 104 (Pleasant Hill Road).
- Take a left and proceed approx. 6/10th of a mile.
- Turn right onto Sweetwater Road.

Corky's will be on the right

Playoff Info

The Falcons will be hosting a second round game at the Georgia Dome on January 15th at 8 PM.

Those Fan-atics that paid for season parking in the gravel lot across from gate D will be able to park in the same spot we always park in. The spot will be reserved. Just tell the attendant your name and the cost will be \$25. Pay the attendant when you arrive.

We will also have a full tailgate as we always do. We

will be serving hamburgers and hotdogs and we will have a raffle.

Come down to the tailgate and enjoy the playoff atmosphere with your fellow Fan-atics.

Thank You

Another season is coming to an end and the Fan-atics have enjoyed another year of great tailgating and had nice success with our raffles.

This could not have been done without the assistance of some faithful and dedicated Fan-atics.

Please join me in expressing thanks to the following Fanatics:

Ted "Bean Man" Owens, Tailgate Coordinator – Ted had the unenvious job of hauling the grill and tailgate supplies to the games all year long. Ted also set up and took down the equipment. And what tailgate wouldn't have the "Bean Man" serving beans?

Candy Cooper – Candy was in charge of the raffles and worked hard on it at each game this year. Coincidentally, we had one of our more successful years with the raffle.

Chuck and April Ruffino – Chuck and April both worked at every game setting up and taking down equipment as well as helping with the raffles and serving.

Diane White – Diane's smiling face was helping with the serving as usual.

And a special thank you to all those Fan-atics who saw help was needed and chipped in when they could. All of you made 2004 a special tailgating year.

Let's Get Digital

Ever received your newsletter late? Was it ever damaged by the Post Office? Did you ever not receive your copy of the Fan-atic Flyer?

Well, worry no more about receiving your copy. Sign up today and start receiving your newsletter through e-mail. All you need is an e-mail address and Microsoft Word on your PC. You will receive your newsletter the same day it is released to the printers. No more annoying staples to remove. No damage pages. Better quality photos. And you can print out as many copies as you want for your own use and to give to friends and co-workers.

Additionally, receiving your newsletter via e-mail will help reduce the clubs administration expenses and the more money we save running the club translates into more money we can put into the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation and other selected charities.

Delay no longer. Sign up today and receive your next issue electronically. Send an e-mail with the subject "Sign Me Up" to falcon_fanatics@yahoo.com. That's all you have to do. The newsletter will be sent to the e-mail address on your sign up notice.

Spotlight on a Falcon Fan-atic

One of our newer, and also an out-of state member is



Santo Ruffino. Santo was born in 1935 and lived for many years in the Chicago area. He worked for 35 years as an electrical/electronic company in an Outside Sales/Marketing Position and retired in 1992. During this time he traveled all over the country, including several locations in Georgia and among other things, he trained staff on how to sell products, set up booths at shows and how-to sell direct.

Recently, he moved to Snowbird in Mesa, Arizona and insists he will not be any less of a Falcon fan even if it will be difficult to attend games from Mesa due to the distance.

Santo married his lovely wife Anna 45 years ago and they have two sons; Charles, who is 44 and Joseph who is 41. Charles worked for Delta Airlines as an Avionic Tech since '91. I am sure most of you know Charles (Chuck) who contributes much valuable time and energy working with the Fan-atics and he chairs the

membership committee. Joseph works for a library and takes care of about 250 computers and he programs them too. Both of the sons love to travel and they enjoy golf and water sports.

When Charles was transferred to Atlanta by Delta Airlines, Santo had a reason to visit Atlanta and frequent our tailgate parties before attending the games. He was motivated to and joined the Fan-atics.

Santo and Anna also like to travel and they have traveled about 250,000 miles. Santo also likes woodworking and remodeling his home, which he not only designs the projects, but does the work himself. While he concedes he also follows the Bears; seeing some of the Atlanta/Bear games actually helped to draw him to the Falcons. After sitting in Soldier's Field, next to Lake Michigan, and watching the teams play with a 20 below zero chill factor, Santo definitely prefers our domed stadium. Unfortunately, after Santo and Chuck saw the Bears tie or beat our Falcons on several occasions, Santo says Chuck asked him not to come back for the Falcon/Bear match-ups. Santo said "Chuck was joking, I hope!"

After seeing the pre-season games and a lot of good offensive and defensive players and assuming Mike Vick stays healthy, and with new Head Coach Mora,

Santo predicts the Falcons will not only be exciting, but they are play-off bound.

Comical Relief

A football coach looked over to his star player and said, "I know I'm not supposed to let you play since you failed math but we need you in there. How about I ask you a math question to prove you know your math so you can play?"

The player agreed and the coach asked the following question, "Okay, what is 2+2?"

The player thought for a moment and then he answered, "4."

Suddenly, all the other players on the team began screaming, "Come on coach, give him another chance!"

Q: How do you keep Bears away from your campsite?

A: Put up goalposts.

An announcement from P.A. system at Texas Stadium this year:

Will the parents who lost your eleven kids here at the stadium please come get them? They are leading the Cowboys 14-0



Team doctor with a serious psychological problem.

Special Teams was the one constant and this year it was truly special. Allen Rossum became the Falcons all time punt returner and the team lead the NFL with punt coverage and was second in kick off coverage.

So in a season with a new head coach, new offensive scheme, and a new defensive scheme, the Falcons finished the season with a 11-5 record, won the South Division, and got a first round bye in the playoffs with the second best record in the NFC. Imagine the possibilities when the Falcons completely learn the new schemes.

Happy New Year!!!

Falcon Fan-Atics
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Place Stamp
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