

The Fan-atic Flyer

October 2004
Volume 4, Issue 10

Inside this Issue

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

It's All About the Heart

Joe Cooper

The Falcons record is now 4 – 0. You all know that. What Falcon fan doesn't know that. But what does it really mean?

On a simplistic level, it means the birds have not been beaten yet. What a feeling. The Falcons haven't had a record this good since 1986. But is this the only meaning of a 4 – 0 record? Of course not. There are contributing factors to this record.

First and foremost is the coaching staff. Coach Mora and his crew have not a

superb job so far this season of having the Falcons prepared to play and play with enthusiasm. When Mora was hired, many Falcon fans didn't have a clue what this would mean to the organization. Me included. However, since day 1, I have become more and more impressed with Coach Mora's approach. He has instilled a discipline to the team and has given the players a deep hunger to succeed.



Add to that the job that Coach Donatell has done to the defense. The Falcons had one of the worse defenses last year. No longer. They have steadily moved up in the defensive rankings this year and it is being done without our number one draft pick CB Diangelo Hall. Installing the 4-3 defense was long overdue. No longer our players playing out of position. Take NFC Defensive Player of the Month for the month of September, Patrick Kerney. Kerney has been a beast at DE this year. Moving Kerney

out to the edge has caused Offensive Tackles to have to match up with his speed. Something a lot of

tackles can't do. With Rod Coleman in the middle wrecking havoc, Kerney, Brady Smith, and Keith Brooking are allowed to make more impact plays. With this pressure, the opposing QBs are not allowed the time to make thorough progression reads which greatly benefits our defensive backs. And Bryan Scott is emerging as a force to be reckoned with in the likes that haven't been seen since Scott Case took

Continued on page 8

A New Roost

Joe Cooper



The Falcon Fan-atics have a new home to flock together to watch our beloved birds on away games. We are now meeting at Logan's on the corner of Hwy 78 and Killians Hill Road. We had a great time at Logan's last Sunday as we watch the Falcons methodically destroy the Pansies er I mean Panthers. The food was good and the drinks were better. It was fun watching the game with a bunch of fellow Fan-atics, eat some peanuts and toss the shells on the floor. We met in



a back room that was for us only. Management has said that they will put a wide screen TV in there for us as well. We were cheering so loud that others in the restaurant had to come back and see what was going on. We passed out applications to those people and might have fellow Fan-atics join us.

We had a good turnout last Sunday but I would like to see a bigger group at the next away game. So if you have nothing better to do and what could be better than watching the Falcons on a Sunday afternoon, put on your Falcons gear and come to Logan's and join your fellow Fan-atics.

Raffle Time

As part of our yearly fundraising, the Falcon Fan-atics are raffling off a framed autograph Michael Vick jersey. Tickets are selling for \$1 per ticket. We sell tickets at each home game tailgate with the drawing set for the December 18th home game.

If you are interested in purchasing some tickets, stop by the tailgate or if unable to come to home games, send an email to falcon_fanatics@yahoo.com and let me know how many tickets you want and I will mail you the tickets.

Remember that all funds generated goes towards are charities such as pizza parties at the Atlanta children hospitals and the donations to the players of the year award winners' favorite charity.

Buy 1. Buy 100. Just buy and good luck.

October's Fan-atic's Meeting

We will have a meeting in September and it will be at Corky's near Gwinnett Place Mall on October 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Amber Dunlap, Georgia Force will be a guest speaker.

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

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

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 know so he can update the records so that he can make sure you continue to get your newsletter. Thank you.



Spotlight on a Falcon Fan-atic

Rickey Cheeks was born in 1954 in Gainesville, Georgia and he has returned to live there. He has been a Atlanta Falcon fan since 1966 and a Falcon Fan-atic since 1990. Rickey fell in love with the Falcons early and as soon as he found out about the Fan-atics, he wanted to join people who also felt the same way about the Falcons.

He is a second shift Area Manager at Peachtree Windows and Doors and he has worked there for almost 23 years. It seems as though Rick is working on fielding his own football team. His kids are 27 year old Tashaiana who graduated from the University of Alabama, Birmingham and she is in real estate; 17 year old Aila who is a senior in high school and wants to be a lawyer; 3 year old Lelia, who doesn't know what she wants to be yet, but shows leadership traits. Lelia is already a Falcon fan and 15 month old Rickey, Jr. who is very demanding and the way he throws things, he is getting ready to challenge Michael Vick.

Also 12 year old Alberto who loves school; 18 year old Whitney, who just graduated and wants to be an x-ray technician and 21 year old Sandra, who has two lovely kids.

Rickey attends as many games as he can and catches the Falcons on TV when family matters prevent him from attending the games. With the demands of a large family, Rickey only has time for two hobbies. The

first is the Falcons during the season and the other is waiting for the season to start during the off-season.

His favorite memories across the years are the '98 season and the Super Bowl and the kick in the Minnesota game that got the Falcons into the Super Bowl. Other big memories didn't turn out as well; such as the loss in the December 30, 1978 game. Rickey was at Ft. Campbell, KY with Company A in the 20th Engineer Battalion. He was watching the Falcons in the day room as Atlanta was leading Dallas 20-13. Roger Staubach was knocked out of the game and Rickey said he was in Hog Heaven. Many of the other soldiers were pulling for Dallas; even some of the Georgians, but not Rickey. The room became very quiet. Then Danny White came in for Dallas and, unfortunately, the rest is history. Rickey took his punishment from those non-believers like a good paratrooper.

Rickey has many favorite players, starting with his all time favorite, "Mr. Falcon himself, Tommy Nobis." The rest, in random order, are Jeff Van Note, Claude Humphery, John Zook, and Steve Bartkowski, the best quarterback of all time, Rickey says, "Nothing against you Vick. Bart was the man you will be."

More favorites were William Andrews, Scott Case, Alfred Jenkins, Wallace Francis, Bill (White Shoes) Johnson, Sylvester Stamps, Haskel Stanback, Cannonball Butler, Jessie Tuggle, Chuck Smith, John Rade, Mike Kenn, Buddy Curry, Bill Fralic, Fulton Kuykendall, Jeff Yeates, John Scully, Jim

Mitchell, R. C. Thielman, Mick Luckhurst, Billy Lothridge, Bubba Bean certainly Bob Christain. Wow, did he miss anyone?

His favorite coaches are Norm Van Brocklin, Leeman Bennett, and Dan Reeves.

Each year starts with the dream of a Super Bowl Victory dancing in Rick's head and this year is no different. He believes we are in a learning stage, not a rebuilding stage and if we don't make it this year, then all Rick can say is, "Watch out NFL, here comes Michael Vick and company."

Tampa Trip Info

The Corporate Connection is planning a first class trip to Tampa Bay to go see the Falcons take on the Bucs on Dec. 5th. The package will start at \$225 per person and includes the following:

- Round trip transportation leaving from Atlanta @ 1 PM on Sat. 12/5
- Beverages on board the bus along with football movies and box lunch will be provided along with Falcon prizes
- Overnight stay at the Tampa hotel in Tampa (Double occupancy)
- Continental breakfast on Sunday
- Upper Level Endzone Seat for the game
- Return to Atlanta after game

Call 770-650-6760 to book with a major credit card or goto their website at APARTYBUS.COM.

off his #25 and went to Dallas.

Now everyone around the league looks at the Falcons and points to one man, Michael Vick. That is quickly becoming their biggest mistake. Vick is no longer winning the games by himself. Contributions from Warrick Dunn, Algae Crumpler, and TJ Duckett are adding up. Let the opposition point at Vick and think by shutting his running down that they will beat the Falcons. Vick has shown signs of maturing. The game against the Panthers was a prime example. Vick didn't post gaudy numbers but he did have control of the game. He didn't appear rattled and involved everyone in the offense. And to think, Vick is still learning the West Coast Offense and the entire playbook has not been implemented yet. Dare I say it. Dynasty.

Another thing the 4 – 0 record boils down to is heart. The Falcons are playing with more heart this year. They believe in themselves and the confidence is showing on the field. So let others like ESPN's Michael Irving who said that the Falcons would not keep winning since this was the same bunch as last year continue to downplay the Falcons, the results speak volumes.

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

Place Stamp
here