



The Fan-atic



Flyer

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A Letter to the Club

I am writing to the Falcon Fan club on behalf of my son Joe. He loved the Falcons from the age of six. Interestingly enough I don't know why. He just did. He enjoyed his fan status and proclaimed his loyalty like all young boys do, purchasing the important trivia and trinkets with his favorite team emblems. We live in Appleton Wisconsin, thirty minutes from Green Bay, in the heart of Packerland. Consequently seeking Falcon jackets in Packerland for the very young and determined was more than a challenge; it became a quest. A quest I now cherish more than ever. While his commitments were varied, the Atlanta Falcons were his most worthy commitment.

To not be a packer fan is a grave violation here. To not be a Packer fan while surrounding yourself with many uncles who are was an interesting place for Joe to be. He was proud to call Falcons his team.

Over the years he and his father would travel to Atlanta, Cleveland, and of course Green Bay to root the Falcons on. Traveling the substantial roads to a stadiums otherwise of no interest was the vacation of the year. Pawning his TV/VCR for funds in order to become a guest at the Paper Valley Hotel here on Atlanta Falcon weekend, allowed he and his pal Kyle the most important opportunity to

visit with Falcon players, coach and staff. Thank you for the time and focus you gave Joe that Saturday night. Truly it was one of selected joys of his short life.

We lost Joe last December 20th, along with his pals Kyle and Cory. He died wearing his newly acquired birthday present, a new Falcon sweatshirt. Although he will no longer be here to cheer you on, he has left the Falcons a team to respect and follow by his friends and family. It is important for us to share his sincere love of your organization. Joe was a challenge to make an impact on. He didn't hand out his approval easily. He wasn't eager to collect heroes. He nodded his approval selectively and watchfully. What his standards were at times were unclear to me. I do know they were based on a level of integrity. To observe my son remain committed to Atlanta Falcons for so many years was a privilege. So from him to you may this Falcon season know pride in victory and grace in defeat. May the kindnesses the fan club and in particular Selinda gave Joe and Tom be given back three fold. We will continue to keep the Falcons in our radar with affection and support, even here in Packer Country.

Most Sincerely,
Kathy Hinton

Proud mother of Joe Hinton....
A Falcon Fan from Wisconsin.

2004, Vick's Year to Make Pudding

By Dave Jones

As a long-distance Falcon Fan, I have to resort to whatever I can to stay informed on what is happening with my team. I get snip-its from ESPN (both Radio and TV) and I get to watch a little bit of pre-season football. I have the NFL ticket so I get to watch every regular-season game, whether I make the trek to Atlanta or not. Other than that, I have to get my information off of the web. I peruse NFL.com, the Falcon's home page message board and AJC.com's Falcon page (now that they have one). Regardless of where I get my information, the message has been consistent..."Mike Vick is arguably the most athletically talented QB in the NFL". Without question, he is exciting to watch. And the highlights?,,, I can't see that 40+ yard TD run in overtime against the Vikings too many times. Expectations are high, probably higher than for any other quarterback in the league. When he was drafted, he was touted as the ultimate specimen of a QB of the new millennium, a mobile QB that can burn you with his arm or his legs. That has proven true as long as he is healthy. As the soothsayers are finding out, however, that style of play raises the risk of injuries. Mobile QB's like Vick, Daunte Culpepper, Donovan McNabb and Jeff Garcia all had their 2003 seasons seriously affected by injury. Pursuing defenses like that of Tampa Bay, Philadelphia and now Carolina continue to shut down mobile QB's and

another "boring, pocket-passing" field general won the Super Bowl.

We are now in the early stages of Vick's 4th season in the NFL, and as the saying goes, "The proof is in the pudding". I see this as a pivotal year for him. Will this be the year we turn the corner and he becomes the consistent man of excitement we all want him to be? Let's hope so. As I write this, though, Vick has taken fewer than 30 snaps in pre-season action and is sitting out of the next game with an injury. Meanwhile, a rookie Falcon QB from Virginia (with Elway-like size and playing-style) is leading the NFL pre-season not only in passing yards, but in passing TD's as well. Granted it's pre-season so the blitzes are not as numerous as they will be in a couple of weeks, but the proverbial playing field has been level for both players. Activity on this topic is already dominating the Falcon web site message board.

It's going to be interesting to watch the season unfold. There are so many question marks...Will Vick be able to "turn it on" when the season begins after a relatively inactive pre-season? Will he continue to be injury-prone? Does his style of play work with the West Coast Offense? If Schaub ends up with playing time during the season, will he continue to look as sharp as in pre-season? I'll be watching every snap with you. In any event, the proof will indeed be in the pudding and this is Vick's year to prove he has the recipe.

Spotlight on a Falcon Fan-atic – Dave Jones

Gail Clancy

Dave Jones is one of our more distant Falcon-Fan-atics. He was born in Brookings and now lives in Brandon, South Dakota, which is just outside of Sioux Falls. He lives with his wife Stacy and he is working on her conversion to the Falcons. Come on Stacy, we Fan-atics need you.

It must have been a sign of Dave's impending loyalty to the Falcons when he attended high school in Brookings and the school's uniforms were almost identical to the Atlanta Falcon's old red uniforms.

Dave joined the Fan-atics early in the 1998 season and he was very pleasantly surprised by his fortunate timing and the fantastic year that followed. Joe works for Gateway Computers and he ensures that the service providers fix the customer's laptops in a timely manner. When not following the Atlanta Falcons, Dave enjoys flying, boating and playing drums.

In spite of the distance, Dave has been to two games in Atlanta, one in New Orleans and another in Green Bay. He has also been to Furman for training camp and he has toured the Flowery Branch facility. Dave has Satellite TV so he can catch all the games.

Bob Christian was Dave's favorite player until he retired and his favorite players last season were Alge Crumpler

on offense and Juran Bolden on defense. Dave said, "I think Arthur Blank is laying the groundwork to make the Falcons a perennial competitor in the NFL. Hiring Rich McKay should improve performance in the draft and with overall personnel improvements, Jim Mora Jr. will help bring the Falcon 's schemes, both offensive and defensive, 'up-to-date' with the rest of the league. If I had one hope for the 2004 season, it would be a solid offensive line.

Due to the distance involved, Dave doesn't get to attend the monthly meetings or help with our local club-related activities, but he tries to be "Part of the action," by staying in touch and writing articles for the Fan-atics newsletter.

Speaking for all the Fan-atics Dave, we look forward to seeing you and Stacy at a tail-gate party in the future. Maybe you will convert her by then.

Fan-atics Annual Banquet

Gail Clancy

The long awaited Falcon Fan-atic Annual Banquet was held on August 21 at the Emerald Point Resort and all had a great time. Many members came early and stayed late. Some sailed the lake, golfed, took advantage of many other activities, or just lounged around the Emerald Point pool. Some stayed at the Emerald Point Resort to get an early start or stayed over to party longer or just in case they partied a bit too much.

The deer were active and almost everyone had a chance to take pictures while driving in or out or just to admire them.

Once the banquet started, some of the best margaritas in the south were available and a nice selection of other drinks, including beer, wine and some great soft drinks. A silent auction was held to raise money for charities. Over \$600. was raised. The food and drinks were great with more food than anyone could possibly handle.

Several great salads, hamburgers, BBQ beef and BBQ chicken, with all the fixings, corn bread, peach cobbler and much, much more were also there for the taking.

The banquet was made special by Tommy Nobis, who was a dynamic, middle-linebacker from 1966 to 1976. He joined us for dinner and gave us insights into the Atlanta Falcons past, present and future as he recalled anecdotes from his career as a player and from his many years since then with the Falcons.

Kendrick Mosley also spoke and gave us insight into the life of a rookie wide receiver. Kendrick is a 22 year old, 197 pound, 6'2" rookie from Western Michigan and he is looking for the opportunity of a long term, successful career with the Falcons. We wish him the best and look forward to seeing many dazzling catches from him this year and in future years. Thank you Tommy and Kendrick for helping to make the evening a great success.

The awards for last year's players, who we voted as the

best, were announced. They were:

Algae Crumpler on offense
Patrick Kerney on defense
Artie Ulmer on special teams.

Our Club will make donations for their favorite charities. A video by these special players will be shown at the September 14 meeting at Corkys.

This was a wonderful kick-off to what we expect to be a great 2004 Atlanta Falcon football season.

September's Fan-atic's Meeting

We will have a meeting in September and it will be at Corky's near Gwinnett Place Mall on September 14th at 7:00 p.m.

No guest speaker is 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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 • Kick Off Luncheon	3 • Preseason Game	4
5	6	7	8	9 • Regular Season opens	10 • Regular Season opens	11 • Regular Season opens
12 • Atlanta @ SAN FRANCISCO 4:15 p.m ET	13	14 • Club Meeting	15	16	17	18
19 • ST. LOUIS @ Atlanta 1 p.m. ET Tailgate Menu Hamburgers Hot Dogs	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 • ARIZONA @ Atlanta 1 p.m. ET Tailgate Menu Hamburgers Hot Dogs	27	28	29	30		

Falcon Fan-Atics
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 Auburn, GA 30011

Place Stamp
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