

The Fan-atic Flyer

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Time to Shine

Joe Cooper

The 2006 NFL season is finally here. It feels like centuries since the last game to this writer. But now it's here and it is time once again to get behind my beloved Falcons with visions of Super Bowl rings dancing in my head.

Those of you who know me personally know that I am almost always positive when it comes to my Falcons. I never give up on my team even if there is only 5 minutes left in a game and the birds are down by 30. They could still come back to win. You never know.

I have been called a blind loyalist. I reply, no, I am the true definition of a fan. I am a Fan-atic.

This year will be no exception. I am once again dreaming of a Super Bowl victory and as I look at the anecdotal paper, I see a championship caliber team.

I look at the additions that were made last minute by GM and team president Rich McKay and I get a little bit

excited. Ashley Lelie and Grady Jackson should be instant dividends on this team.

Yes, I am once again optimistic about the team on paper but I am not totally blinded.

Too many years have I seen an unbeatable team on paper only to watch my Super Bowl contenders end up with a losing season.

Why is that? I can't really say. Team chemistry, key injuries, poor coaching, lack of pride... It could be a number of

things but the bottomline is paper does not win championships.

Yes, the Falcons look good on paper but now is the time to shine. They must not only play up to their level but to borrow the old cliché. They must play at 110%.

The only way for paper to win is to transfer the paper to play and if the Falcons come out and play then for the first time in Falcon history, paper will become jewelry.

Time to shine, Falcons. Time to shine.



September Fan-atic's Meeting

We will have a meeting in March and it will be at Corky's near Gwinnett Place Mall on September 12th at 7:00 p.m. Guest Speaker will be "Mr. Falcon" Tommy Nobis.

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

Speaker's Bio

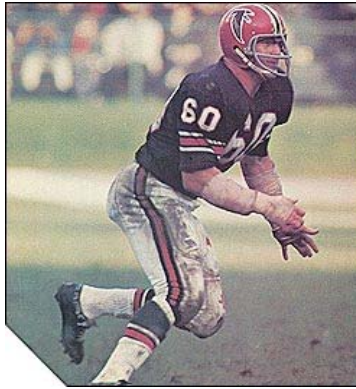
"MR. FALCON"

The first-ever player drafted by the Falcons and the first overall selection in the 1966 draft, Tommy Nobis quickly became the first-ever Falcons player voted to the Pro Bowl after being selected in his first year. It was the first of his five trips. In nine of his 11 NFL seasons, "Mr. Falcon" led the Falcons in tackles and Nobis' mark of 294 total combined stops is still a club record.

ACQUIRED:

The Falcons selected Outland Trophy winning linebacker Tommy Nobis

from the University of Texas with the first overall choice in the 1966 NFL Draft, which was also the first draft



choice in franchise history.

MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Professional Career

- ▶ The first ever player drafted by the Falcons for the inaugural 1966 season. Tommy quickly became the first ever Falcons player voted to the Pro Bowl in his rookie year. The stellar middle linebacker was named rookie of the year for his efforts.
- ▶ "Mr. Falcon" led the team in tackles in nine of his 11 seasons, while earning five trips to the Pro Bowl.
- ▶ After his 46th consecutive NFL game, he underwent knee surgery in 1969 and another one on the other knee in 1971. Tough Nobis came back to earn another Pro Bowl spot in 1972.
- ▶ One of football's fiercest competitors ever, his middle linebacker toughness is legendary.
- ▶ In a poll conducted in 1970 by ABC to pick the best athlete of the decade of the 1960s, RB O.J. Simpson was No. 1 and Tommy Nobis was No. 2 in the entire country.
- ▶ He had a 294 tackles as a rookie in 1966, a record that still stands to this day.
- ▶ Also intercepted 11 passes during his pro career, returning two of them for touchdowns.

▶ His jersey, No. 60, was the first one the Falcons ever honored. Nobis was the only one to ever wear the number in the franchise's history.

Honors

- ▶ Five Pro Bowls (1966-68, 1970, 1972).
- ▶ NFL Rookie of the Year in 1966.
- ▶ Hall of Fame honors: The National Football Foundation Hall of Fame, The State of Texas Hall of Fame, The State of Georgia Hall of Fame
- ▶ Named to Sports Illustrated All-Century Team (1869-1969).

College

- ▶ As a linebacker and offensive guard at the University of Texas, won both Outland and Maxwell trophies as best college player.
- ▶ Played for Darrell Royal on the team the won the 1963 national championship over Navy and its outstanding QB Roger Staubach.
- ▶ In 1964, was part of a 10-1 squad which beat Alabama and its star quarterback, Joe Namath, in the Orange Bowl.

Personal

- ▶ Born September 20, 1942 in San Antonio, Texas.
- ▶ He and his wife, Lynn, have three children: Tommy, III, Kevin and Devon.
- ▶ Is the founder and board member of the Tommy Nobis Center, which provides job training and employment services for both youth and adults with disabilities. The center has been in place for more than 27 years and its staff has placed more than 12,000 young people and adults into jobs throughout metro Atlanta.
- ▶ Has been named NFL Man of the Year in addition to the Joseph P. Kennedy award for Special Olympics.

Membership Fee Structure Changed

We have adjusted the membership fee for families at our last Fanatics Club meeting, now one membership per family at the same address. Which means spouse and children are free. T-shirts are the same price as before, \$5 for the first membership and \$10 per extras. Update application is below.

If you have sent it in already you will be refunded, please email Chuck Ruffino at chuckruffino@falconfanatics.com if this has happened.

Time to Tailgate

The season is officially here and now we are ready for some football.

Even if you do not park with the Fan-atics, still make it a point to come to the tailgate and hang out with fellow Fan-atics, engage in some football talk, eat some food and participate in the raffles.

Always remember that the proceeds that we generate from the tailgates are the funds that we use to do our charity work such as the pizza parties at the children hospitals around Atlanta.

Also, this year we will be

raffling off a TV on the final game of the year. Tickets will be available at the Tampa Bay Home game on September 17th. Be sure to stop by and pick up a handful to sell.

We really need the support of all Fan-atics in this endeavor. You do not have to be present to win and we will ship the TV to the winner so even the out of town Fan-atics can get involved.

If you are interested in getting some tickets to sell and are not able to stop by the tailgate, please send in email to falcon_fanatics@yahoo.com. Put Raffle Tickets Needed in the subject line.

Member Information:

New member: _____ Renewal: _____

Please print

Name(s) of Applicant(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

HomePhone: _____ Cell: _____ E-Mail: _____

Falcon Season Ticket Holder: ___ Yes ___ No

Age Group: (circle) Under 12 13-20 21-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-70 Over 70

If you would like to serve on a committee, please indicate which committee you are interested in by circling the name:
Telephone Membership Volunteer Tailgate Special Events Membership:

\$24.00 Individual investment per year for United States Mailing Addresses, International Mailing Address is \$30.00 for individuals, New members prorated annual fee, contact membership chairman. chuckruffino@falconfanatics.com 678-472-2616

How many are joining using this application? _____ Email your Fanatics Newsletter? _____ (Yes or No)

Extra Member Items:

There is an extra charge for t-shirts and golf shirts: Indicate your T-shirt size and quantity requested: (T-shirts are red; \$5.00 each per membership, \$10 for extras)

S or M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____

Indicate your Golf shirt size and quantity requested:
(Golf shirts are: S,M,L or XL \$29.00 each - XXL is \$31.00 each - XXXL is \$32.00 each)

You can order multiple sizes and colors: Please indicate your color choice with the following designation: WHITE (W), BLACK (B) or RED (R) when making your selection. Please clearly indicate your requested size and quantity & color:

S or M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____
(W) (B) (R) _____ (W) (B) (R) _____ (W) (B) (R) _____ (W) (B) (R) _____ (W) (B) (R) _____

Payment Information:

Please make your check out to: "Falcon Fanatics, Inc."

Date _____ Total _____ Amount enclosed: Check #: _____

NOTE:
We accept the following Credit Cards with on-line applications only.

Please complete this membership form, enclosed your payment and send to: Falcon Fanatics, Inc., P.O. Box 7117, Marietta, Georgia, 30065-1117

Let's Get Digital

Joe Cooper

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 will 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.

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.

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

Place Stamp
here