

The Fan-atic Flyer

December 2004
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Tis The Season

Joe Cooper

It's the holiday season once again and I reflect back to my childhood where I anxiously awaited to see what Santa Claus had brought me. I would run downstairs before the crack of dawn much to my beleaguered parents' dismay. Whooping and hollerin' loving every minute of it. All the innocence of childhood.

One particular ritual I remember about that wonderful day was the gathering of friends and family. The togetherness that was felt. The sense of being one. A ritual that I am happy to say continues to this day.

I remember going to church and learning the meaning of Christmas and why it should be celebrated. A meaning that I am not ashamed to say is a priority in my life today.

I remember sitting in front of my grandmother's TV with my uncles and cousins all with plates heaping with pie and other holiday deserts as we prepared to lose ourselves in football cornucopia.

And there was one other ritual that I always loved that led to all the wonderful things I

discovered early every Christmas morning. It was my letter to Santa Claus. If you will bear with the rantings of a sometimes-crazed individual who just so happens to be a huge Falcons fan, I would like to revisit that ritual here.

So without further ado, here is my letter to Santa.

Dear Santa,

I have been a very good boy this year. I've gotten up to go to work and was not late all year long. I know

I've had my moments this year but please forgive those minor indiscretions. I hope you can get the things I want this year like you have done for me so many times in the past.

This year I want another wonderful

year with my wife. Give me the insight to really appreciate all that she does and how much she really means to me.

Please give me the patience and serenity to live my daily life in such a way that I will please God and those around me.

Please let me be thankful for being able to live in this country where I am free to



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December's Fanatic's Meeting

We will have a meeting in December and it will be at Corky's near Gwinnett Place Mall on October 12th 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

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

Raffle Time

As part of our yearly fundraising, the Falcon Fanatics 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.

Yes Atlanta, There is a Santa Claus!!!

Joe Cooper

T'is the season to start thinking about the old man in the red suit. You know the one with the big belly and white beard. The one figure that is known world wide for his amazing feats of traveling the world in one night, delivering toys and gifts to all the nice children.

Yes, it is Yuletide again but I want to turn your attention away from the traditional Santa to a Santa that is more closer to home. This Santa doesn't have a flowing white beard but a close shaved one instead. This Santa does not wear a big red suit. No this Santa wears black. Instead of a sock cap, this Santa wears a helmet. Instead of fat and jolly, this Santa is lean and mean. But one thing these two Santas have in common is that they both do astonishing feats and both give presents to others.

The traditional Santa performs the miraculous feat of traversing the entire world in one night. Well the other Santa I speak of is not this

fast, he isn't far behind. The Santa I speak of can make world class athletes look like actors auditioning for a remake of a Marx Brothers film. This Santa can make fast defensive backs that have an angle on him collide together as he scampers into the end zone. While the traditional Santa leaves presents under the Christmas trees to make all the good boys and girls smile with delight, the Santa I speak of gives gifts of delight to all the dedicated Falcons fans out there. He brings smiles to all their faces as he helps lead the Falcons to another victory.

Now one must remember that the traditional Santa does not do all he does by himself. He has help from the elves that make the toys and the reindeer that pulls his sleigh. The Santa I speak of also has help. Tremendous help. The Santa I speak of has a terrific defense that shows improvement every week. This Santa has an offensive line that keeps getting better and better. This Santa has two outstanding running backs and a receiving core that is coming into its own. Both Santas could not get what they do without those around them. Always remember that.

Even with all the help they both get, both Santas are icons for their respective areas. The traditional Santa identifies Christmas. The Santa I speak of is fast becoming the one person that identifies the Atlanta Falcons.

So yes Atlanta, there is a Santa Claus and his name is Vick

Spotlight on a Falcon Fan-atic

We are especially pleased to highlight an extremely young, but impassioned Falcon Fan-atic fan. Cameron Skylar Green was born on May 25, 1999 and obviously, it was not long before he decided he liked the Falcons.

Steven and Teri Green are Cameron's proud parents and Brandon, who is fourteen years old, is his sibling. Cameron and Brandon share a love for sports. It sounds incredible for a child his age, but Cameron's hobbies are basketball, T-ball, soccer, football, and gardening with his mother. If you knew Cameron, you would understand.

Cameron lives in Columbus, Georgia and attends St. Mary Road's Christian Academy and he does very well academically.

Cameron acquired a love for most sports at a very young age. However his favorite is football and as you might guess, his favorite player is Michael Vick. He attended Michael Vick's return from injury last season. He braved the cold, blustery winter weather just to see his hero in action. When he arrived back in Columbus about three o'clock Monday morning, he aroused everyone and yelled, "Michael Vick ran a touchdown." Needless to say, he was thrilled.

Cameron is the youngest Falcon Fan-atic member due, in part, to his friend Joe Allen's enthusiasm and love

for the game. He visited the Falcon's training session on May 1st, but left with a sad heart, because his dream of getting an autograph from Michael Vick, did not materialize. If Cameron could have one wish granted, it would be to meet Michael Vick.

However, he is not discouraged. He is very grateful for getting his football autographed by many of the great players and getting his picture taken with the head coach.

Cameron hopes, one day soon, his dream of meeting Michael Vick will become a reality.

Next Month, we will be spotlighting Santos Ruffino.



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.

Tailgate Recipes - Holiday Edition

These are great little appetizers that are good fresh out of the oven or on that cold day at the Dome. Enjoy.

Sausage Bites

Ingredients

nonstick cooking spray
2 cups buttermilk biscuit mix
1 pound reduced-fat country pork sausage (thawed, if frozen, crumbled)
1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese with jalapeño peppers (4 ounces)
1/2 cup shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese (2 ounces)
3 tablespoons low-fat (1% milkfat) milk

Makes about 72 appetizers.
Preparation time: 15 minutes.
Cooking time: 20 minutes.

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 375° and spray 2 baking sheets with the cooking spray. In a large bowl, using a fork or your hands, mix the biscuit mix, sausage, and cheeses until well blended. Add the milk and blend thoroughly, then roll the mixture into 72 balls, 1 inch in diameter. Arrange the balls on the baking sheets and bake for 20 minutes or just until golden brown. Serve hot with toothpicks.



express my feelings and not take that freedom for granted.

Please give me another year where I am healthy and give me the sympathy to those who are not.

Please give me appreciation for family and friends. Allow me to thank them for the things they do no matter how miniscule I think it is.

Please give me a heart that loves all so that I make no enemies and give me forgiveness so that I may forgive anyone that hurts me be it knowingly or unknowingly.

And Santa since this is the season for sharing please give all the above gifts to everyone in the world.

Your well behaved friend,

Joe

P. S. Oh, and Santa, please give me a Falcons team in the playoffs.

Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year.

Falcon Fan-Atics
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Auburn, GA 30011

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