



# The Fan-atic



## Flyer

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### Inside this Issue

1

Cover Story

2

Club News and Notes

3

Letter from the Former President

### The Season That Was

The season is now over and the Falcons that had such promise at the beginning of the season find themselves on the outside looking in.

After starting the season with a record of 6 -2, the Falcons finished the second half of the season with a paltry record of 2 – 6. Not only knocking them out of playoff contention but also eliminating the chance for the franchises first back to back winning seasons.

Granted the team suffer several injuries at key positions. Losing LB Ed Hartwell, CB Kevin Mathis, PR/CB Allen Rossum, DE Brady Smith, etc was key losses for the Falcons but injuries has and always will be a part of the game. The Falcons and we as fans can not make the excuse that the injuries cost us the season.

The season that was, was a roller coaster ride. The highs of beating Philadelphia in the opening game and the 6 – 2

record were long forgotten after miscues cost both Tampa Bay games and the loses to Carolina.

What is the most bitter pill to swallow was what can be conceived as a total lay down by the team in the last Carolina game.

Some will say that the Falcons had nothing to play for. Some say that they should have played for back to back winning seasons. I say that the Falcons had one thing to play for that they should have played for. Pride.

Now the off-season approaches and I

personally have to live with the sick feeling in my gut because of that last game. Am I over emphasizing the lost? Maybe, but I can not stomach the type of performance I saw in that game.

The season that was is now over and we have the off-season to look forward to. What moves will the Falcons make to fill the sizable holes



# January's Fan-atic's Meeting

We will have a meeting in September and it will be at Corky's near Gwinnett Place Mall on January 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Topics of discussion will include planning this year's tailgate, membership renewals, financial goals and objectives for the upcoming season.

### 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. 6/10<sup>th</sup> 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. 6/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile.
- Turn right onto Sweetwater Road.

Corky's will be on the right

## New Officers

### Elected

The elections for new officers occurred at the December meeting. Terms are for 2 years. Please join me in welcoming the new officers.

- President – Mike Scarce
- Vice President – Joe Cooper
- Treasurer - Ray Brown
- Secretary – April Ruffino

The officers will be working hard this year to turn around the club. One of the biggest items on the agenda will be

getting speakers at the monthly meetings.

If you have an idea or a problem that you wish the officers to look into, please send an email to [falcon\\_fanatics@yahoo.com](mailto:falcon_fanatics@yahoo.com).

## Simply Thanks

Let's express our sincerest gratitude to the tailgate committee. These hard working individuals are the ones that raise the majority of our funds that allow us to do such things as the children hospital pizza parties and make donations to various Falcon related charities.

Ted "Bean Man" Owens – Tailgate coordinator. Ted was responsible for bring the tent and tables and all the other tailgate materials as well as cleaning them after a game. Thanks Ted.

Chuck Ruffino - Chuck also brought a load of supplies to each tailgate and was responsible for the inflatable Falcons player that draws a lot of people to our area. Thanks Chuck.

Candy Cooper – Raffle coordinator. Candy walked a lot of miles selling tickets through out the parking lot as well as organizing the items to raffle at each home game. Thanks Candy.

April Ruffino – April was a huge help during the tailgates assisting in any area that was needed from taking money to selling raffle tickets. Thanks April.

Joe Cooper – Grill Master. Joe went to many games smelling like hamburgers. He was responsible for hauling our grill to the tailgates,

purchasing the food for the tailgates and then cooking the food at the tailgates. Thanks Joe.

A special thanks goes to Cathy Allen, Diane White and all others that also assisted in this season's tailgates.

## Raffle Items Needed

This season has put a huge dent in our supply of raffle items. We are in need of a huge resupply.

Since the tailgate raffles is our biggest fundraiser each year, we need to ensure that we have enough items to keep people interested. So if during the off-season, you find a huge deal on Falcons' merchandise, let one of the officers know or send an email to [falcon\\_fanatics@yahoo.com](mailto:falcon_fanatics@yahoo.com). Items needed are T-shirts, sweatshirts, banners, hats, and small items bearing the Falcons logo such as cups, tags, keyrings, coasters, mousepads, etc.

If you have any items that you are willing to donate, please know that the money raised allow us to do such things as the children hospital pizza parties and make donations to various Falcon related charities.

## 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 at [falcon\\_fanatics.com](http://falcon_fanatics.com) know so he can update the records so that he can make sure you continue to get your newsletter. Thank you.

## Letter from the Former President

As many of you know now, I have decided to step down as president of the Falcon Fan-atics. I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past few years.

I was elected president in 1998 and took over from Dan Mahan in 1999. It was a wonderful six years and I was given the chance to meet several people in the club that I would never have had the opportunity to meet if I wasn't the president.

I have had many rewards over the past six years such as the joy I receive each time the club hosted a pizza party at a children's hospital, knowing that we as a club were responsible for bringing a smile to a sick child.

I also received a lot of joy knowing that the hard work of so many Fan-atics was responsible for thousands upon thousands of dollars being donated to various charities and knowing that because of that hard work, many lives have been affected in a positive way.

As president of the club, I was in the position to meet a lot of Falcons players and personnel and have enjoyed working with the Falcons front office from Chris Demos to Dan Levak.

I have seen a lot of change in the six years as the president of the club. Some for the better, some not so good.

But all things come to an end and so has my tenure as president of the club.

I asked the nomination committee to really search for someone that would be a great fit as the president of the club and they made an excellent choice.

Mike Scarce will be a great president for the club and I look forward to working with him the next 2 or more years.

Mike should bring a breath of fresh air to the club. I know that with the current change in my life that I would not have the time needed to devote to the club in order to make the club the best it can be. I will leave that task to Mike.

I appreciate the many warm sentiments I have received recently and was touch by the number of people who were truly disappointed by my decision. Understand, it was not an easy decision but the choice I made will ultimately be better for the club and my self.

No one can lead any organization for as long as I did without the hard work of those around them so I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to all of the officers and coordinators that I have worked with the last six years. You made my life easier.

To the club, I wish to say thank you again for the trust you instilled in me by making me the president for 3 terms. I tried my best to do the best for the club. I know that I did not always make the best decisions but I hope that I made the right decision on the majority of the issues.

I am not leaving the club. In fact, I agreed to be vice president the next two years in order to help the new president any way I can.

I know from experience that the president has a challenging but rewarding position. There are a lot of nuances that will need to be taught to the new president but I have all the confidence in the world in Mike.

I will close by saying thank you once again for your understanding, your support, your hard work in making the Falcon Fan-atics one of the best fan clubs in the NFL.

I also want to challenge each and every Fan-atic to do there part in making the club into the best fan club in the NFL.

Get involved, volunteer to help on one of the committees. Come to the meetings. Go to the annual banquet. Sell raffle tickets. Help at the tailgates and most of all support Mike as he takes over the club.

It's been one hell of a ride but the end is here and the gates are open. It's time for me to make room for the next person.

Thanks again all.

Sincerely,

Joe Cooper



in defense and offensive lines. What strides will our young receivers make during the off-season? Will our key players fully recover from their injuries and be at full strength for the season?

Only time will tell. I can only say that I for one am still behind the Falcons 100% and will be even after having to live through another season that was.

# Happy New Year

Falcon Fan-Atics  
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Place Stamp  
here