

# The Fan-atic Flyer

July 2005  
Volume 5, Issue 7

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### Falcons and Angels: They both have wings

America is at war. America has troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Bomb scares are everywhere. Security is



heightened everywhere you go.

At times like these it is refreshing to hear of the good works done by man. Works that make the Almighty smile and remember why he doesn't utterly destroy the world. Works such as the Falcon Fan-atics did last month at Egelstons and Scittish Rite in Atlanta, Ga.

The pizza parties at the children hospitals turned out to be another rewarding charity events attended by Falcon Fan-atics members and 7 cheerleaders. The cheerleaders who were there were Devon, Jessica, Kristy,

Carla, Jamie, Jennifer, and Celeste.

Thanks need to go to Chuck Ruffino for organizing the se events. Also, some pictures are included here for you.

Additional details:

Falcon Fan-atics members who volunteered their time were Selinda , Dan M, Byron, Diane, Karen, Matt, Tricia, Dick, Gail, Paul, Dan K, John, Juan, April and Chuck.

Some of the volunteers and all the cheerleaders went to patients' rooms to visit – those people who could not come see us. We went to several rooms, and all the patients were so happy to have us there — actually, it was the cheerleaders they wanted to see!!! Some of the patients had pizza, and all the patients had their pictures



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## Oh, What a Night!

Selinda Mahan

Oh, what a night is right! On June 10, 2005, Dan and I, along with Karen Beard and Ray Brown, got to experience sports history by attending the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame Inaugural Induction Ceremony. The President and Founder of the Hall, Larry Winter, gave his opening remarks with some background on how this happened to come about. He gave thanks to members of the Advisory Committee and mentioned Joe Cooper, President of the Fanatics. Larry's speech was followed by a Welcome to this event, given by Gil Tyree who does WGCL (CBS-Channel 46), and then Otis Nixon who gave the Invocation. There were six inductees in this inaugural ceremony: Hank Aaron; Bobby Cox; Bobby Dodd; Bobby Jones; Tommy Nobis; and Dominique Wilkins.

Before the dinner there was a cocktail party inviting attendees to mingle with guests and scope out the many tables of memorabilia for silent auction items. We got to see and talk with Tommy Nobis, Carol Breeding (retired Falcons Director of Community Relations); Jerry Rhea (retired from the Falcons); Brenda Johnston (Jim Mora's executive assistant and holder of many, many stories of coaches past and present) among others. When we went to our tables, on every chair seat there was a bagful of goodies awaiting us. Nice touch and some very useful and interesting stuff.

The food was excellent and the speeches likewise, but the night belonged to the inductees. Introducing the inductees were Mark Harmon (CBS-Channel 46) and Chuck Smith (790 The Zone). What an honor it was to be a part of this great event and to hear some very interesting, some very humorous and some awe-inspiring stories.

This will be an annual event, and I highly recommend attending in the future. It is well worth the price of admission, and all I can say is that the evening was "magical" and very special. And lastly, a huge thank you to Larry Winter for all his dedication and hard work to making this his dream come true. God Bless You, Larry, and THANK YOU!

## Children's Hospital Pizza Parties

Chuck Ruffino

Wow what a great two days in June! They said it was the best turn out ever! Well were asked back, so we did good.

Your fan club sponsored the Falcon Fanatics Egleston and Scottish Rite Children's Hospitals Pizza Parties this last month. We thank Egleston, and Scottish Rite Hospital staff Meryl, Michael and Morris, the Atlanta Falcon Cheerleaders: Devon, Jessica, Kristy, Carla, Jamie, Jennifer, and Celeste and our club volunteers: Selinda, Dan M, Byron, Diane, Karen, Matt, Tricia, Dick, Gail, Paul, Dan K, John, Juan, April and myself.

We served pizza, soda, gave out Polaroid pictures of the

kids with their favorite cheerleaders with autographs, cheerleaders gave out autographed posters, and the cheerleaders gave a great cheer/dance routine for all.



We all know it is not very fun to be sick and in the hospital. Every time the girls talked to a new child, that child forgot for a moment were they were and had a smile.

We had forty to fifty kids and parents at each party and we were able to go up and see ten to fifteen kids that could not be moved from their beds.

All I can say is I got more out of it just helping. It felt good. I can't wait for the next time.

## Annual Banquet

Don't forget the Annual Banquet on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at Emerald Pointe on Lake Lanier Islands.

There will be good food, great times, and a silent auction so make plans to see us there.

Registration starts at 5:00 pm and dinner starts at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$45.00 each. Please let us know if you planning on attending so we can make sure there is enough food.

## Spotlight on a Falcon Fan-atic

Mike Scarce was a Rams fan until the Atlanta Falcons came into existence in 1966. He immediately became a Falcon fan and a season ticket holder. In fact, he has held the same seats since the Dome opened. Mike heard about the Fan-atics seven years ago and he has been one of us since then. He especially liked the opportunity to meet the players at the meetings.

Although he was born in Jacksonville, his family moved to Georgia in his early years and he grew up in Roswell. Later, Mike moved to Dawsonville. He has been a letter carrier for the post office for twenty years.

Mike has been a Boy Scout for over 30 years and a scoutmaster for troop 62 in Cunning for the last 14 of those years. His hobbies are hiking, running, camping, boating, traveling and the outdoors. His troop has camped in 23 states as well as Mexico, Chile and Canada.

When he says he likes running, he doesn't say it lightly. He has completed 12 marathons including ones in New York City, Amsterdam, Bermuda, and Dublin. His running team is called, "Team in Training." They run to raise money for the Leukemia Society. He is currently training for the Vancouver Marathon on May 1, 2005 and Mike says, "He will take any donations."

In 2004, Mike was selected as one of the Olympic Torch carriers in Atlanta for the Athens games.

Mike has worked many of the Fan-atics' Children's Hospital Pizza Parties across the years and he fondly remembers and appreciates Freddie and the Cheerleaders helping with the parties and more importantly, helping to make the kids a little happier during those trying times. He has also worked a Falcon charity golf tournament.

The Falcons Annual Bowling for Kids Tournament brought back fond memories and is missed as Mike met and got to know a lot of players.

His favorite game was the 1978 NFC wild card play-off game at Fulton County Stadium with a final of Falcons 14, Philadelphia 13. Another game high up on the memories list was in year X when the Falcons were leading by a close score, but the Saints were driving down the field with about a minute left. They were inside the 25 and closing in, when Jessie Tuggle intercepted a pass to seal the game.

Mike admires Tommy Nobis as, "A great player on the field and a great person off the field." Two other big favorites are Bobby Hebert; "When he talks sports he tells you what he really thinks," and Scott Case who, "Played hard every play."

Mike likes all sports, college or pro, and he collects many kinds of sports memorabilia. He started collecting at a Georgia Tech game in '75 when Joe Harris gave his chin strap to Mike.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I got exhausted just reading about the many activities Mike is active in. Keep it up Mike, it sounds like a great life.

## Season Parking

Don't miss out in the fun of Tailgating with your club.

### **What we do at the Tailgate:**

Come hungry, we serve up a hamburger/hotdog meal for a \$5 donation. We have a table full of Falcon collectibles including a game jersey for raffle each game. We do our raffle between one hour before the game. Raffle ticket donations are \$1 for one, \$5 for 7, and \$10 for 20 tickets ***This raffle helps our charity work.***

Get your picture on our web site

[www.falconfanatics.com/Tailgate.htm](http://www.falconfanatics.com/Tailgate.htm)

in front of our huge Inflatable Falcon Player #01 Talk Football and get excited and pumped up for the game.

Fee this year is \$300. its gone up a little this year. Since last years great season we got lucky and negotiated the price down from \$500. I have heard from other members that the price went up everywhere in the other lots too. Remember three Monday night game this year, better we have a place to go.

taken with the polaroid camera so they could get the picture autographed by the cheerleaders. One patient in particular said that with some emotion his day was made when we came to visit!

While we were visiting, the players and some spectators came up and had pizza, and most of the pizza was gone. It was a huge success and a big hit with the patients, as it usually is. The Fanatics and the cheerleaders always look forward to this charity event. To see smiles on the patients' faces and make them happy when they are suffering pain makes our visit so worthwhile and meaningful.

We love the Falcons but this is what this club is truly about.

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