



The Fan-atic



Flyer

June 2005
Volume 3, Issue 11

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Annual Fan-atic Banquet:

Please see the enclosed attachment for information and a reservation form. For those getting this newsletter via email, a separate PDF file is attached with the promotional flyer for the banquet. Those getting the Fan-atic Flyer will have an insert.

Parking

Its time to get your money in for the season parking pass.

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 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.

Send your fee to:
Falcon Fanatics, Inc.
P.O. Box 7117
Marietta, GA. 30065-1117

Fan-atic's June Meeting

We will have a meeting in June and it will be at Corky's near Gwinnett Place Mall on June 14th at 7:00 p.m. No guest speaker has been announced.

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

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.

Minutes of the May 10th Meeting

At 7:13 pm Joe Cooper called the meeting to order. April Ruffino read the minutes for March and Ray Brown gave the treasurer's report.

Patrick Kearney sent the Falcon Fanatics a thank you note concerning the monetary donation we made to the Lt. Thomas Kearney Foundation. He also asked if anyone was also interested in donating please contact him at the address listed. April read the letter to the group.

Joe is trying to get group tickets for the Braves 400. This includes tailgating and parking for the Braves' game May 28th or May 29th. Larry Winter's has not gotten back with Joe concerning further information. If interested in further information or about going to the game, contact Joe. falcon_fanatics@yahoo.com

Byron asked if we can email everyone the info discussed today, and Chuck said we do send the important information to the club members. Also he will send the minutes via email.

Door prize: Georgia Force drawing for the May 14th game against the Dallas Desperados was won by Romona Hollis & Booker Williams.

Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame that is on June 10th will start out with cocktails at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:00pm, and the program is from 8-9 pm. There is a question concerning the price per table. Right now we see \$75 per person, tables were listed on the flyer as \$100 per person. We will look into it, we thought this was a special incentive for the club to get tables a group. Larry Winters is really encouraging the Falcon Fanatics to attend the banquet because of Tommy Nobis induction.

Parking – Same place (gravel lot) The price this season is \$300.00 per space, \$30.00 a game. This is up \$5.00 from last season. Question of another lot and lower price was brought up. Joe said we did talk him down from \$500 and if anyone know of a better spot we will look into it for the following year. Right know we are locked into it. The money needs to be in ASAP and deadline by the end of July.

Chuck's info: Kevin McNally who has donated his regular season Georgia Force tickets is also donating the play-off tickets.

We will do a raffle for those tickets as we have been doing for the regular season tickets.

Evening at the Fox May 25th see our 2005 team, highlights of last year and hear from our great coach all at the Fox Theater downtown Atlanta. Tickets are \$15 and on sale now at the dome ticket office, number on the web site. www.atlantafalcons.com

Falcon's caravan will be on tour starting May 20th in Columbus. The caravan will include Players, Cheerleaders and Freddie Falcon. This also includes the Falcons museum and store.

Hospital Pizza Parties

Scottish Rite-June 28th
Tuesday 6:30pm

Egleston Children's
Hosp-June 25th Saturday 12:30

Hospital Pizza Parties (continued)

Hughes-Spalding-no date set

We need volunteers to serve pizza, drinks and take pictures. Very rewarding experience. We will have cheerleaders and Freddie Falcon if possible. Contact Chuck Ruffino cruffino@charter.net



At Children's Healthcare (Egleston)

At Hughes-Spalding Childrens Hospital



Spotlight on a Falcon Fan-atic

Harold Eugene Craig, Jr. has been an Atlanta Falcon fan from the very beginning in 1966. He and his father attended the opening game when the Falcons moved to Atlanta. He remembers, “That first game against Los Angeles and how the Falcons held their own against the ‘Fearless Foursome’ of Merlin Olsen, Deacon Jones, Lamar Lundy, and Rosey Grier, before finally falling short.” Harold said, “I was never so excited before in my life. NFL football had finally come to the South.”

Then a few years ago, he stopped at the Falcon Fan-atic table outside the stadium. The Fan-atics gave him a membership application and he has been a Fan-atic since. He isn’t able to make it to many of the tailgate parties or meetings, but he makes it to almost every home game and Harold says he is proud of his membership and of his growing collection of Fan-atic T-shirts. In addition to attending most home games, he has also attended a number of away games, including 6 in New Orleans, 3 in San Francisco and 1 at each Oakland and Carolina.

Harold is vice-president for economic development at Atlanta Technical College and he plans to retire in another 5 ½ years. He likes to read the Bible and fiction. Tom Clancy is his favorite author. He also likes to play chess and swim. Instead of slowing up, he is looking forward to learning to play golf. Harold volunteers a lot of his time with non-profit organizations and he was a volunteer for the Dallas/Buffalo Super Bowl at the Dome.

“I’m not only a local, but I was born at Grady Hospital. I’m

a Grady baby,” Harold related. Although his wife Sandra is not a big football fan, she does keep up with Michael Vick, since he is from Sandra’s hometown of Newport News, Virginia. Harold and Sandra have been married for 24 years. Harold says, “When I visit my in-laws in the Virginia Tidewater area, I see almost as many Vick jerseys for sale in the stores as I see when I am in the Atlanta area.”

Harold’s daughter, Mia, is a high school teacher as well as the cheerleading coach. His son Ameer works for Earthlink and his daughter Imani is a social worker. Harold also has three grandchildren.

Over the years, Harold has met Dan Henning and June Jones and he met and had his picture taken with Leeman Bennett and Dan Reeves. He is particularly fond of Dan Reeves, since Dan accepted Harold’s invitation to attend an Usher Middle School function, where Harold was a volunteer and Reeves, after giving a talk, had his picture taken with the School’s football team.

Harold says, “My favorite players from the past are Tommy Nobis and Claude Humphrey – both of whom deserve to be in the Hall of Fame. I don’t have any particular favorites on the team now, although I’m partial to the defensive players. I’m looking for a big year from Kerney, Coleman, Brooking, Scott, and DeAngelo Hall. I’m a firm believer that a strong defense wins championships.” But, even with, “A new offense, a new defense, an almost totally new coaching staff, and a first-time head coach, the Falcons will have a great year.”

Harold remembers with fondness his early years as an Atlanta Falcon fan, which he

shared with his father Eugene until 1989. Although Harold continues to be a Falcon fan, he says, “Its just not quite the same now. I’ll never, ever forget those early years cheering for the Falcons with my dad at old Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium.” Well, it has been a couple of months since Harold predicted a great year for the Falcons and it seems as if his predictions have come to pass.

I am sure Harold’s father is looking down and sharing the enjoyment with Harold, of the resurgence of the Falcons, and enjoying it as he did in the old days. Let’s all remember Harold’s father in our prayers.

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

Place Stamp
here