



## ATLANTA FALCONS WEEKLY PRESS RELEASE

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### REGULAR SEASON WEEK 3

**ATLANTA FALCONS (2-0)**

at

**New England Patriots (1-1)**



1 p.m. (EST), Sunday, September 27, 2009, Gillette Stadium

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#### FALCONS BATTLE PATRIOTS IN FIRST ROAD CONTEST



QB Matt Ryan and RB Jason Snelling celebrate a touchdown.

The Falcons will travel to New England to battle the Patriots in their first road contest of the 2009 season. The Falcons bring a 6-5 series record to Gillette Stadium which includes a 41-10 victory in the last meeting between the two teams in New England (1998). Sunday's matchup comes one week before Atlanta's bye, marking the earliest break for the Falcons since 2002 (Week 4). In the last eight seasons, Atlanta has posted a 6-2 record the week prior to the bye.

The Falcons earned their second win and first NFC South victory this season after defeating the Carolina Panthers, 28-20. Quarterback Matt Ryan completed 21 of 27 passes for 220 yards and three touchdowns, setting career highs for TD passes and completion percentage (78 percent). Running back Michael Turner posted his first 100-yard game of the season while tight end Tony Gonzalez led the team in receiving for the second consecutive week with 71 yards on seven receptions. Defensively, the Falcons forced two turnovers while Stephen Nicholas posted his first sack of the season.

New England suffered its first loss of the season at the hands of the New York Jets, 16-9. Quarterback Tom Brady threw for 216 yards in the contest.

Following the bye week, the Falcons will return to the road on Sunday, October 11 to face the San Francisco 49ers.

#### BROADCAST INFORMATION

##### TELEVISION

Coverage Provided By FOX

Play-by-Play: Joe Buck  
Color Analyst: Troy Aikman  
Sideline: Pam Oliver

##### RADIO

Coverage Provided By  
DAVE-FM (92.9)

Play-by-Play: Wes Durham  
Color Analyst: Dave Archer  
Sideline: Randy Waters

#### 2009 NFC SOUTH STANDINGS

Team	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	Div.	Conf.
Atlanta	2	0	0	1.000	47	27	1-0	1-0
New Orleans	2	0	0	1.000	93	49	0-0	2-0
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	30	66	0-1	0-2
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	.000	41	67	0-1	0-1



Running back Michael Turner recorded his first 100-yard game of the season after finishing with 105 yards and one touchdown against Carolina.

#### THIS WEEK'S MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Monday, September 21	Tuesday, September 22	Wednesday, September 23	Thursday, September 24	Friday, September 25	Saturday, September 26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coach Smith available at the podium 3 p.m.</li> <li>- Open locker room 3:15 p.m. - 4 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No availability players day off</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open locker room 11:35 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. (Matt Ryan and Tony Gonzalez available)</li> <li>- Practice 1:10 p.m.</li> <li>- Coach Smith available on the field after practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open locker room 11:35 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.</li> <li>- Practice 1:10 p.m.</li> <li>- Coach Smith available on the field after practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practice 10:50 a.m.</li> <li>- Open locker room 12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.</li> <li>- Coach Smith available on the field after practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No media availability</li> </ul>

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# THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT: THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS



## 2009 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE



### PRESEASON (2-2)

Date	Opponent	Time	Result/Network
Aug. 15	at Detroit	4 p.m.	L, 27-26
Aug. 21	at St. Louis	8 p.m.	W, 20-13
Aug. 29	SAN DIEGO	8 p.m.	W, 27-24
Sept. 3	BALTIMORE	7:30 p.m.	L, 20-3

### REGULAR SEASON (2-0)

Date	Opponent	Time	Network
Sept. 13	MIAMI	1:00 p.m.	W, 19-7
Sept. 20	CAROLINA	1:00 p.m.	W, 28-20
Sept. 27	at New England	1:00 p.m.	FOX
Oct. 4	BYE WEEK		
Oct. 11	at San Francisco	4:05 p.m.	FOX
Oct. 18	CHICAGO	8:20 p.m.	NBC
Oct. 25	at Dallas	4:15 p.m.	FOX
Nov. 2	at New Orleans	8:30 p.m.	ESPN
Nov. 8	WASHINGTON	1:00 p.m.	FOX
Nov. 15	at Carolina	1:00 p.m.	FOX
Nov. 22	at New York Giants	1:00 p.m.	FOX*
Nov. 29	TAMPA BAY	1:00 p.m.	FOX*
Dec. 6	PHILADELPHIA	1:00 p.m.	FOX*
Dec. 13	NEW ORLEANS	1:00 p.m.	FOX*
Dec. 20	at New York Jets	1:00 p.m.	FOX*
Dec. 27	BUFFALO	1:00 p.m.	CBS*
Jan. 3	at Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.	FOX*

\* Denotes Flexible Scheduling

## GAMEDAY STORYLINE



The Falcons will look to earn their first victory on the road in 2009, while improving their series record against the Patriots to 7-5. With a win, the Falcons would also move to 3-0, their best start to a season since 2004. Quarterback Matt Ryan returns to his collegiate city for the first time since graduating from Boston College. The game also marks the first time the Falcons have played in New England since the 1998 campaign.

## TALE OF THE TAPE



### 2009 Regular Season Statistics

Falcons (rank)		Patriots (rank)
23.5 (9t)	Points Per Game	17.0 (22t)
326.0 (18)	Total Offense Per Game	370.0 (9)
109.5 (16)	Net Rushing Yards Per Game	78.0 (26)
216.5 (17)	Net Passing Yards Per Game	292.0 (4)
31:13	Possession Average	33:59
13.5 (5t)	Opponent Points Per Game	20.0 (15)
349.5 (22)	Opponent Total Offense Per Game	265.0 (3)
120.0 (19)	Opponent Net Rushing Yards Per Game	103.5 (14)
229.5 (17)	Opponent Net Passing Yards Per Game	161.5 (6)
+4 (2t)	Turnover Differential	0 (14t)

## 2009 REGULAR SEASON LEADERS



Leading Passers:	Comp.	Att.	Yards	TDs	INTs	Rating
Matt Ryan	43	63	449	5	1	108.5
Tom Brady	62	100	594	2	2	76.8
Leading Rushers:	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs	
Michael Turner	50	170	3.4	16	1	
Fred Taylor	17	71	4.2	13	1	
Leading Receivers:	Rec.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs	
Tony Gonzalez	12	144	12.0	24t	2	
Randy Moss	16	165	10.3	31	0	

## ALL-TIME RESULTS



All-time regular season results: Falcons lead series, 6-5

All-time postseason results: No meetings

Falcons regular season home record vs. Patriots: 4-3

Falcons regular season road record vs. Patriots: 2-2

Falcons regular season record at Georgia Dome: 2-2

Current regular season streak: Patriots - two games

Last regular season meeting: 2005, Patriots 31 - Falcons 28 (Atl)

### Regular Season

Falcons lead series, 6-5

Year	Result	Location
1972	Patriots 21 Falcons 20	New England
1977	Patriots 16 Falcons 10	Atlanta
1980	Falcons 37 Patriots 21	New England
1983	Falcons 24 Patriots 13	Atlanta
1986	Patriots 25 Falcons 17	New England
1989	Falcons 16 Patriots 15	Atlanta
1992	Falcons 34 Patriots 0	Atlanta
1995	Falcons 30 Patriots 17	Atlanta
1998	Falcons 41 Patriots 10	New England
2001	Patriots 24 Falcons 10	Atlanta
2005	Patriots 31 Falcons 28	Atlanta



Falcons wide receiver Michael Jenkins contributed with three receptions for 55 yards (18.3 avg.) in Atlanta's last meeting against the Patriots (2005).

## QUOTING COACH SMITH



On the Falcons performance in a victory against the Carolina Panthers -

"It was a typical NFC game between two very physical football teams. I really liked the way that our team came out and fought in all three phases. I felt that we battled through a number of things through the entire game. There were a bunch of good football plays out there by both teams. I thought it was a very exciting game. We wanted to run the football and control the line of scrimmage and I thought that our guys did that. It really showed in some of our scoring drives."



## THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT: THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS



### NOTABLE CONNECTIONS



#### Former Patriots:

- Falcons General Manager **Thomas Dimitroff** was a National Scout in 2002 and the Director of College Scouting for the Patriots from 2003-07.
- Falcons Offensive Line Coach **Paul Boudreau** coached the offensive line for New England from 1997-98.
- Falcons Defensive Line Coach **Ray Hamilton** was a 14th round draft selection by New England and competed with the Patriots defensive line from 1973-81. "Sugar Bear" also served as the Assistant Defensive Line Coach for New England from 1985-89 and Defensive Line Coach from 1997-99.

#### Georgia/Massachusetts Connections:

- Falcons Linebackers Coach **Glenn Pires** is a native of New Bedford, Mass. and played football collegiately at Springfield College.
- Falcons Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach **Bill Hughan** graduated from Springfield College in Massachusetts.
- Patriots Quarterbacks Coach **Bill O'Brien** coached for Georgia Tech, while New England LB **Gary Guyton**, DL **Darryl Richards** (practice squad) and TE **Michael Matthews** all played collegiate football for the Yellow Jackets.
- New England TE **Benjamin Watson** played college football at Georgia.

#### NFL Connections:

- Patriots WR **Sam Aiken** played on the Buffalo Bills with Falcons LB **Coy Wire** and LS **Mike Schneck**.
- Patriots P **Chris Hanson** played for the Jacksonville Jaguars with Falcons LB **Tony Gilbert**, LB **Mike Peterson**, and CB **Brian Williams**.

#### Coaching Connections:

- Falcons Offensive Coordinator **Mike Mularkey**, Special Teams Coordinator **Keith Armstrong**, and Linebackers Coach **Glenn Pires** coached alongside Patriots Special Teams Coordinator **Scott O'Brien** with the Miami Dolphins in 2006. Falcons Secondary Coach **Alvin Reynolds** coached with O'Brien on the Baltimore Ravens from 1996-98.

#### College Connections:

- Falcons QB **Matt Ryan** competed collegiately at Boston College with Patriots DT **Ron Brace**.
- Atlanta C **Todd McClure** played at Louisiana State University with Patriots RB **Kevin Faulk** and DL **Jarvis Green**.

### THE LAST TIME OUT...



#### Patriots 31 - Falcons 28 October 9, 2005 Georgia Dome - Atlanta, GA

	1	2	3	4	Final
Falcons	0	13	0	15	28
Patriots	14	0	14	3	31

#### Recap:

The defending Super Bowl Champions escaped the Georgia Dome with a 31-28 victory with the help of Patriots quarterback Tom Brady who completed 22 of 27 passes for 350 yards and three touchdowns. New England jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter however the Falcons responded with a touchdown and two field goals in the second to cut New England's lead to 14-13 at halftime. Fullback Justin Griffith caught the lone touchdown pass of the quarter on a two-yard strike from quarterback Matt Schaub. One minute and 24 seconds after Todd Peterson's 33-yard field goal, punter Michael Koenen split the uprights on a 58-yard kick, marking his career long. The Patriots gained the momentum once again in the third quarter and two touchdown passes from Brady put New England ahead 28-13. Tight end Benjamin Watson and wide receiver Bethel Johnson were responsible for the scores. Atlanta stormed back in the final 15 minutes of play finding the end zone on two occasions. Tight end Alge Crumpler caught a 25-yard touchdown reception at the 14:23 mark prior to wide receiver Dez White's 14-yard TD catch to bring the Falcons within two points of a tie. Schaub then found Brian Finneran on the ensuing two-point conversion to knot the score at 28-28. Brady worked his magic one last time however, leading the Patriots the length of the field with just under four minutes, setting up an Adam Vinatieri game-winning 29-yard field goal.

#### Highlights:

- Brian Finneran set a career-long reception on a 53-yard pass from Matt Schaub in the second quarter.
- Michael Koenen established a career-high and converted the second-longest field goal in team history with a 58-yard kick in the second quarter.
- Schaub's 298 passing yards marked the second-highest single-game passing total for the Falcons throughout the 2005 season.



### MIKE SMITH

Coaching Years in NFL: 11th Year  
Falcons Head Coach: 2nd Year  
Regular Season: 13-5 (.722)  
Postseason: 0-1 (.000)

In his first season as Head Coach of the Falcons, Mike Smith led Atlanta to one of the biggest turnarounds in NFL history (+7 wins from 2007) while finishing second in the NFC South Division and guiding the team to their first playoff appearance since 2004.

For his efforts, he earned NFL Coach of the Year honors from the *Associated Press* and *Sporting News*. Smith's 11 victories tied him for the best record for rookie head coaches in the NFL taking over a team that finished below .500 the previous season. Atlanta witnessed several improvements from the 2007 season, which included points per game average, rushing yards per game average, passing touchdown to interception ratio and sacks allowed. Atlanta also ranked first in the NFL in first quarter points scored and sixth in first quarter points allowed.

#### COACHING BACKGROUND

1982	San Diego State	Asst. Coach
1983-85	San Diego State	Linebackers
1986	Morehead State	Def. Line
1987	Tennessee Tech	Def. Line
1988-95	Tennessee Tech	ST. Coord.
1996-98	Tennessee Tech	Def. Coord.
1999-2001	Baltimore Ravens	Def. Line
2002	Baltimore Ravens	Linebackers
2003-07	Jacksonville Jaguars	Def. Coord.
2008-09	Atlanta Falcons	Head Coach



### BILL BELICHICK

Coaching Years in NFL: 35th Year  
Patriots Head Coach: 10th Year  
Regular Season: 139-87 (.615)  
Postseason: 15-4 (.789)

Currently in his 35th season as an NFL coach, Bill Belichick is the only Head Coach in League history to win three Super Bowl championships in a four-year span (2001, 2003, 2004). He was hired by the Patriots in 2000 and since then has obtained four conference titles, six

division crowns, 14 playoff victories, and has posted a regular season record of 103-43. Belichick is also the only NFL coach to lead his team to an undefeated regular season (2007) which earned him *Associated Press* NFL Coach of the Year honors. Prior to his stint with the Patriots, he spent five seasons with the Cleveland Browns as a Head Coach and led the team to an 11-5 record in 1994. Belichick also worked a 12-year term with the New York Giants while adding stints with the Baltimore Colts, Detroit Lions, Denver Broncos and New York Jets.

#### COACHING BACKGROUND

1975	Baltimore Colts	Special Assistant
1976-77	Detroit Lions	Asst. ST/TEs/WRs
1978	Denver Broncos	Asst. Special Teams
1979-80	New York Giants	Special Teams
1981-82	New York Giants	Special Teams/LBs
1983-84	New York Giants	Linebackers
1985-90	New York Giants	Def. Coordinator
1991-95	Cleveland Browns	Head Coach
1997-99	New York Jets	Asst. HC/Secondary
2000-09	New England Patriots	Head Coach





## THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT: THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS



### PROBABLE STARTERS THIS WEEK



#### OFFENSE

**WR Roddy White** - Totaled 53 receiving yards and his first touchdown of the season against Carolina in Week 2. In two games this season has totaled 11 catches for 95 yards and one score.

**LT Sam Baker** - Started the first two games of the season and did not allow a sack of quarterback Matt Ryan in Week 2 vs. Carolina.

**LG Justin Blalock** - Has started the first two contests at left guard and was part of an offensive line that provided time for quarterback Matt Ryan to record three touchdowns against Carolina (Week 2).

**C Todd McClure** - In his 11th season with the Falcons, posted his 114th consecutive start following a Week 2 victory against the Carolina Panthers.

**RG Harvey Dahl** - Recorded his second start of the season at right guard and blocked for running back Michael Turner to rush for 105 yards against Carolina in Week 2.

**RT Tyson Clabo** - The starter at right tackle for the first two games of the season. Part of an offensive line that allowed Matt Ryan to completed 21 of 27 passes (78.0 pct.) against Carolina.

**TE Tony Gonzalez** - Has led the Falcons in receiving in each of the first two contests of the season while totaling 12 receptions for 144 yards and two touchdowns through Week 2.

**WR Michael Jenkins** - In two games this season, has totaled seven receptions for 74 yards (10.6 avg.).

**QB Matt Ryan** - Set career highs in touchdown passes (three) and completion percentage (78.0) in a Week 2 battle versus Carolina. In two games, has completed 43 of 63 passes for 449 yards and five touchdowns for a 108.5 passer rating (third-best in the NFL).

**RB Michael Turner** - Finished with his first 100-yard rushing performance (105 yards) against Carolina in Week 2 and leads the team after two weeks with 50 carries for 170 yards and one touchdown.

**FB Ovie Mughelli** - Paved the way for running back Michael Turner to rush for 105 yards against Carolina. Has contributed with two receptions for 22 yards and one touchdown in two games.

### PROBABLE STARTERS THIS WEEK



#### DEFENSE

**RE John Abraham** - Opened the 2009 season with two sacks, giving the veteran 13.0 career quarterback takedowns in season opening games. In two contests has contributed with six tackles.

**DT Thomas Johnson** - Has collared four tackles (three solo) in two games this season.

**DT Jonathan Babineaux** - In the season opener against Miami, recorded two fumble recoveries as the defense forced four turnovers. Has added three tackles in two games.

**LE Jamaal Anderson** - Part of a defensive effort that limited the Dolphins to 176 passing yards in Week 1. Has totaled four tackles and one pass defended in two games this season.

**OLB Mike Peterson** - In his first two games in a Falcons uniform, ranks second on the team with 22 tackles, one interception, two passes defended and two forced fumbles. His turnovers have led to 16 Falcons points.

**MLB Curtis Lofton** - In two games this season, leads the Falcons with 23 tackles and one forced fumble. Set a career-high with 13 tackles against Miami in the season opener.

**OLB Stephen Nicholas** - Started his first career NFL game against Miami in Week 1. Totaled 14 tackles in two games including his first sack of the season in a Week 2 matchup versus Carolina.

**RCB Chris Houston** - Started at right cornerback in the first two games of the season and has contributed with seven tackles and an interception against Carolina in Week 2 which sealed a victory.

**LCB Brian Williams** - Through Week 2 of the season, totaled eight tackles, one fumble recovery for a 53-yard return and blocked Atlanta's first punt since the 2004 season which led to a 24-yard touchdown strike from quarterback Matt Ryan to tight end Tony Gonzalez against Carolina.

**SS Erik Coleman** - Leads the secondary in tackles with 17 stops while contributing with one tackle for loss and one forced fumble.

**FS Thomas DeCoud** - In his first two career NFL starts, has recorded 16 tackles, one pass defended and his first career fumble recovery against Carolina (Week 2), which led to a Falcons touchdown.

### LAST GAME AT A GLANCE

Regular Season Game #2 (9/20/09)



**Falcons - 28**



**Panthers - 20**

Carolina jumped out to an early 3-0 lead, however the Falcons responded when tight end Tony Gonzalez caught his second touchdown pass of the season on a 24-yard strike from quarterback Matt Ryan to give Atlanta a 7-3 lead. Both teams combined for 24 points in the second quarter as Falcons running back Jason Snelling and wide receiver Roddy White each caught their first touchdowns of the season to keep the Falcons ahead 21-13. After a scoreless third quarter, Michael Turner hit paydirt with his first touchdown of the season as the sixth-year veteran topped the 100-yard plateau for the first time in 2009 (105 yards). Carolina added a late touchdown courtesy of a Dante Rosario catch from quarterback Jake Delhomme, however a comeback fell short when Atlanta cornerback Chris Houston intercepted his third career pass with 2:44 remaining in the game to seal the victory.

### FALCONS BEST GAMES VERSUS NEW ENGLAND



#### DE John Abraham

2005 - Collared three tackles and one sack for a loss of 11 yards.

2001 - Finished with one sack, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and nine tackles.

2000 - Posted three tackles, two sacks for a loss of 15 yards and one forced fumble.

#### LB Mike Peterson

2003 - Totaled 18 tackles (10 solo) and one sack for a loss of six yards.

1999 - Recorded six tackles (four solo) and one sack for a loss of 10 yards.

#### TE Tony Gonzalez

2004 - Tallied seven receptions for 86 yards and a long catch 22 yards.

2000 - Caught 11 passes for 147 yards (13.4 avg.) and one touchdown and recorded a long reception of 29 yards.

#### S Erik Coleman

2006 - Finished with eight tackles, one interception and one pass defended.

#### WR Brian Finneran

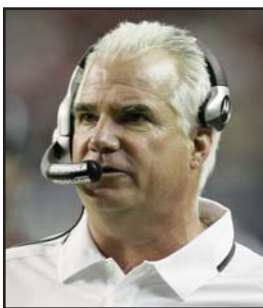
2005 - Notched five receptions for 103 yards (20.6 avg.) and a career long catch of 53 yards.

# HEAD COACH MIKE SMITH

## HOLDING DOWN THE DOME



In his first year at the helm, Head Coach Mike Smith realized the importance of winning at home and did not dissappoint the team or Falcons fans alike. In 2008, Atlanta's 7-1 record at the Georgia Dome was the best home mark for a Falcons team since 2004. Smith will look to improve this record in 2009 with a difficult schedule ahead. Following victories in the opening two contests of the season against Miami and Carolina, Atlanta will also battle NFC South Division rivals, Tampa Bay and New Orleans as well as AFC East Division foe, Buffalo. The Falcons will also host the Chicago Bears in a Sunday Night Football matchup and the Philadelphia Eagles and Washington Redskins who battle in a very competitive NFC East Division.



Smith's 2008 record of 7-1 was tied for the best home mark by a Falcons first year head coach since Jim Mora accomplished the feat in 2004. With the wins against Miami and Carolina in the first two weeks of the '09 campaign, Smith improved his record at the Georgia Dome to 9-1 (.900) and his overall mark to 13-5 (.722). Below is a look at where Smith ranks among other Falcons head coaches in both categories.

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Seasons</u>	<u>Home Record (%)</u>	<u>Overall Record (%)</u>
<b>Mike Smith</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>9-1 (.900)</b>	<b>13-5 (.722)</b>
Jerry Glanville	1990-93	20-12 (.625)	27-37 (.424)
Jim Mora	2004-06	14-10 (.583)	26-22 (.542)
June Jones	1994-96	14-10 (.583)	19-29 (.396)
Leeman Bennett	1977-82	25-18 (.581)	46-41 (.516)



## COACH OF THE YEAR



Head Coach Mike Smith was named the prestigious 2008 *Associated Press* and *Sporting News* NFL Coach of the Year after leading the Falcons to an 11-5 regular season record and the club's first play-off appearance since 2004. Under Smith's guidance, the Falcons posted one of the biggest turnarounds in NFL history (+7 wins from 2007) while finishing second in the NFC South Division. Since 1978, Smith's 11 victories tied him for the best record for rookie head coaches in the NFL taking over a team that finished below .500 the previous season. He joined other 2008 rookie head coaches, John Harbaugh (Baltimore) and Tony Sparano (Miami) in that category.

**SportingNews**

## BEST RECORDS FOR ROOKIE HEAD COACHES TAKING OVER TEAMS THAT FINISHED BELOW .500 THE PREVIOUS SEASON (SINCE 1978)



<u>Coach (Team - Year)</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Previous Season</u>
<b>Mike Smith (Atlanta, 2008)</b>	<b>11-5</b>	<b>4-12</b>
John Harbaugh (Baltimore, 2008)	11-5	5-11
Tony Sparano (Miami, 2008)	11-5	1-15
Jim Mora (Atlanta, 2004)	11-5	5-11
Bill Cowher (Pittsburgh, 1992)	11-5	7-9
Bobby Ross (San Diego, 1992)	11-5	4-12
Jim Fassel (NY Giants, 1997)	10-5-1	6-10
Eric Mangini (NY Jets, 2006)	10-6	4-12
Sean Payton (New Orleans, 2006)	10-6	3-13
Jim Haslett (New Orleans, 2000)	10-6	3-13
Chan Gailey (Dallas, 1998)	10-6	6-10
Ray Rhodes (Philadelphia, 1995)	10-6	7-9

## GREATEST IMPROVEMENT IN WINS BETWEEN SEASONS BY A FIRST-YEAR HEAD COACH



<u>Coach</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Win Improvement</u>
Tony Sparano	2008 Dolphins	+10 (11-5 from 1-15)
Al Davis	1963 Raiders	+9 (10-4 from 1-13)
Bill Parcells	1997 Jets	+8 (9-7 from 1-15)
Ted Marchibroda	1992 Colts	+8 (9-7 from 1-15)
Ted Marchibroda	1975 Colts	+8 (10-4 from 2-12)
<b>Mike Smith</b>	<b>2008 Falcons</b>	<b>+7 (11-5 from 4-12)</b>
Sean Payton	2006 Saints	+7 (10-6 from 3-13)
Jim Haslett	2000 Saints	+7 (10-6 from 3-13)
Bobby Ross	1992 Chargers	+7 (11-5 from 4-12)
Don Shula	1970 Dolphins	+7 (10-4 from 3-10-1)

## COACH SMITH'S RECORD WHEN...

(Regular season totals only)

Overall Record:	13-5
vs. the NFC:	9-4
vs. the AFC:	4-1
vs. the NFC South Division:	4-3
The Falcons play at home:	9-1
The Falcons play on the road:	4-4
The Falcons play during the day (1 p.m. EST games):	11-4
The Falcons play during the afternoon (4 p.m. EST games):	2-1
The Falcons play a night game (8 p.m. EST games):	0-0
The Falcons play indoors:	10-2
The Falcons play outdoors:	3-3
The Falcons score first:	12-1
The Falcons lead at halftime:	13-1
The Falcons lead at the start of the fourth quarter:	13-1
The Falcons lead in time of possession:	8-2
The Falcons offense gains more than 300 total yards:	10-3
The defense holds the opponent to under 300 total yards:	3-0
The Falcons have a 300-yard passer:	1-1
The Falcons have a 100-yard rusher:	9-0
The Falcons have a 100-yard receiver:	4-3
The Falcons win the turnover battle:	6-0
The Falcons are penalized five times or less:	9-3

## FAST START



With a 28-20 victory over the Carolina Panthers, the Falcons improved to 2-0 on the season for the first time since 2006 and the seventh time in franchise history. Atlanta will look to improve its record to 3-0 with a win at New England in Week 3. Below is a look at the Falcons best starts in franchise history.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Final Record</u>
2006	2-0	7-9
2004	4-0	11-5
1998	2-0	14-2
1986	4-0	7-8-1
1981	3-0	7-9
1979	2-0	6-10



## THIRD TIMES A CHARM



Matt Ryan converted all six of Atlanta's third down conversions through the air against Carolina in Week 2.

Part of Atlanta's offensive success and 2-0 record thus far in 2009 has been its third down conversion rate. Last week against Carolina, the Falcons converted 50 percent of their third downs (6 of 12). On Atlanta's first offensive possession of the second quarter against the Panthers, quarterback Matt Ryan converted four third downs on passing attempts, which led to an eventual Jason Snelling touchdown. The Falcons also converted a key third and five opportunity at the start of the fourth quarter, leading to a Michael Turner touchdown. The results were similar in the season opener against Miami. Atlanta converted six of 15 third downs (40 percent) and scored on two possessions where conversions were made. Currently, the Falcons rank tied for second in the NFC in third down percentage with a 44.4 mark. Below is a look at the top three teams in the conference.

<u>Team</u>	<u>3rd Down Att.</u>	<u>3rd Down Conv.</u>	<u>3rd Down %</u>	<u>Record</u>
New Orleans	26	15	57.5	2-0
<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>2-0</b>
Washington	27	12	44.4	1-1

## PASSING THE TEST



Two weeks into the 2009 NFL season, quarterback Matt Ryan ranks third among all NFL quarterbacks in passer rating, sitting behind Drew Brees of New Orleans and Brett Favre of Minnesota. Ryan has completed 43 of 63 passes (68.3 percent) for 449 yards, five touchdowns and one interception for a 108.5 rating. Below is a look at the top three quarterbacks in the League.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Comp.</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TDs</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Drew Brees, N.O.	51	68	669	9	2	132.9
Brett Favre, Min	37	48	265	3	0	110.2
<b>Matt Ryan, Atl</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>108.5</b>

## CREDENTIAL DEADLINE NOTICE

All requests for Falcons single-game regular season credentials can be applied for by visiting <http://pr.atlantafalcons.com> (username: falconspr, password: afmedia). All requests are due the Tuesday of each game week at noon. Below is a schedule of upcoming credential request deadlines.

### Game 3, Sunday, September 27 at New England

Credential requests are due: Monday, September 21 - Noon

### Game 4, Sunday, October 11 at San Francisco

Credential requests are due: Monday, October 5 - Noon

### Game 5, Sunday, October 18 vs. Chicago

Credential requests are due: Tuesday, October 13 - Noon

### Game 6, Sunday, October 25 at Dallas

Credential requests are due: Monday, October 19 - Noon

### Game 7, Monday, November 2 at New Orleans

Credential requests are due: Monday, October 26 - Noon

## 2009 STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE



The Falcons will face the NFC East and AFC East in cross-division play while continuing to battle NFC South opponents, Tampa Bay, New Orleans and Carolina twice a year. Atlanta will also match-up with the Chicago Bears on Sunday Night Football in a home game at the Georgia Dome and will travel to San Francisco to battle the 49ers. Collectively, the Falcons hold a 75-64 record against their NFC South foes while totaling 91 all-time victories against their other opponents on the 2009 schedule. The Falcons rank fourth in strength of schedule this season with their opponents combining for a .588 winning percentage in 2008 (150 wins, 105 losses and one tie). The Carolina Panthers are the only NFC team ranked higher in strength of schedule entering the season (second).

<u>HOME</u>	<u>2009 Record</u>	<u>Last Time Played</u>	<u>Result</u>
Miami	0-2	September 13, 2009	W, 19-7
Carolina	0-2	September 20, 2009	W, 28-20
Chicago	1-1	October 12, 2008	W, 22-20
Washington	1-1	December 3, 2006	W, 24-14
Tampa Bay	0-2	December 14, 2008	W, 13-10 OT
Philadelphia	1-1	October 26, 2008	L, 27-14
New Orleans	2-0	December 7, 2008	L, 29-25
Buffalo	1-1	September 25, 2005	W, 24-16

<u>AWAY</u>	<u>2009 Record</u>	<u>Last Time Played</u>	<u>Result</u>
New England	1-1	October 9, 2005	L, 31-28
San Francisco	2-0	November 4, 2007	W, 20-16
Dallas	1-1	December 16, 2006	L, 38-28
New Orleans	2-0	December 7, 2008	L, 29-25
Carolina	0-2	November 23, 2008	W, 45-28
New York Giants	2-0	October 15, 2007	L, 31-10
New York Jets	2-0	October 24, 2005	W, 27-14
Tampa Bay	0-2	December 14, 2008	W, 13-10 OT



## SACK ATTACK

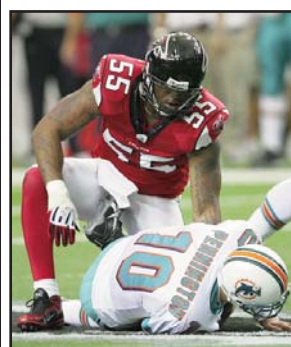


Through two regular season games, the Falcons have totaled 5.0 sacks and have out-sacked their opponents by a 5.0-2.0 margin. The Falcons offensive line kept quarterback Matt Ryan's jersey clean in Week 2 against Carolina, marking the eighth time the line has not allowed a sack while blocking for Ryan in the past two seasons. Atlanta's 5.0 sacks currently rank sixth in the NFC.

In the season opener against the Miami Dolphins, Kroy Biermann dropped Chad Pennington on two occasions while forcing a fumble on



Defensive end Kroy Biermann posted his first career multiple-sack game against Miami.



Defensive end John Abraham has logged 20 career multiple-sack games.

the first sack. The quarterback take-downs marked the first multiple-sack game for the second-year defensive end in his career. Following Biermann's performance was defensive end John Abraham who also totaled two sacks against the Dolphins, marking his 12th and 13th career quarterback takedowns in season opening contests. Through two weeks this season, Abraham has now recorded 20.5 sacks in his last 19 games, 28.5 in his last 33 contests and has notched 86.0 for his career.

Last Sunday against Carolina, linebacker Stephen Nicholas added Atlanta's fifth sack of the '09 campaign, dropping Jake Delhomme in the first quarter to force a punt. The sack was the third of Nicholas' career.

## DOMINANCE ON DEFENSE



In a Week 1 victory against Miami, the Falcons defense provided an impressive performance, nearly posting a shutout against the Dolphins. The defense held Miami scoreless for the first three quarters and 11:39 into the final period of play. The unit also forced four turnovers (three fumble recoveries and one interception) and logged four sacks courtesy of defensive ends John Abraham and Kroy Biermann (two each).



The Falcons defensive unit celebrates a turnover.

Dolphins quarterback Chad Pennington was limited to 176 passing yards while Miami's running backs posted 96 yards collectively. Now heading into Week 3 of the 2009 season, Mike Smith and the Falcons have compiled a 6-0 when holding opposing defenses to under 300 total net yards and 3-0 when winning the turnover battle.

## ON THE PLUS SIDE



In 2008, the Falcons finished with a minus-3 turnover differential, which ranked 21st in the NFL. This season, Atlanta has started fast to improve the mark by forcing four Dolphins turnovers in a Week 1 contest. Quarterback Matt Ryan stayed interception-free while the rest of the Atlanta offense did not give up a fumble. Against Carolina in Week 2, the Falcons and Panthers stayed even in the turnover margin. Heading into Week 3, Atlanta holds a plus-4 turnover differential, which currently ranks tied for second in the NFL with three other teams. Below is a look at the top three teams in the category.

Team	Take-Aways			Give-Aways			Net Diff
	Int	Fum	Total	Int	Fum	Total	
Green Bay	6	0	6	0	1	1	+5
Atlanta	2	4	6	1	1	2	+4
Denver	3	2	5	0	1	1	+4
Minnesota	3	2	5	0	1	1	+4
N.Y. Giants	4	2	6	1	1	2	+4

## INSTANT IMPACT

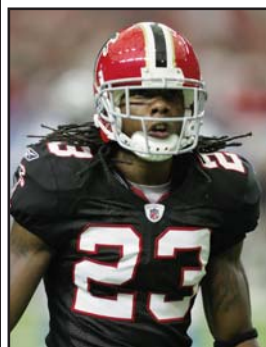


The Atlanta Falcons signed defensive back Brian Williams as a free agent on September 6 and immediately, the eighth-year veteran has made an instant impact. Through two games this season, Williams has totaled eight tackles, one fumble recovery which he returned for 53 yards in Week 1 versus Miami and a blocked punt against Carolina (Week 2). The 53-yard fumble recovery was the longest return for the Falcons since 2007, while Williams' block was the first since the 2004 regular season finale against Seattle. He was inserted as a starting cornerback in the opening game against Miami and is part of a defensive unit that held the Dolphins scoreless for three quarters. Williams has also helped the Falcons ranked tied for second in the NFL in turnover differential with a plus-4 margin.



Defensive Back Brian Williams

## HOUSTON WE HAVE LIFTOFF



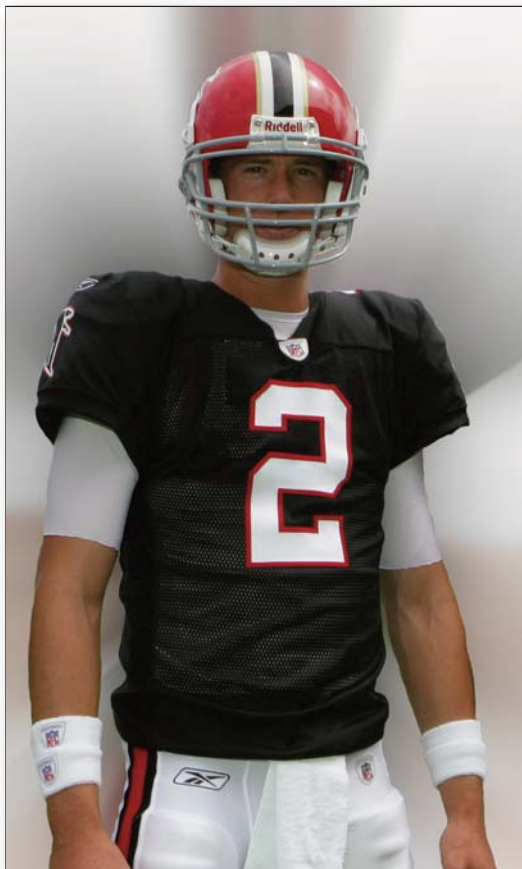
Cornerback Chris Houston

Assigned with an important task in covering Carolina wide receiver Steve Smith in Week 2, cornerback Chris Houston made a terrific play with the game on the line. The third-year cornerback intercepted Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme with 2:44 remaining in the contest to solidify a Falcons victory. The interception marked the third in Houston's career and the second for the Falcons this season. Through the first two games of the season, Houston has also contributed with seven tackles.

**MATT RYAN**

6-4, 213 pounds, Boston College

- 2008 Associated Press and Sporting News Rookie of the Year
- 2008 NFC Rookie of the Month (October)
- 2008 NFC Offensive Player of the Week (8)

**CAREER MARKS**

In a 28-20 victory over the Carolina Panthers in Week 2, quarterback Matt Ryan set two career highs as he completed 21 of 27 passes for 220 yards, three touchdowns and one interception (122.2 passer rating). The three TDs, all of which came in the first half, set a new single-game career-high while his 78.0 completion percentage was also a career-high. Ryan found tight end Tony Gonzalez for a 24-yard touchdown at the end of the first quarter and then completed touchdown strikes to running back Jason Snelling and wide receiver Roddy White in the second quarter. The touchdown to Snelling

was the first receiving score of his career, while White's touchdown marked the first to a wide receiver this season. In two games thus far, five of six Atlanta touchdowns have come from the arm of Ryan.

**HOME SWEET HOME**

Matt Ryan continues to build an impressive resume when competing at the Georgia Dome. Last season as a rookie, Ryan posted a 7-1 record at home while completing 121 of 188 passes (64.4 percent) for 1,777 yards and six touchdowns. The record was the best since 2004 when the team reached the NFC Championship Game. Ryan has continued the trend this season as the Falcons defeated Miami and Carolina in the first two weeks of the '09 campaign. He improved his record to 9-1 at home and has completed 43 of 63 passes for 449 yards, five touchdowns and one interception for a 108.5 passer rating.

**NOT AN UNLUCKY NUMBER**

Quarterback Matt Ryan logged an impressive streak against Carolina in Week 2 completing a stretch of 13 consecutive passes. The streak started at the 6:09 mark in the second quarter and did not end until his first attempt in the fourth quarter. Ryan converted four third downs, added two touchdowns and compiled exactly 100 passing yards in the span of completions. His 13 consecutive completions also marked the most by a Falcons quarterback since Jeff George threw 13-straight on November 5, 1995 against Detroit.

**TAKE A PASS**

Steve Bartkowski

At the conclusion of his rookie season, quarterback Matt Ryan logged 3,440 passing yards, the highest total for a Falcons quarterback in a season since Jeff George threw for a franchise season-record 4,143 yards in a pass-first offense in 1995. Ryan's total was the highest for a Falcons rookie as he became only the second first-year quarterback in NFL history to reach the 3,000-yard passing plateau along with Colts quarterback Peyton Manning. This season, Ryan will look to become only the third quarterback in team history behind Jeff George and Steve

Bartkowski to finish with back-to-back 3,000-yard passing seasons as he is currently on pace for 3,592 yards.

Player	Years	Total Passing Yardage
Matt Ryan	2008, ?	3,440 (2008), ? (2009)
Jeff George	1994, 1995	3,734 (1994), 4,143 (1995)
Steve Bartkowski	1980, 1981	3,544 (1980), 3,830 (1981)



Jeff George

**MATT RYAN'S RECORD WHEN**

(Regular season totals only)

Playing at home:	9-1
Playing on the road:	4-4
Playing indoors:	10-2
Playing outdoors:	3-3
Playing against the NFC South Division:	4-3
Playing against the NFC Conference:	9-4
Playing against the AFC Conference:	4-1
Playing on an artificial surface:	10-2
Playing on a grass surface:	3-3
The offense generates 300-plus total yards:	11-3
Finishing with 300 or more passing yards:	1-1
Finishing with 200-299 passing yards:	7-2
Throwing at least one touchdown pass:	11-2
Throwing two or more touchdown passes:	6-1
Completing 60% or more pass attempts:	11-2
Finishing with zero interceptions:	9-1
Finishing with a 100.0-plus passer rating:	7-0
Being sacked no more than one time:	10-2



## SLICK ICE



In the season opener against Miami, quarterback Matt Ryan completed 22 of 36 passes for 229 yards, two touchdowns and zero interceptions for a 98.0 passer rating. In the second quarter alone, Ryan completed eight of 11 passes while adding a touchdown. Following the first half, the second-year quarterback tallied 146 yards, his fifth-highest career total for passing yards in a first half. Below is a breakdown of Ryan's best career first half passing totals.

Game (Date)	Comp.	Att.	Yards	TD	Rating
at Oakland (11/2/08)	13	16	184	2	154.2
at New Orleans (12/7/08)	10	15	169	1	99.0
vs. Chicago (10/12/08)	14	19	159	0	98.4
at Green Bay (10/5/08)	13	18	154	2	135.0
<b>vs. Miami (9/13/08)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>98.5</b>

## ENCORE, ENCORE



In 2008, Matt Ryan completed 265 of 434 passes for 3,440 yards, 16 touchdowns and 11 interceptions for an 87.7 passer rating in his rookie season. His numbers were impressive as he ranked sixth in the conference in passing yards and passer rating. This season through two games, Ryan has completed 43 of 63 passes for 449 yards, five touchdowns and one interception for a 108.5 passer rating. Below is a look at where the second-year quarterback ranks thus far among other quarterbacks in the conference and the NFL.

- 5 Touchdowns** - Tied for second in the NFL.
- 108.5 Passer Rating** - 3rd in the NFL.
- 68.3 Completion Percentage** - 5th in the NFC.
- 43 Completions** - 6th in the NFC.
- 449 Passing Yards** - 8th in the NFC.

## NOT LIKE A ROOK



As rookies last season, Matt Ryan and Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco each started all 16 games for their respective teams for the first time in a season since the Super Bowl era (1966). Both quarterbacks led their teams to 11-5 regular season records both becoming the first rookie quarterbacks to lead their clubs to the playoffs since the 16-game schedule was put in place in 1978. Ryan and Flacco combined for a 22-10 record last season, which was the best winning percentage by two rookie quarterbacks in the same year since 1983.

Year	Quarterbacks	Record	Percentage
<b>2008</b>	<b>Matt Ryan/Joe Flacco</b>	<b>22-10</b>	<b>.688</b>
1983	John Elway/Dan Marino	11-8	.579
1979	Steve Fuller/Phil Simms	12-11	.522

## FRANCHISE FIND



Following a stellar 2008 season which featured *Sporting News* and *Associated Press* Rookie of the Year honors, Matt Ryan earned other accolades throughout the media, which included a top honor from *FoxSports.com*. Ryan was voted the NFL's top franchise player under 30 years old. Adrian Hasenmayer of *FoxSports.com* wrote the following:



"It's a quarterback's league, so our top building block is Ryan (24 years old), who completely changed the mindset for folks intending on starting a rookie quarterback with a historic 2008 season.

Now a year later with a full season and NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year under his belt, Ryan proved how much Atlanta's front office thinks of him by building its offseason around him — namely trading for veteran tight end Tony Gonzalez. You only deal away a second-round draft pick for a 33-year-old tight end if you are planning to win ... NOW." — Adrian Hasenmayer

### Other players that Ryan topped on the list include:

5. Cowboys linebacker DeMarcus Ware
4. Vikings running back Adrian Peterson
3. Browns offensive tackle Joe Thomas
2. Texans defensive end Mario Williams

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE



In his rookie season, quarterback Matt Ryan's numbers topped numerous passing categories compared to Falcons totals over the past five years. In 2008, Ryan pieced together a passing attack which ranked 14th in the NFL and took the top spot in completion percentage, yards per attempt, interceptions and passer rating among all Falcons quarterbacks dating back to 2004. Against the Oakland Raiders in a Week 9 meeting last season, Ryan compiled a 138.4 passer rating, which was the ninth-highest total for a single game among any NFL quarterback. For his efforts, he was named NFC Offensive Player of the Week. Listed below are Ryan's 2008 final statistics compared to collective Falcons quarterbacks over the past five seasons.

### Category (stat and rank over the last five seasons)

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
NFL Passing Rank	<b>14th (1)</b>	18th (2)	32nd (5)	27th (3)	30th (4)
Passing Yards	3,440 (2)	<b>3,573 (1)</b>	2,682 (5)	2,907 (3)	2,692 (4)
Completion %	<b>61.1 (1)</b>	60.5 (2)	53.4 (5)	54.8 (4)	54.9 (3)
Yards Per Attempt	<b>7.93 (1)</b>	6.44 (5)	6.50 (3)	6.45 (4)	6.82 (2)
Touchdowns	16 (3)	18 (2)	15 (4t)	<b>19 (1)</b>	15 (4t)
Interceptions	<b>11 (1)</b>	15 (3t)	15 (3t)	13 (2)	16 (5)
Passer Rating	<b>87.7 (1)</b>	78.9 (2)	75.2 (4)	76.6 (3)	72.0 (5)



Matt Ryan has led the Falcons to a 13-5 overall record (2-0 in 2009) as the team's starting quarterback dating back to Week 1 of the 2008 season. The record includes a 9-1 mark when the Falcons play in front of the home crowd at the Georgia Dome.

## FIRST ACT - MILESTONE



In his first game in an Atlanta Falcons uniform, tight end Tony Gonzalez did not dissappoint fans in the Georgia Dome as the 13-year veteran led the team in receiving with five receptions for 73 yards and one touchdown. On his fourth reception of the game, Gonzalez caught a 20-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Matt Ryan, his first as a member of the Falcons. On the same play, Gonzalez also topped 11,000 career receiving yards, becoming the 21st player in NFL history to accomplish the feat.

In two games this season, Gonzalez continues to lead all tight ends in League history in receiving yardage (11,084) and ranks 20th among all NFL receivers. For the second consecutive week, he led the team in receiving with 71 yards against Carolina while catching his second touchdown pass of the season. For the first time since 2002 and only the second time in his career, Gonzalez caught a touchdown pass in each of the first two games of a season.



Following the first two regular season games of 2009, Tony Gonzalez leads the Falcons in receiving, and ranks seventh in the NFC with 144 yards. He has also contributed with five receptions on third downs (52 yards), which ranks tied for second in the NFL.

Finally, with two receptions in the first quarter against Carolina last week, Gonzalez improved his streak of consecutive games with a reception to 133.

Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez finds the end zone for his first touchdown in a Falcons uniform. On the same play, the 13-year veteran topped 11,000 career receiving yards.

## KEEP IT TIGHT



Tony Gonzalez is arguably the best player to compete at his position in NFL history and he is a future Hall of Famer. This past offseason, the Falcons aquired the 10-time Pro Bowl tight end in a trade with the Kansas City Chiefs on April 23, 2009. In exchange, Atlanta gave the Chiefs its second round selection in the 2010 NFL Draft.

Gonzalez, 6-5, 251 pounds, has established himself as one of the premier tight ends in NFL history. Following a Falcons Week 2 victory against Carolina, he improved his League records for the most receptions (928), receiving yards (11,084) and touchdown catches (78) by a tight end. His 10 Pro Bowl selections are more than any other at his position in the game and he has also earned eight first or second-team *Associated Press* All-Pro selections, his latest coming last season.

**"Tony's arrival will make an instant impact not only on the offensive side of the ball, but on the overall team in general. I feel privileged to be throwing the ball to a future Hall of Famer."**

**- Quarterback Matt Ryan**

## TONY GONZALEZ

6-5, 243 pounds, California

- NFL all-time leader in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns among tight ends.
  - 10-time Pro Bowler
- 21st receiver in NFL history to top 11,000 career receiving yards



## GONZALEZ'S CAREER BEST GAMES

### Receptions

14 @ San Diego (1/2/05)  
11, Two Times  
Last vs. Oakland (12/25/04)  
10, Eight Times  
Last vs. Buffalo (10/23/08)

### Receiving Yards

147 @ New England (12/4/00)  
144 @ San Diego (1/2/05)  
140, Two Times  
Last vs. San Diego (12/2/07)  
138 vs. San Diego (10/22/06)

### Long Reception

73t @ Oakland (11/28/99)  
67 @ Green Bay (10/12/03)  
57 vs. San Diego (10/22/06)  
42t vs. Miami (9/29/02)

### Receiving Touchdowns

3 vs. Miami (9/29/02)  
2, 13 Times  
Last @ San Diego (11/9/08)

### Receiving Average (Min. five receptions)

23.4 vs. St. Louis (10/22/00)  
23.0 vs. San Diego (10/22/06)  
20.0 vs. Miami (9/29/02)  
19.3 vs. Seattle (10/29/06)



## GOING GONZO



Now into the 2009 campaign Tony Gonzalez continues to improve his NFL records for the most receptions (928), receiving yards (11,084) and touchdown receptions (78) among all tight ends in NFL history. Against the Miami Dolphins in Week 1, Gonzalez topped 11,000 career receiving yards on a play which included his first touchdown reception as a member of the team. Gonzalez is in range of another milestone as he is 72 receptions shy of becoming the first tight end in League history with 1,000 career catches. Additionally, Gonzalez needs just 50 receptions in 2009 to become the first tight end in NFL history with 12 consecutive 50-catch seasons. Right now, he stands as the only tight end in NFL history with 11 consecutive seasons.

## CATCH OF THE CENTURY



Tight end Tony Gonzalez remains the only player at his position in NFL history to record six 100-yard receiving games in a single year (2000 and 2004). Reaching the century mark on six occasions led to Gonzalez's highest receiving yardage totals for a season in his career. In 2000, he finished with 1,203 yards while setting his career-high of 1,258 yards in 2004.

## GONZALEZ'S NEXT FEAT



Tony Gonzalez already holds numerous NFL records among tight ends and receivers alike. His work is not finished however, as the 2009 season provides an opportunity for the 13-year veteran to ink more records on his resume. In the Week 1 season opener against Miami, Gonzalez topped 11,000 career receiving yards, becoming just the 21st player in NFL history to accomplish the feat. Below is a look at records and milestones the powerful tight end will look to achieve throughout the course of the 2009 campaign.

- ☒ 11,000 career receiving yards (reached on 9/13/09 against Miami)
- ☐ 1,000 career receptions (72 shy going into Week 3 against New England)
- ☐ 66 receptions in 2009, the most for any Atlanta tight end in a single season (54 away heading into Week 3 against New England)
- ☐ 878 receiving yards in 2009, the most for any Falcons tight end in a single season (734 shy going into Week 3 against New England)
- ☐ 10 touchdowns in 2009, the most for any Atlanta tight end in a single season (8 away heading into Week 3 against New England)

## RECEPTION HALL



Tony Gonzalez is the only tight end in NFL history to record 900 or more receiving yards in seven seasons and currently stands as only the third tight end (Ozzie Newsome and Shannon Sharpe) in League history to lead their respective franchises in all-time receiving. Gonzalez's career receptions (928), receiving yards (11,084) and touchdowns (78) already top Pro Football Hall of Famers Charlie Sanders, Jackie Smith, Mike Ditka, John Mackey, Ozzie Newsome, Kellen Winslow and Dave Casper.

## FOR THE RECORD...

*Below is a list of records achieved by Tony Gonzalez over the course of his NFL career.*

### NFL RECORD & FACT BOOK MOST RECEPTIONS TIGHT END, CAREER

Rank	Receptions	Player	Years
1.	928	Tony Gonzalez	1997-09
2.	815	Shannon Sharpe	1990-03
3.	662	Ozzie Newsome	1978-90
4.	541	Kellen Winslow	1979-87
5.	505	Frank Wycheck	1993-03

### NFL RECORD & FACT BOOK MOST 100-YARD REC. GAMES, TIGHT END, CAREER

Rank	Games	Player	Years
1.	26	Tony Gonzalez	1997-09
2.	24	Kellen Winslow	1979-87
3.	22	Jackie Smith	1963-78
4.	19	Shannon Sharpe	1979-88
5.	14	Todd Christensen	1979-88
		Mike Ditka	1961-72

### NFL RECORD & FACT BOOK MOST RECEIVING YARDS, TIGHT END CAREER

Rank	Yards	Player	Years
1.	11,084	Tony Gonzalez	1997-09
2.	10,060	Shannon Sharpe	1990-03
3.	7,980	Ozzie Newsome	1978-90
4.	7,918	Jackie Smith	1963-78
5.	6,741	Kellen Winslow	1979-87

### NFL RECORD & FACT BOOK MOST 1,000-YARD REC SEASONS, TIGHT END

Rank	# Seasons	Player	Years
1.	4	Tony Gonzalez	00, 04, 07-09
2.	3	Kellen Winslow	1980-81, 83
		Todd Christensen	1983-84, 86
		Shannon Sharpe	1994, 96-97
	2	Ozzie Newsome	1981, 84

### NFL RECORD & FACT BOOK MOST TD RECEPTIONS TIGHT END, CAREER

Rank	Yards	Player	Years
1.	78	Tony Gonzalez	1997-09
2.	62	Shannon Sharpe	1990-03
3.	60	Jerry Smith	1965-77
4.	54	Wesley Walls	1989-03
5.	52	Dave Casper	1974-84

### MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH A RECEPTION, ACTIVE PLAYERS

Games	Player	Streak Began
185	Terrell Owens	vs. Cincinnati (10/20/96)
164	Hines Ward	vs. Green Bay (11/9/98)
155	Torry Holt	vs. Cleveland (10/24/99)
133	Tony Gonzalez	at New England (12/4/00)

## TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



The Falcons organization knew one of the steps to improving the team's offense following the 2007 season would be the acquisition of a running back. Just days into free agency, General Manager Thomas Dimitroff signed Michael Turner who was ready to break into a starting role following four seasons playing behind perennial Pro Bowler LaDainian Tomlinson in San Diego. Atlanta had led the NFL in rushing for three consecutive seasons from 2004-06. After the '07 campaign, Offensive Coordinator Mike Mularkey was hired to rejuvenate the rushing attack that opposing defenses have known to fear. Turner's solo performance last season was among the best in franchise history (1,699 rushing yards ranking third for a single season). Even with the Falcons leading the League in rushing for three straight seasons, Turner's numbers in 2008 trumped any running back since 1998 when Jamal Anderson set the club record with 1,846 yards. Turner is looking for a repeat performance in 2009 after finishing with a Pro Bowl nomination last season. Below is a look at Atlanta's record in the two seasons Turner has spent with the team.

### Atlanta's Record With Turner in 2008 & '09...

<u>Note</u>	<u>Falcons Record</u>
When Turner rushes for over 100 yards in a game	9-0
When Turner totals over 50 yards in the first half of play	8-0
When Turner records 20 or more carries per game	12-1
When Turner averages 4.5 yards per carry or more in a game	7-0
When Turner scores one or more touchdowns in a game	9-2
When Turner posts a long rush of 20 yards or more in a game	7-3



## CARRYING THE LOAD



In 2008, Michael Turner led the NFL in carries with 376, which also set his personal career-high. The veteran running back established a franchise record with 17 rushing touchdowns, which included four multiple-touchdown games. Last season, Turner also averaged one touchdown per every 22.1 carries leading all running backs in the NFL with 300-plus rushes.

With the addition of tight end Tony Gonzalez and the breakaway speed ability of running back Jerious Norwood, Turner's carries might fluctuate this season, however the six-year veteran will look to remain at the top of the NFL. Following a Week 2 contest against Carolina, Turner ranks tied for first in the League with 50 rushes.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Rushes</u>	<u>Yards</u>
Michael Turner, Atl	50	170
Cedric Benson, Cin	50	217
Mike Bell, N.O.	45	229
Fred Jackson, Buf	43	220
Adrian Peterson, Min	40	272

## MICHAEL TURNER

5-10, 244 pounds, Northern Illinois

- 2008 Pro Bowl running back
- 2008 Associated Press All-Pro and three-time NFC Offensive Player of the Week
- Falcons single-game rushing leader with 220 yards against Detroit in Week 1 of '08



## TURNER'S CAREER BESTS

### Rushing Yards

220 vs. Detroit (9/7/08)  
208 vs. St. Louis (12/28/08)  
152 vs. Tampa Bay (12/14/08)  
147 at Denver (10/7/07)

### Rushing Attempts

32 vs. Tampa Bay (12/14/08)  
31 at San Diego (11/30/08)  
30 at Oakland (11/2/08)  
28 vs. Carolina (9/20/09)

### Rushing Touchdowns

4, vs. Carolina (11/23/08)  
3, vs. Kansas City (9/21/08)  
2, Two Times  
Last vs. Denver (11/16/08)

### Long Rushes

83t at Indianapolis (12/18/05)  
74t at Denver (10/7/07)  
73 vs. Tennessee (9/17/06)  
70 vs. St. Louis (12/28/08)

### Rushing Avg. min 10 att.

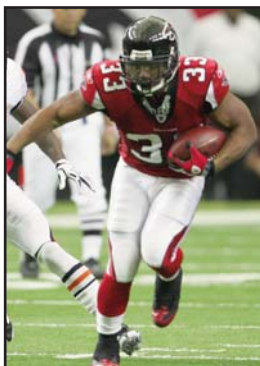
14.7 at Denver (10/7/07)  
10.6 vs. Tennessee (9/17/06)  
10.0 vs. Detroit (9/7/08)  
8.3 vs. St. Louis (12/28/08)



## TOPPING 100



In a Week 2 matchup against the Carolina Panthers, running back Michael Turner rushed for 105 yards on 28 carries, while scoring his first touchdown of the season. Turner's 100-yard contest was the first of the '09 campaign and in 18 career regular season games with the Falcons, he has totaled nine 100-yard performances. From 2008-09, the Falcons are 9-0 when Turner rushes for 100 or more yards in a game. Below is a look at his 100-yard rushing games in his Falcons career.



### 2009 Season

Week 2 vs. Carolina (9/20) - 105 yards

### 2008 Season

Week 1 vs. Detroit (9/7) - 220 yards

Week 3 vs. Kansas City (9/21) - 104 yards

Week 5 at Green Bay (10/5) - 121 yards

Week 9 at Oakland (11/2) - 139 yards

Week 12 vs. Carolina (11/23) - 117 yards

Week 13 at San Diego (11/30) - 120 yards

Week 15 vs. Tampa Bay (12/14) - 152 yards

Week 17 vs. St. Louis (12/28) - 208 yards

## GOING LONG



Since the start of his NFL career in 2004 with the San Diego Chargers, running back Michael Turner has recorded four of the top 50 longest rushes in the past six NFL seasons. Prior to joining the Falcons last season, he was responsible for three of the Chargers longest 11 rushes in team history of (83, 74 and 73 yards) despite playing behind perennial Pro Bowl running back LaDainian Tomlinson. Below is a look at Turner's longest rushes and where they rank among other running backs in the League from 2004-09.

Rank	Date	Opponent	Long
10.	12/18/05	Indianapolis	83t
30.	10/7/07	Denver	74t
33.	9/17/06	Tennessee	73
50.	12/28/08	St. Louis	70



Running Back Michael Turner took this carry 70 yards against St. Louis in the 2008 regular season finale at the Georgia Dome.

## BURNING OFF SOME STEAM



In his first season in an Atlanta Falcons uniform (2008), Michael Turner ran for 1,699 yards which ranked second the NFL in the category. Along with producing eight 100-yard games last season, Turner set a franchise single-game rushing record with a 220-yard performance against the Detroit Lions in the opening week of the season. He also tied a club record with four rushing touchdowns in one game against the Carolina Panthers in Week 12 and in the same contest, topped the 1,000-yard rushing plateau for the first time in his career. Turner scored 17 touchdowns last year, which set a team record for rushing touchdowns in a campaign. On three occasions, he was named NFC Offensive Player of the Week. The first was for his performance against the Lions in Week 1. Turner earned the award again following Week 3 against Kansas City and the season finale against the St. Louis Rams. Along with teammate Roddy White, Turner was named to his first Pro Bowl.



## FIVE STRONG



In 2008, Michael Turner accumulated 1,699 rushing yards, which currently ranks third in franchise history behind Jamal Anderson and Gerald Riggs. If Turner can top the 1,000-yard plateau again this season, he would become just the fourth running back in Falcons history to post back-to-back 1,000-yard campaigns. Below is a look at the other four Falcons in the group.

Player	Years (Yards)
William Andrews	1979 (1,023), 1980 (1,308), 1981 (1,301)
Gerald Riggs	1984 (1,486), 1985 (1,719), 1986 (1,327)
Jamal Anderson	1996 (1,055), 1997 (1,002), 1998 (1,846)
Warrick Dunn	2004 (1,106), 2005 (1,416), 2006 (1,140)
Michael Turner	2008 (1,699), 2009 (?)

## IT ONLY TOOK ONE

In just his first season with the Falcons, running back Michael Turner rushed for 1,699 yards, the third-highest total in franchise history. If Turner can record another 1,000-yard campaign in 2009, he will already surpass Haskel Stanback for seventh place on the club's all-time rushing yards list (needs 794 yards to jump Stanback).

## RODDY WHITE

6-0, 212 pounds, Alabama-Birmingham

- 2008 Pro Bowl selection
- Falcons single-season receiving yardage leader (1,382 in 2008)
- Back-to-back 1,200-yard receiving seasons (2007-08)



## WHITE ON PACE



Last season, Falcons wide receiver Roddy White became the first player in club history to post back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons through the air since 1998-99 and the first player in team history to register back-to-back 1,200-yard campaigns. His 1,382 receiving yardage total in 2008 ranked fourth in the NFL and set a new franchise record for receiving yards for a season. White also broke career highs in receptions (88) and touchdowns (seven). He recorded seven 100-yard games in 2008, which included a Week 14 performance at New Orleans where he set a career-high in receiving yards (164) on 10 receptions. White ranked second in the NFL in third down receptions (29) and led the League in third down receiving yards (516). For his efforts last season, the fifth-year receiver earned his first Pro Bowl nod.



Wide Receiver Roddy White

This season, White is looking to become the second player in team history to record three consecutive 1,000-yard campaigns. Only Andre Rison has accomplished the feat in a string of 1,000-yard seasons from 1992 (1,119), '93 (1,242) and '94 (1,088). Below is a look at where White compares to Rison's streak.

Player	Yards	Season
Roddy White	?	2009
Roddy White	1,382	2008
Roddy White	1,202	2007
Andre Rison	1,088	1994
Andre Rison	1,242	1993
Andre Rison	1,119	1992



Wide Receiver Andre Rison

## BIG PLAY RODDY



Roddy White has established himself as a deep threat in his career with the Falcons. With a 1,200-receiving yard campaign in 2007, White followed his performance with a career-high and franchise record 1,382 yards en route to his first Pro Bowl berth in 2008. In his career, he has posted 36 "big plays" or receptions of 25-plus yards and ranks tied for second in franchise history behind club leader Terance Mathis who caught 49 receptions of 25-plus yards in his eight-year career with the Falcons. Below is a look at Atlanta's career "big play" receivers in franchise history.

### Falcons Leaders in Career "Big Plays"

Player	Seasons	Plays of 25-plus yards
Terance Mathis	1994-2001 (8)	49
<b>Roddy White</b>	<b>2005-2009 (5)</b>	<b>36</b>
Bert Emanuel	1994-1997 (4)	36

Fourteen of White's 36 receptions of 25-plus yards came last season. Below is a look at the Falcons franchise leaders for plays of 25-plus yards in a season.

### Falcons "Big Plays" For a Season

Player	Season	Plays of 25-plus yards
Michael Haynes	1991	16
<b>Roddy White</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>14</b>
Andre Rison	1994	14

## WHITE'S CAREER BEST GAMES

### Receptions

12 at Arizona (12/23/07)  
10 at St. Louis (12/2/07)  
10 at New Orleans (12/7/08)  
9 vs. Chicago (10/12/08)  
8, Two Times  
Last at Green Bay (10/5/08)

### Receiving Yards

164 at New Orleans (12/7/08)  
146 at St. Louis (12/2/07)  
141 at Arizona (12/23/07)  
132 at Green Bay (10/5/08)  
127 vs. Carolina (9/23/07)

### Long Reception

70t vs. Kansas City (9/21/08)  
69t vs. Carolina (9/23/07)  
59 at New Orleans (12/7/08)  
55t at Philadelphia (10/26/08)  
55 vs. Cleveland (11/12/06)

### Receiving Touchdowns

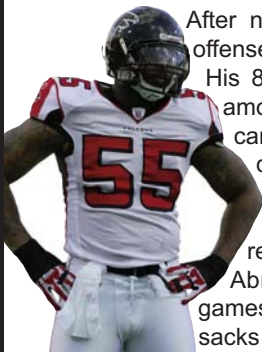
2 at Philadelphia (10/26/08)

### Receiving Average (Min. five receptions)

23.8 vs. Kansas City (9/21/08)  
20.4 vs. Denver (11/16/08)  
19.8 vs. Cleveland (11/12/06)  
18.7 at San Diego (11/30/08)



## SACK ATTACK



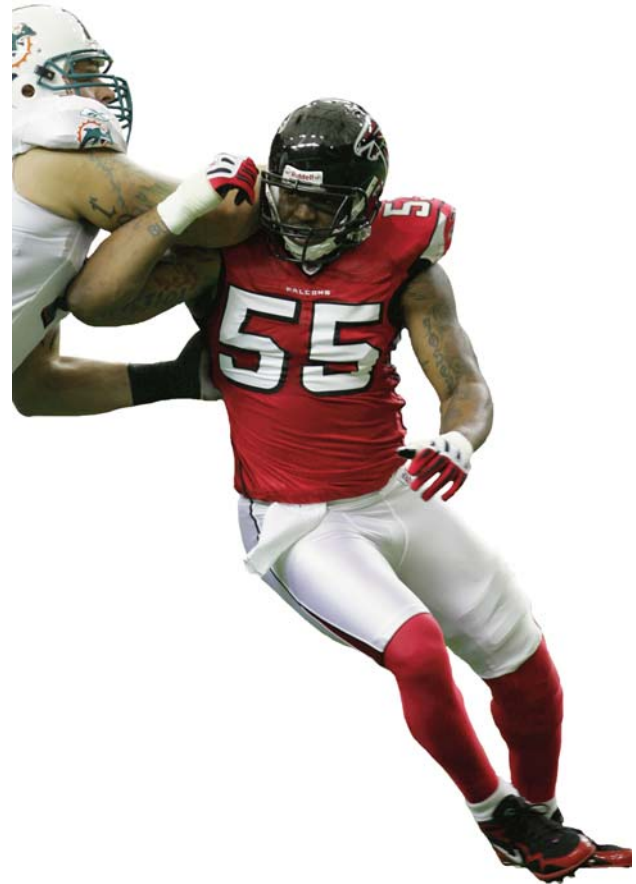
After nine seasons in the NFL, it's no surprise to opposing offenses that John Abraham makes a difference on every snap. His 86.0 career sacks currently rank second in the League among active players (2000-09) and in 2008, he posted a career-best and franchise record 16.5 quarterback take-downs. To take it a step further, Abraham's 20 multiple-sack games over his career have made an even bigger difference as he has contributed to a collective 15-5 record. Last year, the Falcons posted 4-0 mark when Abraham logged a multiple-sack performance. Those games included: three sacks against Detroit (Week 1), two sacks against Kansas City (Week 3), three sacks against Oakland (Week 9) and three sacks against Tampa Bay (Week 15).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Multiple-Sack Games</u>	<u>Team Record</u>
2009	One Game	Falcons 1-0
2008	Four Games	Falcons 4-0
2007	Two Games	Falcons 1-1
2006	One Game	Falcons 1-0
2005	Two Games	New York Jets 1-1
2004	Two Games	New York Jets 2-0
2003	Two Games	New York Jets 0-2
2002	Three Games	New York Jets 2-1
2001	Two Games	New York Jets 2-0
2000	One Game	New York Jets 1-0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 Games</b>	<b>15-5</b>

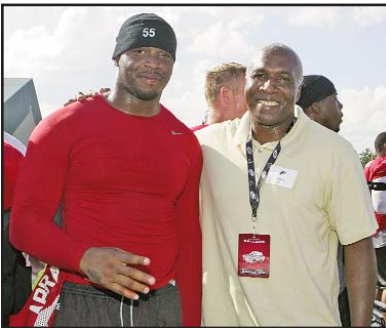
## JOHN ABRAHAM

6-4, 263 pounds, South Carolina

- Falcons single-season sack leader with 16.5 (2008)
- 2008 *Associated Press* All-Pro selection
- Currently ranks second in the NFL in sacks among active players from 2000-09



## KEEPING PACE



John Abraham (left) is shown here with former Falcons linebacker Joel Williams who played on the famed "Gritz Blitz" defenses of the 1980s. Last season, Abraham topped Williams' franchise record for sacks in a single-season with 16.5. The two connected on Alumni Day at Russell Falcons training camp.

Now entering his fourth season in an Atlanta Falcons uniform, defensive end John Abraham has already broken into the top 10 sack leaders list in franchise history, holding down the eighth spot with 32.5 sacks. His total with the Falcons has contributed to his career mark of 86.0, which ranks second in the NFL among all active players (2000-09). "The Predator" is looking to piece together another impressive campaign, which would have major implications in the stat books. If he matches his career-high and franchise record of 16.5 quarterback takedowns from last season, he will finish the year with 47.0 career sacks as a member of the Falcons, which

would rank tied for fourth in club annals with John Zook who logged seven seasons with the team.

### Atlanta Falcons Career Sack Leaders

<u>Player</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Sacks</u>
Claude Humphrey	1968-78 (11)	94.5
Chuck Smith	1992-98 (7)	58.5
Patrick Kerney	1999-2006 (8)	58.0
John Zook	1969-75 (7)	47.0
Travis Hall	1995-2004 (10)	41.5
Don Smith	1979-84 (6)	38.5
Jeff Merrow	1975-83 (9)	36.0
<b>John Abraham</b>	<b>2006-09 (3)</b>	<b>32.5</b>
Brady Smith	2000-05 (6)	32.0
Lester Archambeau	1993-99 (7)	31.0

### ABRAHAM'S CAREER BEST GAMES

#### Tackles

13 vs. Jacksonville (9/25/05)  
11 vs. Kansas City (11/11/01)  
10 vs. New Orleans (11/25/02)

#### Sacks

4.0 @ New Orleans (11/4/01)  
3.5 @ Philadelphia (10/26/03)  
3.0, Four Times  
Last vs. Tampa Bay (12/14/08)

#### Forced Fumbles

2 vs. Oakland (12/11/05)  
2 at Carolina (9/10/06)

#### Fumble Recoveries

1, Five Times  
Last vs. Oakland (12/11/05)

#### Passes Defensed

1, 12 Times  
Last vs. New Orleans (11/9/08)

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## THE PREDATOR EARNs HIS KEEP



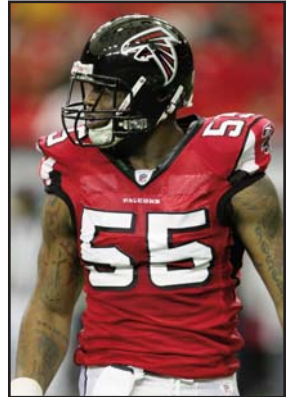
The season opener against Miami proved that defensive end John Abraham did not lose a step from the previous 2008 campaign. Abraham dropped Dolphins quarterback Chad Pennington for two sacks, which marked his 12th and 13th career quarterback takedowns in season opening games. Abraham has now recorded 20.5 sacks in his last 19 games, 28.5 in his last 33 contests and has notched 86.0 for his career. He continues to rank second in sacks among all active players from 2000-09 with 86.0. In 2008, Abraham registered 16.5 sacks setting a new season-high for the veteran, topping his previous mark of 13.0, which he set with the New York Jets in 2001. His 16.5 sacks also rank first in a season in Falcons annals.

### NFL Sack Leaders 2000-2009 (Active Players)

Rank	Player	Sacks	Yards
1	Jason Taylor, Mia	105.0	688.0
2	<b>John Abraham, Atl</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>541.0</b>
3	Joey Porter, Mia	82.0	518.0

### John Abraham's Season Opening Sacks (2000-09)

Year	Sacks	Yards	Result
2009	2.0	7.0	Falcons W, 19-7
2008	3.0	16.0	Falcons W, 34-21
2007	0.0	0.0	Falcons L, 24-3
2006	2.0	20.0	Falcons W, 20-6
2005	1.0	9.0	Jets L, 27-7
2004	1.0	10.0	Jets W, 31-24
2003	2.0	13.0	Jets L, 16-13
2002	1.0	6.0	Jets W, 37-31
2001	1.0	9.0	Jets L, 45-24
2000	0.0	0.0	Jets W, 20-16
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>6-4</b>



### Atlanta Falcons Highest Sack Totals in a Season

Player	Year	Sacks
<b>John Abraham</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>16.5</b>
Joel Williams	1980	16.0
Claude Humphrey	1976	15.0

## [VERY] EXCLUSIVE CLUB



If Falcons defensive end John Abraham can duplicate the season he put together in 2008, he has the possibility of joining a very exclusive club. Abraham is 14.0 sacks shy of reaching 100 for his career. It's a mark that only 24 other players in the NFL have achieved in their careers (since the stat became official in 1982). Abraham currently ranks second to Jason Taylor among active players in sacks from 2000-09. Taylor is the only active player to top the 100-sack mark in his career with the Miami Dolphins and Washington Redskins.



Defensive end John Abraham dropped Dolphins quarterback Chad Pennington on two occasions in the season opener at the Georgia Dome.

In the season opener against Miami, Abraham posted two sacks to increase his career total to 13 in season openers. The 10-year veteran has finished with double-digit sack totals in the past two seasons and averages just over one sack (1.02) per game in the last two years (2008-09).

## CLAIMING A CONFERENCE



In his 10th NFL season, defensive end John Abraham has spent six years with the New York Jets of the AFC conference and is now in his fourth year with the Falcons. Of Abraham's 86.0 career sacks, 46.5 have come against AFC opponents while the other 39.5 have come against NFC teams. He has totaled the most against the New England Patriots with 10.0. Abraham has yet to record a sack against four NFL teams including: Arizona, Tennessee, Pittsburgh and the New York Jets. Below is a breakdown of his sack totals per team by conference

Tampa Bay - 8.0	<b>New England - 10.0</b>
Carolina - 6.0	Miami - 9.0
New Orleans - 5.0	Oakland - 7.0
Philadelphia - 3.5	Buffalo - 5.5
Detroit - 3.0	Kansas City - 5.5
New York Giants - 2.0	Jacksonville - 2.0
San Francisco - 2.0	San Diego - 1.5
Seattle - 2.0	Baltimore - 1.0
Washington - 2.0	Cincinnati - 1.0
Atlanta - 1.5	Cleveland - 1.0
Chicago - 1.5	Denver - 1.0
Green Bay - 1.0	Houston - 1.0
Minnesota - 1.0	Indianapolis - 1.0
Dallas - 0.5	<b>Total - 46.5</b>
St. Louis - 0.5	
<b>Total - 39.5</b>	



Falcons defensive end John Abraham has compiled 13 career sacks in season opening games, which include two against the Miami Dolphins in the 2009. Last year, Abraham dropped Detroit quarterback John Kitna on three occasions in a Week 1 contest, marking his highest single-game sack total in a season opening game.



## MIKE PETERSON

6-1, 233 pounds, Florida

- Has accumulated 1,387 career tackles in 137 games (129 starts)
- Ranks second in Jacksonville history with 837 tackles in six seasons
- Has tallied double-digit tackles in 75 career games



### PETERSON'S CAREER BEST GAMES

#### Tackles

19 vs. Indianapolis (12/11/05)  
18 at Cleveland (12/4/05)  
18 vs. Houston (12/26/04)  
18 at New England (12/14/03)  
18 at Tennessee (12/8/02)

#### Solo Tackles

13 at Buffalo (10/1/00)  
12 vs. Cleveland (10/26/08)  
12 vs. Houston (12/26/04)

#### Sacks

2.0 vs. Atlanta (9/16/07)  
1.0, 17 Times  
Last at Cincinnati (11/2/08)

#### Interceptions

1, 17 Times  
Last vs. Miami (9/13/09)

#### Passes Defensed

3, vs. Tampa Bay (11/30/03)  
3, at Pittsburgh (10/16/05)  
2, vs. Jacksonville (12/29/02)  
2, vs. Baltimore (11/13/05)

#### Forced Fumbles

1, eight times  
Last vs. Carolina (9/21/09)

#### Fumble Recoveries

1, seven times  
Last at Tennessee (11/11/07)

### OPENING ACT



Falcons fans who attended the team's training camp this season witnessed first hand the intensity that linebacker Mike Peterson brings to the practice field. It's a different story on game days as the veteran linebacker turns his game up a notch and performs with reckless abandon on Sundays. In a season opening contest against the Miami Dolphins, Peterson was part of a defensive unit that forced four turnovers and held the Miami passing attack to just 176 yards. He finished second on the team with 11 tackles (eight solo), one interception, one pass defensed and one forced fumble. The interception, his first since 2007, was returned 39 yards and set up a Falcons touchdown in the third quarter. Peterson's forced fumble was recovered by Brian Williams and returned 53-yards, setting up a Jason Elam field goal.



For his performance against the Dolphins, columnist Jarrett Bell of *USA Today* named Peterson the NFL Defensive Player of the Week.

Bell writes:

- Defensive player of the week: Mike Peterson. In his Falcons debut, the linebacker forced two pivotal turnovers in the victory against Miami. With a 7-0 lead just before halftime, but backed inside the 20, Peterson forced an Anthony Fasano fumble that led to a field goal. In the third quarter, his interception and 39-yard return led to a Matt Ryan-to-Tony Gonzalez TD that extended the lead to 16-0. Peterson, one of five new starters on the defense, helped the unit pass its first test that included snuffing out Miami's handful of "Wildcat" formation plays.

### TACK IT ON



Now into his 12th NFL season, Mike Peterson has remained constant at the linebacker position finishing with over 100 tackles in each season he has competed in all 16 games. The Florida graduate recorded a career-high of 190 stops in 2005, while contributing with six sacks, three interceptions and one touchdown en route to being named to the *USA Today's* All-Joe team. Following the first two weeks of the '09 campaign, Peterson ranks sixth among active players in tackles according to each team's coaching breakdown. Below is a look at top 10 players in the category

Rank	Player (Years)	Tackles	Games
1.	Ray Lewis (1996-present)	2,220	180
2.	London Fletcher (1998-present)	1,726	178
3.	Lawyer Milloy (1996-present)	1,587	204
4.	Keith Brooking (1998-present)	1,489	163
5.	Brian Urlacher (2000-present)	1,410	137
6.	<b>Mike Peterson (1999-present)</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>137</b>

### POINTS OFF TURNOVERS



In a Week 2 meeting against Carolina, Mike Peterson forced a fumble, marking his second in as many weeks. The veteran linebacker also intercepted a pass in the season opener against Miami, his first pick since 2007. Through two games this season, Peterson's turnovers have led to 16 total Falcons points (nine against Miami and seven versus Carolina).

## JASON ELAM

5-11, 195 pounds, Hawaii

- Three-time Pro Bowl selection
- NFL Special Teams Player of the Year (2001)
- Tied the NFL record for the longest field goal with a 63-yard conversion against Jacksonville in 1998



### LOOKING FOR 17



In 2008, Falcons kicker Jason Elam logged 129 points, three shy of a career-high and nine shy of a Falcons franchise record. Last season was also Elam's 16th 100-point campaign, which made him the first player in NFL history to record at least 100 points in each of his first 16 seasons. Elam also ranks second in the League in consecutive games scoring at least one point (254) and sits behind former Falcons kicker Morten Andersen who totaled one point in 360-straight contests. Through two games in 2009 Elam has totaled 11 points and is close to a pace for 100 this season. Below is a look at his top three seasons in terms of points in his career.

#### Jason Elam's Top Three Seasons (Points)

Year	PAT	FG	Total Points
1995	39/39	31/38	132
2008	42/42	29/31	129
2004	42/42	29/34	129

### 50-PLUS IS A MUST



Jason Elam ranks third all-time in the NFL with 39 field goals of 50 yards or more. He tallied his best season total of five field goals from 50-plus yards in 1995 and tied the mark again in 1999. Elam is also perfect in 50-plus-yard field goals throughout the postseason, splitting the uprights on one attempt in 1997 and one attempt in 2005. After converting from 50-yards against Miami in the season opener, below is a look at the updated totals.

Player	50-plus FG made (att.)	Percentage
Jason Hanson, Det	41 (75)	54.7
Morten Andersen	40 (84)	47.6
<b>Jason Elam, Atl</b>	<b>39 (64)</b>	<b>60.9</b>
John Kasay, Car	37 (71)	52.1
Jeff Wilkins	26 (36)	72.2



### ELAM'S CAREER BEST GAMES

#### Field Goals Made

5 vs. Buffalo (9/3/95)  
5 at Kansas City (11/16/97)  
5 vs. Miami (10/13/02)  
5 vs. Chicago (10/12/08)

#### Field Goal Attempts

6 vs. Buffalo (9/3/95)  
6 at Kansas City (11/16/97)  
6 vs. Chicago (10/12/08)

#### Extra Points Made

7 vs. Philadelphia (10/30/05)  
6, Four Times  
Last vs. Carolina (10/23/08)

#### Extra Point Attempts

7 vs. Philadelphia (10/30/05)  
6, Four Times  
Last vs. Carolina (10/23/08)

#### Longest Field Goal

63 vs. Jacksonville (10/25/98)  
56 at Houston (11/26/95)  
55 at San Diego (10/7/99)  
55 vs. Miami (10/13/02)

#### Points Scored

16, Four Times  
Last vs. Chicago (10/12/08)

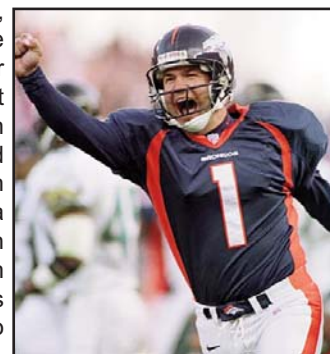
#### Kickoff Touchbacks

4, Four Times  
Last vs. Oakland (10/16/95)

### IT'S LONG GONE



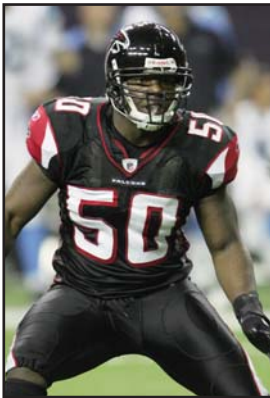
Rewind to a chilly October day in Denver, Colorado in 1998. The Broncos were hosting the Jacksonville Jaguars and were about to enter halftime with a 24-10 lead. Instead of running out the clock, Broncos Head Coach Mike Shanahan wanted to see if he could increase his lead against a strong Jaguars team. Kicker Jason Elam jogged to his position and lined up for a monumental kick. He booted the ball, which sailed 63 yards through the uprights and tied Tom Dempsey's 28-year-old record. Elam's cleats from that game are currently displayed in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



K Jason Elam celebrates after splitting the uprights on a 63-yard field goal which tied the NFL record.



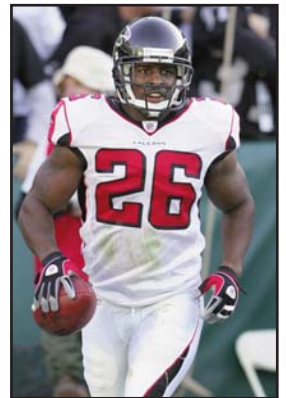
## LEADERS OF THE PACK



Linebacker Curtis Lofton

Following the 2008 season, it was clearly evident that two members of the Falcons would return the following year to take more of a leadership role. Sixth-year safety Erik Coleman and second-year linebacker Curtis Lofton fit the trend as both compiled impressive 2008 campaigns, leading the Falcons to an 11-5 regular season record and their first playoff berth since 2004. Coleman, one of the more tenured players in the secondary, will continue to help the development of young cornerbacks Chris Houston, Brent Grimes, Chevis Jackson and 2009 third round draft pick Christopher Owens while doing the same for safeties Thomas DeCoud and William Moore. In two games this season, Coleman leads the secondary in tackles with 17, while contributing with one forced fumble against Miami.

In his rookie season, Lofton ranked second in the League in tackles among rookies behind Jerod Mayo (according to STATS, Inc.) and garnered 2008 All-Rookie accolades by *Sporting News* and *Pro Football Weekly*. Heading into a Week 3 contest with New England, Lofton leads the team in tackles with 23 after totaling 13 in the season opener against Miami and 10 last Sunday versus Carolina. He also added a forced fumble in Week 1.



Safety Erik Coleman

## SPECIAL STARTING POINT

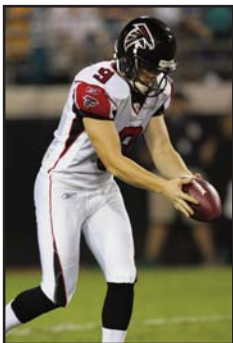


The Falcons kickoff return and coverage units have both played impressively through two weeks of the season. Kickoff returners Jerious Norwood, Brian Finneran and Eric Weems have combined to return five kicks for an average starting position close to the 29-yard line, which ranks third in the NFC. More impressively, the kickoff coverage unit has held Falcons opponents to an average start close to the 19-yard line, which ranks first in the NFL. Below is a look at both rankings.

NFC Kickoff Returns		
Team	Total Kickoffs	Avg. Start
Minnesota	9	30.6
Green Bay	10	28.7
Atlanta	7	28.5

NFL Kickoff Coverage		
Team	Total Kickoffs	Avg. Start
Atlanta	10	18.6
San Francisco	11	20.2
Seattle	8	20.4

## LEAD FOOT



Falcons punter Michael Koenen played an integral role in an Atlanta 28-20 victory over the Carolina Panthers in Week 2. The five-year veteran, who serves as the Falcons kickoff specialist, tied a team record with five touchbacks on five attempts. Koenen also recorded three punts for 149 yards giving him a 49.7 average and a 44.0 net mark. His final punt of the contest (57 yards) in the fourth quarter set the Panthers back at their own 26-yard line, distancing their chances for a comeback.

## 2009 NFL RANKINGS

### Offensive Rankings - 2009 Week by Week

	Total	Rush	Pass	NFC	NFL
Week 1 (after Mia.)	281.0	68.0	213.0	9-13-8	19-26-18
Week 2 (after Car.)	326.0	109.5	216.5	8-9-9	18-16-17
Week 3 (after N.E.)					
Week 4 (BYE)					
Week 5 (after S.F.)					
Week 6 (after Chi.)					
Week 7 (after Dal.)					
Week 8 (after N.O.)					
Week 9 (after Was.)					
Week 10 (after Car.)					
Week 11 (after NYG)					
Week 12 (after T.B.)					
Week 13 (after Phi.)					
Week 14 (after N.O.)					
Week 15 (after NYJ)					
Week 16 (after Buf.)					
Week 17 (after T.B.)					

### Defensive Rankings - 2009 Week by Week

	Total	Rush	Pass	NFC	NFL
Week 1 (after Mia.)	259.0	96.0	163.0	6-10-4	9-21-8
Week 2 (after Car.)	349.5	120.0	229.5	12-9-9	22-19-17
Week 3 (after N.E.)					
Week 4 (BYE)					
Week 5 (after S.F.)					
Week 6 (after Chi.)					
Week 7 (after Dal.)					
Week 8 (after N.O.)					
Week 9 (after Was.)					
Week 10 (after Car.)					
Week 11 (after NYG)					
Week 12 (after T.B.)					
Week 13 (after Phi.)					
Week 14 (after N.O.)					
Week 15 (after NYJ)					
Week 16 (after Buf.)					
Week 17 (after T.B.)					

## HIGH FIVE



In the month of September, *Sporting News Magazine* released their list of the 100 greatest players in the NFL today, as selected by a panel of 106 Hall of Famers, major award winners, executives, coaches and other football experts.

Five members of the Atlanta Falcons made the cut, including: tight end **Tony Gonzalez** (ranked No. 10), running back **Michael Turner** (ranked No. 42), quarterback **Matt Ryan** (ranked No. 63), wide receiver **Roddy White** (ranked No. 87) and defensive end **John Abraham** (ranked No. 93).

Among the NFL legends who filled out ballots for *SN* were 27 Hall of Famers: Dan Dierdorf, Mike Ditka, Art Donovan, Bob Griese, Dan Hampton, Ted Hendricks, Paul Hornung, Sam Huff, Stan Jones, Leroy Kelly, Paul Krause, Jim Langer, Steve Largent, Larry Little, Mike McCormack, Randall McDaniels, Hugh McElhenny, Lenny Moore, Anthony Munoz, Alan Page, Mel Renfro, Gale Sayers, Lee Roy Selmon, Jackie Slater, Lynn Swann, Fran Tarkenton and Jack Youngblood.



## CURRENT FALCONS STREAKS

- 254** Consecutive regular season games K Jason Elam has scored at least one point.
- 133** Consecutive regular season games TE Tony Gonzalez has caught at least one pass.
- 114** Consecutive regular season games C Todd McClure has started, dating back to 2001.
- 38** Consecutive regular season games in which WR Roddy White has caught at least one pass.
- 32** Consecutive field goals K Jason Elam has converted from 20-29 yards dating back to 2006.
- 28.5** The number of sacks John Abraham has totaled in his last 33 games on the defensive line.

## SUPPORT STAFF



The Atlanta Falcons enter the 2009 season with essentially the same coaching staff as the previous year, complete with 17 coaches who hold more than 200 years of NFL experience. Last season, Offensive Coordinator Mike Mularkey guided a Falcons offense which ranked second in the League in rushing (152.7 ypg.) and sixth in total offense (361.2 ypg.). In his first season as Defensive Coordinator, Brian VanGorder coached a defensive unit that held opponents to 20.3 points per game as defensive end John Abraham logged a franchise record 16.5 sacks. Special Teams Coordinator Keith Armstrong and the Falcons punt coverage unit set a NFL record allowing only 49 punt return yards in 2008.



Offensive Coordinator  
Mike Mularkey



Defensive Coordinator  
Brian VanGorder



Special Teams Coordinator  
Keith Armstrong

Below is a breakdown of the Falcons 2009 coaching staff and their NFL experience including this season.

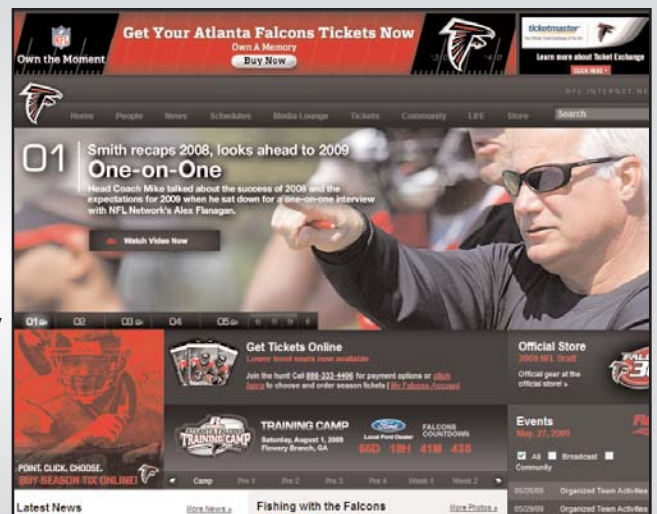
Assistant Head Coach/Secondary Emmitt Thomas - 29th year  
Wide Receivers Coach Terry Robiskie - 28th year  
Offensive Line Coach Paul Boudreau - 23rd year  
Defensive Line Coach Ray Hamilton - 22nd year  
Defensive Backs Coach Alvin Reynolds - 17th year  
Offensive Coordinator Mike Mularkey - 16th year  
Special Teams Coordinator Keith Armstrong - 16th year  
Linebackers Coach Glenn Pires - 14th year  
Head Coach Mike Smith - 11th year  
Quarterbacks Coach Bill Musgrave - 11th year  
Assistant Special Teams Coach - Eric Sutulovich - 6th year  
Defensive Coordinator Brian VanGorder - 4th year  
Running Backs Coach Gerald Brown - 2nd year  
Defensive Assistant Joe Danna - 2nd year  
Assistant Offensive Line Coach Paul Dunn - 2nd year  
Tight Ends Coach Chris Scelfo - 2nd year  
Offensive Assistant Glenn Thomas - 2nd year

**Total Years of NFL experience - 207**

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR ON ATLANTAFALCONS.COM

AtlantaFalcons.com is an award-winning website, which features exclusive team content for fans and the media alike. This week's schedule includes:

- Monday, September 21 -** Coverage of FalconsLIVE and Head Coach Mike Smith's weekly radio show at Hibbitt Sports in Flowery Branch, Ga.
- Tuesday, September 22 -** Photos and more from Falcons weekly visits in the community and a story about the team's recognition of the 1966 inaugural squad.
- Wednesday, September 23 -** Interviews, video and more as the Falcons get ready for the New England Patriots.
- Thursday, September 24 -** A feature on running back Jason Snelling who posted his first career receiving touchdown in Week 2 against Carolina.
- Friday, September 25 -** A podcast preview of the Falcons-Patriots matchup.
- Saturday, September 26 -** Pregame coverage and a scouting report for Week 3.





## FIRST DRAFT



A sure sign of functionality in an organization comes with the amount of draft picks a team holds on its active roster and the contribution it receives from those players. Currently, almost half of the Falcons roster consists of draft selections, while 12 players specifically have come from the two drafts under General Manager Thomas Dimitroff (2007 and '08). Of the 25 total draft picks on the roster, 11 are starters on game day. Defensive tackle Peria Jerry, the Falcons 2009 first round draft selection is currently on injured-reserve. Below is a list of Falcons draft picks currently on the 53-man roster by year.

**2009:** S William Moore, CB Christopher Owens, DE Lawrence Sidbury, OT Garrett Reynolds, LB Spencer Adkins

**2008:** QB Matt Ryan, OT Sam Baker, LB Curtis Lofton, CB Chevis Jackson, S Thomas DeCoud, DE Kroy Biermann, TE Keith Zinger

**2007:** DE Jamaal Anderson, OG Justin Blalock, CB Chris Houston, LB Stephen Nicholas, DT Trey Lewis, RB Jason Snelling

**2006:** RB Jerious Norwood, OT Quinn Ojinnaka

**2005:** WR Roddy White, DT Jonathan Babineaux, DE Chauncey Davis

**2004:** WR Michael Jenkins

**1999:** C Todd McClure

## PRACTICE WITH HEART



In July, the Atlanta Falcons announced a multi-year partnership with Piedmont Healthcare, which will now be recognized as the "Preferred Healthcare Provider" of the team.

Along with a goal to motivate fans to be proactive about health and wellness, Piedmont Healthcare and Falcons will develop a heart disease awareness campaign during the month of September. Falcon's players will sport a heart symbol (shown above) on their practice jerseys and will make appearances at select Piedmont Healthcare facilities with team cheerleaders.

Piedmont Healthcare will be the title sponsor of the Atlanta Falcons Football Academy event benefitting breast cancer-related organizations including the Doris Shaheen Breast Health Center at Piedmont Hospital. Piedmont Heart Institute will also be actively involved in the community and will provide heart health screenings on Falcons game days.

## BROTHERLY LOVE

Falcons defensive tackle Jonathan Babineaux and linebacker Mike Peterson are two members of the roster that have brothers who play for different NFL teams. Babineaux's brother, Jordan, is a defensive back for the Seattle Seahawks. Peterson, a Falcons 2009 free agent acquisition, will face his brother, Adrian, who is a running back for the Chicago Bears on Sunday Night Football (October 18, 2009).

## ATLANTA FALCONS THROWBACK UNIFORMS

The Atlanta Falcons unveiled throwback uniforms in a Week 2 meeting against the Carolina Panthers to honor the inaugural 1966 team as part of "Alumni Weekend." The Falcons will again don the retro uniforms during NFL Week 11 when they host the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at the Georgia Dome on Sunday, November 29.

"NFL Throwback Weekend is an opportunity for our club and our fans to honor and celebrate our inaugural team, the 1966 Falcons," said Falcons President Rich McKay. "Honoring past teams and former players is a time-honored tradition in the NFL, and we plan to make sure our fans have every opportunity to celebrate the 1966 Falcons with us in a big way."

The uniforms include black jerseys with white numbers, red trim and a white Falcon crest on the sleeves. The white pants feature a red strip bordered by two black stripes. Red helmets will be worn with a black Falcon crest logo trimmed in white and a black strip down the middle of the helmet trimmed in white and gold. The colors in the helmet were meant to represent rival schools Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia. The gold trim was later removed, but the white portion of the stripe remained a part of the helmet.



Falcons defensive end John Abraham, quarterback Matt Ryan and running back Michael Turner feature Atlanta's throwback uniforms.



The 1966 Atlanta Falcons

Falcons players Matt Ryan, Michael Turner and John Abraham recently modeled the uniforms for a photo shoot at the team's Flowery Branch headquarters. Members of the media may access those photos by visiting the football communications intranet site at:

<http://pr.atlantafalcons.com> (user name: falconspr, password: afmedia).

For more information on throwback uniform games, ticket information, throwback merchandise and exclusive photos and video please visit: [www.atlantafalcons.com/throwback](http://www.atlantafalcons.com/throwback).

## KEY ACQUISITIONS



**TE Tony Gonzalez**  
**6-5, 243 pounds**  
**California**  
**Trade - '09 (Kansas City)**

- In 13 NFL seasons, has earned 10 Pro Bowl appearances and eight first or second-team

*Associated Press* All-Pro selections.

- Holds NFL records for career receptions (928), receiving yards (11,084), touchdown catches (78), 100-yard receiving games (26), Pro Bowl appearances (10) and 1,000-yard seasons (four) among all tight ends.
- Is the only tight end in League history to record 900 or more receiving yards in seven seasons and currently stands as only the third tight end in NFL history to lead their respective franchises in all-time receiving.



**LB Mike Peterson**  
**6-1, 233 pounds**  
**Florida**  
**Unrestricted Free Agent - '09 (Jax)**

- In 137 career games (129 starts), Peterson has totaled 1,387 tackles (809 solo), 19.5 sacks, 16 interceptions, 42 passes defended, eight forced fumbles and seven fumble recoveries.
- Collected 837 tackles in his Jaguars career, which ranks second in team history behind safety Donovan Darius (858).
- Has tallied double-digit tackles in 74 career games and 15-plus tackles in 23 games.



**WR Marty Booker**  
**6-0, 205 pounds**  
**Louisiana-Monroe**  
**Free Agent - '09**

- In 143 career games (116 starts) has totaled 525 receptions for 6,564 yards and 36 touchdowns.
- Currently ranks tied for third in Bears history in receptions (329) and sixth in receiving yardage (3,895).
- Posted two 1,000-yard receiving campaigns in 2001 and '02 while combining for 14 touchdowns in those seasons.



**CB Tye Hill**  
**5-10, 185 pounds**  
**Clemson**  
**Trade - '09 (St. Louis)**

- Started 21 of 28 career games and has totaled 94 tackles (79 solo), four interceptions, 15 passes defended one fumble recovery and one forced fumble.
- Earned All-Rookie honors from *Pro Football Weekly* and PFWA.



**CB/S Brian Williams**  
**5-11, 202 pounds**  
**North Carolina State**  
**Free Agent - '09**

- Has compiled 492 tackles (393 solo), 18 interceptions, four sacks, nine forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries, one blocked punt and 71 passes defended in 109 career games (95 starts).
- Returned an interception 42 yards for a touchdown in 2003.

## 2009 DRAFT PICKS



**DT Peria Jerry (Currently on injured-reserve)**  
**6-2, 294 pounds**  
**D1 - '09 (Mississippi)**

- In 38 career games at Ole Miss, totaled 132 tackles, 11.5 sacks, 33 tackles for loss, three passes defended, two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and one interception.
- Named to the All-SEC team twice in his collegiate career (first team in 2008 and second team in 2007).
- Jerry became the first defensive tackle selected by the Falcons in the first round of the NFL Draft since Tony Casillas (Oklahoma) in 1986.

**S William Moore**  
**6-0, 218 pounds**  
**D2 - '09 (Missouri)**

- Started 32 of 48 games at Missouri and finished his career having totaled 284 tackles (182 solo), which was the fourth-highest total among Tigers defensive backs.
- Totaled 11 interceptions for 162 yards, breaking Erik McMillan's school career record (three) by returning four of those for touchdowns.

**CB Christopher Owens**  
**5-9, 179 pounds**  
**D3 - '09 (San Jose State)**

- Started 38 of 48 games at San Jose State, including his final 37 contests at right cornerback.
- Recorded 228 tackles (132 solo), one sack, seven tackles for loss, 20 passes defended and 13 interceptions.
- His 13 INTs rank fourth on the school career-record list.

**DE Lawrence Sidbury**  
**6-3, 265 pounds**  
**D4 - '09 (Richmond)**

- Started 31 of 52 games at Richmond, recording 145 tackles (71 solo), 20.5 sacks, 38 tackles for loss four forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and four passes defended.
- His 20.5 sacks rank fourth in school history.
- Set the NCAA record for the most sacks in a playoff game against Montana in a 2008 FCS title game victory with four.
- Was voted the Virginia Defensive Player of the Year his senior season.

**OT Garrett Reynolds**  
**6-7, 317 pounds**  
**D5b - '09 (North Carolina)**

- A second-team All-ACC selection by the *Associated Press* and first-team All-ACC pick by *The ACC Sports Journal*.
- Named to the 2008 Lombardi Award Watch List.

**LB Spencer Adkins**  
**5-11, 242 pounds**  
**D6 - '09 (Miami)**

- Saw action in 31 games in four seasons and totaled 72 tackles (42 solo), 10 tackles for loss, five sacks and one interception.

**DT Vance Walker**  
**6-2, 307 pounds**  
**D7 - '09 (Georgia Tech)**

- Finished his Georgia Tech career with 110 tackles, 26.5 tackles for loss, 13.0 sacks, four forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.



# POSITION BY POSITION BREAKDOWN

## QUARTERBACKS [3]



### No Name

- 2 **Matt Ryan** - In two games this season, has completed 43 of 63 passes (68.3 percent) for 449 yards, five touchdowns and one interception for a 108.5 passer rating. Set career highs with three touchdown passes and a 78.0 completion percentage against the Carolina Panthers in a Week 2 matchup.

- 8 **Chris Redman**: 6-3, 229 pounds, seventh year, Louisville  
4 **John Parker Wilson**: 6-2, 218 pounds, first year, Alabama

## RUNNING BACKS [3]



### No Name

- 33 **Michael Turner** - Through Week 2 of the season, leads the team in rushing with 50 carries 170 yards and one touchdown. Tallied his first 100-yard game of the season against Carolina (105 yards).
- 32 **Jerious Norwood**: 5-11, 209 pounds, fourth year, Mississippi State  
44 **Jason Snelling**: 5-11, 233 pounds, third year, Virginia

## FULLBACKS [2]



### No Name

- 34 **Ovie Mughelli** - Is responsible for Atlanta's first touchdown of the season on a one-yard reception from quarterback Matt Ryan against the Dolphins. Has totaled two receptions for 22 yards and has paved the way for the Falcons to rush for 219 yards through two games.
- 36 **Verron Haynes**: 5-9, 233 pounds, sixth year, Georgia

## WIDE RECEIVERS [5]



### No Name

- 84 **Roddy White** - Ranks second on the team in receiving with 11 receptions for 95 yards. Caught his first touchdown of the season in Week 2 against Carolina.
- 12 **Michael Jenkins** - In two games, has caught seven receptions for 74 yards (10.6 average) and a long catch of 24 yards which he tallied against the Panthers in Week 2.
- 80 **Marty Booker**: 6-0, 205 pounds, 11th year, Louisiana-Monroe  
86 **Brian Finneran**: 6-5, 210 pounds, ninth year, Villanova  
14 **Eric Weems**: 5-9, 194 pounds, second year, Bethune-Cookman

## TIGHT ENDS [3]



### No Name

- 88 **Tony Gonzalez** - In his Falcons debut against Miami, led the team in receiving with five receptions for 73 yards (14.6 avg.), and a long catch of 20 yards, which went for his first touchdown in an Atlanta uniform. On his touchdown in the third quarter, Gonzalez also became the 21st player in NFL history to top 11,000 career receiving yards. Currently leads the team with 144 receiving yards and two touchdowns through the first two weeks of the season.
- 87 **Justin Peelle**: 6-4, 251 pounds, eighth year, Oregon  
82 **Keith Zinger**: 6-4, 258 pounds, second year, LSU

## CENTER [2]

### No Name

- 62 **Todd McClure** - Started his 114th consecutive game on the offensive line and has provided time for quarterback Matt Ryan to throw for 449 yards in two games.
- 66 **Brett Romberg**: 6-2, 293 pounds, sixth year, Miami (Fla.)

# POSITION BY POSITION BREAKDOWN



## LEFT TACKLE [2]

### No Name

→ 72 **Sam Baker** - Helped block for running back Michael Turner to record 105 rushing yards against Carolina in Week 2.

74 **Will Svitek**: 6-6, 309 pounds, fourth year, Stanford

## RIGHT TACKLE [2]

### No Name

77 **Tyson Clabo** - Started in his 39th consecutive contest and is part of an offense that has helped the offense average 326.0 yards per game.

75 **Garrett Reynolds**: 6-7, 317 pounds, first year, North Carolina

## LEFT GUARD [2]

### No Name

→ 63 **Justin Blalock** - Has provided time for Matt Ryan to complete 43 of 63 passes through two games this season.

76 **Quinn Ojinnaka**: 6-5, 299 pounds, fourth year, Syracuse

## RIGHT GUARD [1]

### No Name

→ 73 **Harvey Dahl** - Started at right guard for the first two games of the season and was part of an offensive line that did not allow a sack of quarterback Matt Ryan in Week 2 versus Carolina.

## RIGHT DEFENSIVE END [3]

### No Name

→ 55 **John Abraham** - In the season opener against Miami, totaled three tackles, two sacks for a loss of seven yards and one tackle for loss. He increased his career sack total to 86.0, which ranks second among active players from 2000-09. The sacks were the 12th and 13th on opening day and marked his 20th career multiple sack game. Through two games this season, has contributed with six stops.

71 **Kroy Biermann**: 6-3, 260 pounds, second year, Montana

90 **Lawrence Sidbury**: 6-2, 307 pounds, first year, Richmond

## LEFT DEFENSIVE END [2]

### No Name

→ 98 **Jamaal Anderson** - Has started at left defensive tackle in the first two games of the season and posted four tackles and one pass defended.

92 **Chauncey Davis**: 6-2, 262 pounds, fifth year, Florida State

## DEFENSIVE TACKLE [4]

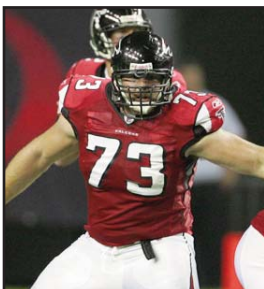
### No Name

95 **Jonathan Babineaux** - Has recorded three tackles, one tackle for loss and two fumble recoveries in two starts at defensive tackle this season.

93 **Thomas Johnson**: In two games this season, has contributed with four tackles (three solo).

97 **Trey Lewis**: 6-3, 316 pounds, second year, Washburn

99 **Vance Walker**: 6-2, 307 pounds, first year, Georgia Tech





# POSITION BY POSITION BREAKDOWN

## STRONGSIDE LINEBACKER [2]

### No Name

54 **Stephen Nicholas** - In two starts this season, has totaled 14 tackles (11 solo) and one sack for a loss of 12 yards which he posted against Carolina in Week 2.

52 **Coy Wire**: 6-0, 225 pounds, eighth year, Stanford

## MIDDLE LINEBACKER [2]

### No Name

→ 50 **Curtis Lofton** - Leads the Falcons in tackles with 23 (16 solo) while adding one forced fumble against Miami in the season opener.

51 **Tony Gilbert**: 6-0, 245 pounds, sixth year, Georgia

## WEAKSIDE LINEBACKER [2]

### No Name

→ 53 **Mike Peterson** - Ranks second on the defensive unit with 22 tackles. In two games this season, Peterson is responsible for one interception (his first since 2007) and two forced fumbles. His three turnovers have led to 16 total Falcons points.

59 **Spencer Adkins**: 5-11, 242 pounds, first year, Miami (Fla.)

## CORNERBACK [6]

### No Name

→ 23 **Chris Houston** - In two starts at right cornerback, Houston has recorded seven tackles, two passes defended and one interception which sealed a victory against the Carolina Panthers in Week 2.

29 **Brian Williams** - In two games as the starter at left cornerback, Williams has totaled eight tackles (six solo), one forced fumble which he returned for 53 yards against Miami in Week 1 and a blocked punt in Week 2 versus Carolina.

20 **Brent Grimes**: 5-10, 181 pounds, second year, Shippensburg

24 **Tye Hill**: 5-10, 185 pounds, fourth year, Clemson

21 **Christopher Owens**: 5-9, 179 pounds, first year, San Jose State

22 **Chevis Jackson**: 5-11, 193 pounds, second year, LSU

## SAFETY [4]

### No Name

→ 26 **Erik Coleman** - Leads the secondary in tackles with 17 (16 solo) while contributing with one tackle for loss and one forced fumble.

28 **Thomas DeCoud** - In two games this season, has logged 16 tackles (seven solo), one pass defended and one fumble recovery as he led the Falcons in stops against Carolina in Week 2 (12).

41 **Antoine Harris**: 5-10, 205 pounds, third year, Louisville

25 **William Moore**: 6-0, 227 pounds, first year, Missouri

## SPECIALISTS [3]

### No Name

→ 1 **Jason Elam** - In two games this season, has split the uprights on two of four field goal attempts and five of six PATs for 11 total points. In the season opener against Miami, connected on a 50-yard attempt in a Falcons 19-7 victory.

9 **Michael Koenen** - Has totaled seven punts for 304 yards and a 43.4 average. Against Carolina in Week 2, tied the Falcons single-game record for touchbacks in a game with five.

46 **Mike Schneck**: 6-1, 231 pounds, 11th year, Wisconsin



## 2009 Atlanta Falcons Alphabetical Roster

#	PLAYER	POS	H	W	Birthdate	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	HOMETOWN
55	Abraham, John	DE	6-4	263	5/6/78	10	South Carolina	Tr '06 (NYJ)	Timmons ville, SC
59	Adkins, Spencer	LB	5-11	242	5/16/87	R	Miami (Fla.)	D6 '09	Naples, FL
98	Anderson, Jamaal	DE	6-6	289	2/6/86	3	Arkansas	D1 '07	Little Rock, AR
95	Babineaux, Jonathan	DT	6-2	296	10/12/81	5	Iowa	D2 '05	Port Arthur, TX
72	Baker, Sam	OT	6-5	307	5/30/85	2	USC	D1b '08	Tustin, CA
71	Biermann, Kroy	DE	6-3	260	9/12/85	2	Montana	D5b '08	Hardin, MT
63	Blalock, Justin	OG	6-4	329	12/20/83	3	Texas	D2a '07	Dallas, TX
80	Booker, Marty	WR	6-0	205	7/31/76	11	Louisiana-Monroe	FA '09	Marrero, LA
77	Clabo, Tyson	OT	6-6	331	10/17/81	4	Wake Forest	FA '06	Knoxville, TN
26	Coleman, Erik	S	5-10	207	5/6/82	6	Washington State	FA '08	Sacramento, CA
73	Dahl, Harvey	OG	6-5	305	6/24/81	3	Nevada-Reno	FA '07	Fallon, NV
92	Davis, Chauncey	DE	6-2	262	1/27/83	5	Florida State	D4 '05	Bartow, FL
28	DeCoud, Thomas	S	6-2	205	3/19/85	2	California	D3c '08	Vallejo, CA
1	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	195	3/8/70	17	Hawaii	UFA '08 (Den)	Ft. Walton Beach, FL
86	Finneran, Brian	WR	6-5	210	1/31/76	9	Villanova	FA '00	Mission Viejo, CA
51	Gilbert, Tony	LB	6-0	245	10/16/79	6	Georgia	FA '08	Macon, GA
88	Gonzalez, Tony	TE	6-5	243	2/27/76	13	California	Tr '09 (KC)	Torrance, CA
20	Grimes, Brent	CB	5-10	181	7/19/83	2	Shippensburg	FA '07	Philadelphia, PA
41	Harris, Antoine	S	5-10	205	4/8/82	3	Louisville	FA '07	Columbus, OH
36	Haynes, Verron	FB	5-9	233	2/17/79	6	Georgia	FA '09	Bronx, NY
24	Hill, Tye	CB	5-10	185	6/3/82	4	Clemson	Tr '09 (Stl)	St. George, SC
23	Houston, Chris	CB	5-11	178	10/18/84	3	Arkansas	D2b '07	Austin, TX
22	Jackson, Chevis	CB	5-11	193	12/11/85	2	LSU	D3a '08	Mobile, AL
12	Jenkins, Michael	WR	6-4	217	6/18/82	6	Ohio State	D1b '04	Tampa, FL
93	Johnson, Thomas	DT	6-2	304	6/24/81	2	Middle Tennessee State	FA '09	Memphis, TN
9	Koenen, Michael	P	5-11	198	7/13/82	5	Western Washington	FA '05	Ferndale, WA
97	Lewis, Trey	DT	6-3	316	5/23/85	2	Washburn	D6a '07	Topeka, KS
50	Lofton, Curtis	LB	6-0	242	6/2/86	2	Oklahoma	D2 '08	Kingfisher, OK
62	McClure, Todd	C	6-1	296	2/16/77	11	LSU	D7a '99	Baton Rouge, LA
25	Moore, William	S	6-0	218	5/18/85	R	Missouri	D2 '09	Hayti, MO
34	Mughelli, Ovie	FB	6-1	252	6/10/80	7	Wake Forest	UFA '07 (Bal)	Boston, MA
54	Nicholas, Stephen	LB	6-3	230	5/1/83	3	South Florida	D4a '07	Jacksonville, FL
32	Norwood, Jerious	RB	5-11	209	7/29/83	4	Mississippi State	D3 '06	Jackson, MS
76	Ojinnaka, Quinn	OG	6-5	299	4/23/84	4	Syracuse	D5 '06	Seabrook, MD
21	Owens, Christopher	CB	5-9	179	12/1/86	R	San Jose State	D3 '09	Los Angeles, CA
87	Peelle, Justin	TE	6-4	251	3/15/79	8	Oregon	FA '08	Fresno, CA
53	Peterson, Mike	LB	6-1	233	6/17/76	11	Florida	UFA '09 (Jax)	Gainesville, FL
8	Redman, Chris	QB	6-3	229	7/7/77	7	Louisville	FA '07	Louisville, KY
75	Reynolds, Garrett	OT	6-7	317	7/1/87	R	North Carolina	D5b '09	Knoxville, TN
66	Romberg, Brett	C	6-2	293	10/10/79	6	Miami (Fla.)	FA '09	Windsor, Ontario
2	Ryan, Matt	QB	6-4	213	5/17/85	2	Boston College	D1a '08	Exton, PA
46	Schneck, Mike	LS	6-1	231	8/4/77	11	Wisconsin	FA '07	Whitefish Bay, WI
90	Sidbury, Lawrence	DE	6-3	265	2/6/86	R	Richmond	D4 '09	Cheltenham, MD
44	Snelling, Jason	RB	5-11	223	12/29/83	3	Virginia	D7 '07	Chester, VA
74	SVitek, Will	OT	6-6	309	1/8/82	4	Stanford	FA '09	Prague, Czech Republic
33	Turner, Michael	RB	5-10	244	2/13/82	6	Northern Illinois	UFA '08 (SD)	Waukegan, IL
99	Walker, Vance	DT	6-2	307	4/26/87	R	Georgia Tech	D7 '09	Fort Mill, SC
14	Weems, Eric	WR	5-9	194	7/4/85	2	Bethune-Cookman	FA '07	Ormond Beach, FL
84	White, Roddy	WR	6-0	212	11/2/81	5	Alabama-Birmingham	D1 '05	James Island, SC
29	Williams, Brian	DB	5-11	202	7/2/79	8	North Carolina State	FA '09	High Point, NC
4	Wilson, John Parker	QB	6-2	218	10/17/85	R	Alabama	FA '09	Hoover, AL
52	Wire, Coy	LB	6-0	225	11/7/78	8	Stanford	FA '08	Camp Hill, PA
89	Zinger, Keith	TE	6-4	258	10/9/84	1	LSU	D7b '08	Leesville, LA

### PRACTICE SQUAD

11	Bergeron, Troy	WR	6-2	195	12/3/83	1	No College	FA '09	New Orleans, LA
67	Bruggeman, Rob	C	6-4	293	3/21/86	R	Iowa	FA '09	Cedar Rapids, IA
96	Clark, Jeremy	DT	6-3	309	9/6/83	2	Alabama	FA '09	Daphne, AL
45	James, Robert	LB	5-11	220	12/26/83	1	Arizona State	D5a '08	Glendale, AZ
91	Lucas, Maurice	DE	6-4	267	3/26/87	R	Colorado	FA '09	Denver, CO
3	Shockley, D.J.	QB	6-0	218	3/23/83	3	Georgia	D7 '06	College Park, GA
37	Sharpe, Glenn	CB	6-0	184	2/27/84	1	Miami, (Fla.)	FA '09	Miami, FL
65	Valdez, Jose	OG	6-6	324	12/13/86	R	Arkansas	FA '09	St. Francis, WI

### INJURED RESERVE

83	Douglas, Harry	WR	6-0	182	9/16/84	2	Louisville	D3b '08	Jonesboro, GA
94	Jerry, Peria	DT	6-2	294	8/23/84	R	Mississippi	D1 '09	Batesville, MS

### COACHING STAFF

Mike Smith (Head Coach), Emmitt Thomas (Assistant Head Coach/Secondary),  
Mike Mularkey (Offensive Coordinator), Brian VanGorder (Defensive Coordinator), Keith Armstrong (Special Teams Coordinator),  
Jonas Beauchemin (Strength and Conditioning Assistant), Paul Boudreau (Offensive Line), Gerald Brown (Running Backs),  
Joe Danna (Defensive Assistant), Paul Dunn (Assistant Offensive Line), Jeff Fish (Director of Athletic Performance), Rav Hamilton (Defensive Line),  
Bill Hughan (Assistant Strength and Conditioning), Bill Musgrave (Quarterbacks), Glenn Pires (Linebackers), Alvin Reynolds (Defensive Backs),  
Terry Robiskie (Wide Receivers), Chris Scelfo (Tight Ends), Eric Sutulovich (Assistant Special Teams), Glenn Thomas (Offensive Assistant).



## 2009 Atlanta Falcons Numerical Roster

#	PLAYER	POS	H	W	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	HOMETOWN
1	Jason Elam	K	5-11	195	39	17	Hawaii	UFA '08 (Den)	Ft. Walton Beach, FL
2	Matt Ryan	QB	6-4	213	24	2	Boston College	D1a '08	Exton, PA
4	John Parker Wilson	QB	6-2	218	23	R	Alabama	FA '09	Hoover, AL
8	Chris Redman	QB	6-3	229	32	7	Louisville	FA '07	Louisville, KY
9	Michael Koenen	P	5-11	198	27	5	Western Washington	FA '05	Ferndale, WA
12	Michael Jenkins	WR	6-4	217	27	6	Ohio State	D1b '04	Tampa, FL
14	Eric Weems	WR	5-9	194	24	2	Bethune-Cookman	FA '07	Ormond Beach, FL
20	Brent Grimes	CB	5-10	181	26	2	Shippensburg	FA '07	Philadelphia, PA
21	Christopher Owens	CB	5-9	179	22	R	San Jose State	D3 '09	Los Angeles, CA
22	Chevis Jackson	CB	5-11	193	23	2	LSU	D3a '08	Mobile, AL
23	Chris Houston	CB	5-11	178	24	3	Arkansas	D2b '07	Austin, TX
24	Tye Hill	CB	5-10	185	27	4	Clemson	Tr '09 (Stl)	St. George, SC
25	William Moore	S	6-0	218	24	R	Missouri	D2 '09	Hayti, MO
26	Erik Coleman	S	5-10	207	27	6	Washington State	FA '08	Sacramento, CA
28	Thomas DeCoud	S	6-2	205	24	2	California	D3c '08	Vallejo, CA
29	Brian Williams	DB	5-11	202	30	8	North Carolina State	FA '09	High Point, NC
32	Jerious Norwood	RB	5-11	209	26	4	Mississippi State	D3 '06	Jackson, MS
33	Michael Turner	RB	5-10	244	27	6	Northern Illinois	UFA '08 (SD)	Waukegan, IL
34	Ovie Mughelli	FB	6-1	252	29	7	Wake Forest	UFA '07 (Bal)	Boston, MA
36	Verron Haynes	FB	5-9	233	30	6	Georgia	FA '09	Bronx, NY
41	Antoine Harris	S	5-10	205	27	3	Louisville	FA '07	Columbus, OH
44	Jason Snelling	RB	5-11	223	25	3	Virginia	D7 '07	Chester, VA
46	Mike Schneck	LS	6-1	231	32	11	Wisconsin	FA '07	Whitefish Bay, WI
50	Curtis Lofton	LB	6-0	242	23	2	Oklahoma	D2 '08	Kingfisher, OK
51	Tony Gilbert	LB	6-0	245	29	6	Georgia	FA '08	Macon, GA
52	Coy Wire	LB	6-0	225	30	8	Stanford	FA '08	Camp Hill, PA
53	Mike Peterson	LB	6-1	233	33	11	Florida	UFA '09 (Jax)	Gainesville, FL
54	Stephen Nicholas	LB	6-3	230	26	3	South Florida	D4a '07	Jacksonville, FL
55	John Abraham	DE	6-4	263	31	10	South Carolina	Tr '06 (NYJ)	Timmonsville, SC
59	Spencer Adkins	LB	5-11	242	22	R	Miami (Fla.)	D6 '09	Naples, FL
62	Todd McClure	C	6-1	296	32	11	LSU	D7a '99	Baton Rouge, LA
63	Justin Blalock	OG	6-4	329	25	3	Texas	D2a '07	Dallas, TX
66	Brett Romberg	C	6-2	293	29	6	Miami (Fla.)	FA '09	Windsor, Ontario
71	Kroy Biermann	DE	6-3	260	24	2	Montana	D5b '08	Hardin, MT
72	Sam Baker	OT	6-5	307	24	2	USC	D1b '08	Tustin, CA
73	Harvey Dahl	OG	6-5	305	28	3	Nevada-Reno	FA '07	Fallon, NV
74	Will Svitek	OT	6-6	309	27	4	Stanford	FA '09	Prague, Czech Republic
75	Garrett Reynolds	OT	6-7	317	22	R	North Carolina	D5b '09	Knoxville, TN
76	Quinn Ojinnaka	OG	6-5	299	25	4	Syracuse	D5 '06	Seabrook, MD
77	Tyson Clabo	OT	6-6	331	27	4	Wake Forest	FA '06	Knoxville, TN
80	Marty Booker	WR	6-0	205	33	11	Louisiana-Monroe	FA '09	Marrero, LA
84	Roddy White	WR	6-0	212	27	5	Alabama-Birmingham	D1 '05	James Island, SC
86	Brian Finneran	WR	6-5	210	33	9	Villanova	FA '00	Mission Viejo, CA
87	Justin Peelle	TE	6-4	251	30	8	Oregon	FA '08	Fresno, CA
88	Tony Gonzalez	TE	6-5	243	33	13	California	Tr '09 (KC)	Torrance, CA
89	Keith Zinger	TE	6-4	258	24	1	LSU	D7b '08	Leesville, LA
90	Lawrence Sidbury	DE	6-3	265	23	R	Richmond	D4 '09	Cheltenham, MD
92	Chauncey Davis	DE	6-2	262	26	5	Florida State	D4 '05	Bartow, FL
93	Thomas Johnson	DT	6-2	304	28	2	Middle Tennessee State	FA '09	Memphis, TN
95	Jonathan Babineaux	DT	6-2	296	27	5	Iowa	D2 '05	Port Arthur, TX
97	Trey Lewis	DT	6-3	316	24	2	Washburn	D6a '07	Topeka, KS
98	Jamaal Anderson	DE	6-6	289	23	3	Arkansas	D1 '07	Little Rock, AR
99	Vance Walker	DT	6-2	307	22	R	Georgia Tech	D7 '09	Fort Mill, SC

### PRACTICE SQUAD

3	D.J. Shockley	QB	6-0	218	26	3	Georgia	D7 '06	College Park, GA
11	Troy Bergeron	WR	6-2	195	25	1	No College	FA '09	New Orleans, LA
37	Glenn Sharpe	CB	6-0	184	25	1	Miami (Fla.)	FA '09	Miami, FL
45	Robert James	LB	5-11	220	25	1	Arizona State	D5a '08	Glendale, AZ
65	Jose Valdez	OG	6-6	324	22	R	Arkansas	FA '09	St. Francis, WI
67	Rob Bruggeman	C	6-4	293	23	R	Iowa	FA '09	Cedar Rapids, IA
91	Maurice Lucas	DE	6-4	267	22	R	Colorado	FA '09	Denver, CO
96	Jeremy Clark	DT	6-3	309	26	2	Alabama	FA '09	Daphne, AL

### INJURED RESERVE

83	Harry Douglas	WR	6-0	182	25	2	Louisville	D3b '08	Jonesboro, GA
94	Peria Jerry	DT	6-2	294	25	R	Mississippi	D1 '09	Batesville, MS

\* Birthdays updated through the month of September

### COACHING STAFF

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Terry Robiskie (Wide Receivers), Chris Scoffo (Tight Ends), Eric Sutulovich (Assistant Special Teams), Glenn Thomas (Offensive Assistant).

## 2009 Atlanta Falcons Roster By Experience

#	PLAYER	POS	H	W	Birthdate	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	HOMETOWN
1	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	195	3/8/70	17	Hawaii	UFA '08 (Den)	Ft. Walton Beach, FL
88	Gonzalez, Tony	TE	6-5	243	2/27/76	13	California	Tr '09 (KC)	Torrance, CA
80	Booker, Marty	WR	6-0	205	7/31/76	11	Louisiana-Monroe	FA '09	Marrero, LA
62	McClure, Todd	C	6-1	296	2/16/77	11	LSU	D7a '99	Baton Rouge, LA
53	Peterson, Mike	LB	6-1	233	6/17/76	11	Florida	UFA '09 (Jax)	Gainesville, FL
46	Schneck, Mike	LS	6-1	231	8/4/77	11	Wisconsin	FA '07	Whitefish Bay, WI
55	Abraham, John	DE	6-4	263	5/6/78	10	South Carolina	Tr '06 (NYJ)	Timmonsville, SC
86	Finneran, Brian	WR	6-5	210	1/31/76	9	Villanova	FA '00	Mission Viejo, CA
87	Peelle, Justin	TE	6-4	251	3/15/79	8	Oregon	FA '08	Fresno, CA
29	Williams, Brian	DB	5-11	202	7/2/79	8	North Carolina State	FA '09	High Point, NC
52	Wire, Coy	LB	6-0	225	11/7/78	8	Stanford	FA '08	Camp Hill, PA
34	Mughelli, Ovie	FB	6-1	252	6/10/80	7	Wake Forest	UFA '07 (Bal)	Boston, MA
8	Redman, Chris	QB	6-3	229	7/7/77	7	Louisville	FA '07	Louisville, KY
26	Coleman, Erik	S	5-10	207	5/6/82	6	Washington State	FA '08	Sacramento, CA
51	Gilbert, Tony	LB	6-0	245	10/16/79	6	Georgia	FA '08	Macon, GA
36	Haynes, Verron	FB	5-9	233	2/17/79	6	Georgia	FA '09	Bronx, NY
12	Jenkins, Michael	WR	6-4	217	6/18/82	6	Ohio State	D1b '04	Tampa, FL
66	Romberg, Brett	C	6-2	293	10/10/79	6	Miami (Fla.)	FA '09	Windsor, Ontario
33	Turner, Michael	RB	5-10	244	2/13/82	6	Northern Illinois	UFA '08 (SD)	Waukegan, IL
95	Babineaux, Jonathan	DT	6-2	296	10/12/81	5	Iowa	D2 '05	Port Arthur, TX
92	Davis, Chauncey	DE	6-2	262	1/27/83	5	Florida State	D4 '05	Bartow, FL
9	Koenen, Michael	P	5-11	198	7/13/82	5	Western Washington	FA '05	Ferndale, WA
84	White, Roddy	WR	6-0	212	11/2/81	5	Alabama-Birmingham	D1 '05	James Island, SC
77	Clabo, Tyson	OT	6-6	331	10/17/81	4	Wake Forest	FA '06	Knoxville, TN
24	Hill, Tye	CB	5-10	185	6/3/82	4	Clemson	Tr '09 (Stl)	St. George, SC
32	Norwood, Jerious	RB	5-11	209	7/29/83	4	Mississippi State	D3 '06	Jackson, MS
76	Ojinnaka, Quinn	OG	6-5	299	4/23/84	4	Syracuse	D5 '06	Seabrook, MD
74	Svitek, Will	OT	6-6	309	1/8/82	4	Stanford	FA '09	Prague, Czech Republic
98	Anderson, Jamaal	DE	6-6	289	2/6/86	3	Arkansas	D1 '07	Little Rock, AR
63	Blalock, Justin	OG	6-4	329	12/20/83	3	Texas	D2a '07	Dallas, TX
73	Dahl, Harvey	OG	6-5	305	6/24/81	3	Nevada-Reno	FA '07	Fallon, NV
41	Harris, Antoine	S	5-10	205	4/8/82	3	Louisville	FA '07	Columbus, OH
23	Houston, Chris	CB	5-11	178	10/18/84	3	Arkansas	D2b '07	Austin, TX
54	Nicholas, Stephen	LB	6-3	230	5/1/83	3	South Florida	D4a '07	Jacksonville, FL
44	Snelling, Jason	RB	5-11	223	12/29/83	3	Virginia	D7 '07	Chester, VA
72	Baker, Sam	OT	6-5	307	5/30/85	2	USC	D1b '08	Tustin, CA
71	Biermann, Kroy	DE	6-3	260	9/12/85	2	Montana	D5b '08	Hardin, MT
28	DeCoud, Thomas	S	6-2	205	3/19/85	2	California	D3c '08	Vallejo, CA
20	Grimes, Brent	CB	5-10	181	7/19/83	2	Shippensburg	FA '07	Philadelphia, PA
22	Jackson, Chevis	CB	5-11	193	12/11/85	2	LSU	D3a '08	Mobile, AL
93	Johnson, Thomas	DT	6-2	304	6/24/81	2	Middle Tennessee State	FA '09	Memphis, TN
97	Lewis, Trey	DT	6-3	316	5/23/85	2	Washburn	D6a '07	Topeka, KS
50	Lofton, Curtis	LB	6-0	242	6/2/86	2	Oklahoma	D2 '08	Kingfisher, OK
2	Ryan, Matt	QB	6-4	213	5/17/85	2	Boston College	D1a '08	Exton, PA
14	Weems, Eric	WR	5-9	194	7/4/85	2	Bethune-Cookman	FA '07	Ormond Beach, FL
89	Zinger, Keith	TE	6-4	258	10/9/84	1	LSU	D7b '08	Leesville, LA
59	Adkins, Spencer	LB	5-11	242	5/16/87	R	Miami (Fla.)	D6 '09	Naples, FL
25	Moore, William	S	6-0	218	5/18/85	R	Missouri	D2 '09	Hayti, MO
21	Owens, Christopher	CB	5-9	179	12/1/86	R	San Jose State	D3 '09	Los Angeles, CA
75	Reynolds, Garrett	OT	6-7	317	7/1/87	R	North Carolina	D5b '09	Knoxville, TN
90	Sidbury, Lawrence	DE	6-3	265	2/6/86	R	Richmond	D4 '09	Cheltenham, MD
99	Walker, Vance	DT	6-2	307	4/26/87	R	Georgia Tech	D7 '09	Fort Mill, SC
4	Wilson, John Parker	QB	6-2	218	10/17/85	R	Alabama	FA '09	Hoover, AL

### PRACTICE SQUAD

3	Shockley, D.J.	QB	6-0	218	3/23/83	3	Georgia	D7 '06	College Park, GA
96	Clark, Jeremy	DT	6-3	309	9/6/83	2	Alabama	FA '09	Daphne, AL
11	Bergeron, Troy	WR	6-2	195	12/3/83	1	No College	FA '09	New Orleans, LA
45	James, Robert	LB	5-11	220	12/26/83	1	Arizona State	D5a '08	Glendale, AZ
37	Sharpe, Glenn	CB	6-0	184	2/27/84	1	Miami, (Fla.)	FA '09	Miami, FL
67	Bruggeman, Rob	C	6-4	293	3/21/86	R	Iowa	FA '09	Cedar Rapids, IA
91	Lucas, Maurice	DE	6-4	267	3/26/87	R	Colorado	FA '09	Denver, CO
65	Valdez, Jose	OG	6-6	324	12/13/86	R	Arkansas	FA '09	St. Francis, WI

### INJURED RESERVE

83	Douglas, Harry	WR	6-0	182	9/16/84	2	Louisville	D3b '08	Jonesboro, GA
94	Jerry, Peria	DT	6-2	294	8/23/84	R	Mississippi	D1 '09	Batesville, MS

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Terry Robiskie (Wide Receivers), Chris Scelfo (Tight Ends), Eric Sutulovich (Assistant Special Teams), Glenn Thomas (Offensive Assistant).



## 2009 Atlanta Falcons Roster By Position

#	PLAYER	POS	H	W	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	HOMETOWN
<b><u>QUARTERBACKS (3)</u></b>									
2	Matt Ryan	QB	6-4	213	24	2	Boston College	D1a '08	Exton, PA
4	John Parker Wilson	QB	6-2	218	23	R	Alabama	FA '09	Hoover, AL
8	Chris Redman	QB	6-3	229	32	7	Louisville	FA '07	Louisville, KY
<b><u>RUNNING BACKS (5)</u></b>									
32	Jerious Norwood	RB	5-11	209	26	4	Mississippi State	D3 '06	Jackson, MS
33	Michael Turner	RB	5-10	244	27	6	Northern Illinois	UFA '08 (SD)	Waukegan, IL
34	Ovie Mughelli	FB	6-1	252	29	7	Wake Forest	UFA '07 (Bal)	Boston, MA
36	Verron Haynes	FB	5-9	233	30	6	Georgia	FA '09	Bronx, NY
44	Jason Snelling	RB	5-11	223	25	3	Virginia	D7 '07	Chester, VA
<b><u>WIDE RECEIVERS (5)</u></b>									
12	Michael Jenkins	WR	6-4	217	26	6	Ohio State	D1b '04	Tampa, FL
14	Eric Weems	WR	5-9	194	24	2	Bethune-Cookman	FA '07	Ormond Beach, FL
80	Marty Booker	WR	6-0	205	33	11	Louisiana-Monroe	FA '09	Marrero, LA
84	Roddy White	WR	6-0	212	27	5	Alabama-Birmingham	D1 '05	James Island, SC
86	Brian Finneran	WR	6-5	210	33	9	Villanova	FA '00	Mission Viejo, CA
<b><u>TIGHT ENDS (3)</u></b>									
87	Justin Peelle	TE	6-4	251	30	8	Oregon	FA '08	Fresno, CA
88	Tony Gonzalez	TE	6-5	243	33	13	California	Tr '09 (KC)	Torrance, CA
89	Keith Zinger	TE	6-4	258	24	1	LSU	D7b '08	Leesville, LA
<b><u>OFFENSIVE LINE (9)</u></b>									
62	Todd McClure	C	6-1	296	32	11	LSU	D7a '99	Baton Rouge, LA
63	Justin Blalock	OG	6-4	329	25	3	Texas	D2a '07	Dallas, TX
66	Brett Romberg	C	6-2	293	29	6	Miami (Fla.)	FA '09	Windsor, Ontario
72	Sam Baker	OT	6-5	307	24	2	USC	D1b '08	Tustin, CA
73	Harvey Dahl	OG	6-5	305	28	3	Nevada-Reno	FA '07	Fallon, NV
74	Will Svitek	OT	6-6	309	27	4	Stanford	FA '09	Prague, Czech Republic
75	Garrett Reynolds	OT	6-7	317	21	R	North Carolina	D5b '09	Knoxville, TN
76	Quinn Ojinnaka	OG	6-5	299	25	4	Syracuse	D5 '06	Seabrook, MD
77	Tyson Clabo	OT	6-6	331	27	4	Wake Forest	FA '06	Knoxville, TN
<b><u>DEFENSIVE LINE (9)</u></b>									
55	John Abraham	DE	6-4	263	31	10	South Carolina	Tr '06 (NYJ)	Timmonsville, SC
71	Kroy Biermann	DE	6-3	260	24	2	Montana	D5b '08	Hardin, MT
90	Lawrence Sidbury	DE	6-3	265	23	R	Richmond	D4 '09	Cheltenham, MD
92	Chauncey Davis	DE	6-2	262	26	5	Florida State	D4 '05	Bartow, FL
93	Thomas Johnson	DT	6-2	304	27	2	Middle Tennessee State	FA '09	Memphis, TN
95	Jonathan Babineaux	DT	6-2	296	27	5	Iowa	D2 '05	Port Arthur, TX
97	Trey Lewis	DT	6-3	316	24	2	Washburn	D6a '07	Topeka, KS
98	Jamaal Anderson	DE	6-6	289	23	3	Arkansas	D1 '07	Little Rock, AR
99	Vance Walker	DT	6-2	307	22	R	Georgia Tech	D7 '09	Fort Mill, SC
<b><u>LINEBACKERS (6)</u></b>									
50	Curtis Lofton	LB	6-0	242	23	2	Oklahoma	D2 '08	Kingfisher, OK
51	Tony Gilbert	LB	6-0	245	29	6	Georgia	FA '08	Macon, GA
52	Coy Wire	LB	6-0	225	30	8	Stanford	FA '08	Camp Hill, PA
53	Mike Peterson	LB	6-1	233	33	11	Florida	UFA '09 (Jax)	Gainesville, FL
54	Stephen Nicholas	LB	6-3	230	26	3	South Florida	D4a '07	Jacksonville, FL
59	Spencer Adkins	LB	5-11	242	22	R	Miami (Fla.)	D6 '09	Naples, FL
<b><u>DEFENSIVE BACKS (10)</u></b>									
20	Brent Grimes	CB	5-10	181	25	2	Shippensburg	FA '07	Philadelphia, PA
21	Christopher Owens	CB	5-9	179	22	R	San Jose State	D3 '09	Los Angeles, CA
22	Chevis Jackson	CB	5-11	193	23	2	LSU	D3a '08	Mobile, AL
23	Chris Houston	CB	5-11	178	24	3	Arkansas	D2b '07	Austin, TX
24	Tye Hill	CB	5-10	185	27	4	Clemson	Tr '09 (Stl)	St. George, SC
25	William Moore	S	6-0	218	24	R	Missouri	D2 '09	Hayti, MO
26	Erik Coleman	S	5-10	207	27	6	Washington State	FA '08	Sacramento, CA
28	Thomas DeCoud	S	6-2	205	24	2	California	D3c '08	Vallejo, CA
29	Brian Williams	DB	5-11	202	30	8	North Carolina State	FA '09	High Point, NC
41	Antoine Harris	S	5-10	205	27	3	Louisville	FA '07	Columbus, OH
<b><u>SPECIALISTS (3)</u></b>									
1	Jason Elam	K	5-11	195	39	17	Hawaii	UFA '08 (Den)	Ft. Walton Beach, FL
9	Michael Koenen	P	5-11	198	27	5	Western Washington	FA '05	Ferndale, WA
46	Mike Schneck	LS	6-1	231	32	11	Wisconsin	FA '07	Whitefish Bay, WI

### COACHING STAFF

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# 2009 ATLANTA FALCONS UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART

(As of September 22, 2009)

## OFFENSE

WR	12	Michael Jenkins	86	Brian Finneran	
LT	72	Sam Baker	74	Will Svitek	
LG	63	Justin Blalock	76	Quinn Ojinnaka	
C	62	Todd McClure	66	Brett Romberg	
RG	73	Harvey Dahl	76	Quinn Ojinnaka	
RT	77	Tyson Clabo	75	Garrett Reynolds	
TE	88	Tony Gonzalez	87	Justin Peelle	89 Keith Zinger
WR	84	Roddy White	80	Marty Booker	14 Eric Weems
QB	2	Matt Ryan	8	Chris Redman	4 John Parker Wilson
RB	33	Michael Turner	32	Jerious Norwood	44 Jason Snelling
FB	34	Ovie Mughelli	36	Verron Haynes	

## DEFENSE

RE	55	John Abraham	71	Kroy Biermann	90 Lawrence Sidbury
UT	95	Jonathan Babineaux	97	Trey Lewis	
NT	93	Thomas Johnson	99	Vance Walker	
LE	98	Jamaal Anderson	92	Chauncey Davis	
SLB	54	Stephen Nicholas	52	Coy Wire	
MLB	50	Curtis Lofton	51	Tony Gilbert	
WLB	53	Mike Peterson	59	Spencer Adkins	
RCB	23	Chris Houston	21	Christopher Owens	24 Tye Hill
LCB	29	Brian Williams	20	Brent Grimes	22 Chevis Jackson
SS	26	Erik Coleman	25	William Moore	
FS	28	Thomas DeCoud	41	Antonie Harris	

## SPECIALISTS

K	1	Jason Elam		
KO	9	Michael Koenen	1	Jason Elam
P	9	Michael Koenen	1	Jason Elam
KR	32	Jerious Norwood		
PR	14	Eric Weems	20	Brent Grimes
LS	46	Mike Schneck		
H	9	Michael Koenen		

**ATLANTA**  
**FALCONS**



## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Jonathan Babineaux	BAB-in-NO
Kroy Biermann	Beer-man
Thomas DeCoud	DAY-coo
Michael Koenen	KANE-in
Ovie Mughelli	OH-vee mah-HAY-lee
Jerious Norwood	JAIR-ee-us
Quinn Ojinnaka	O-ja-NAH-ka
Justin Peelle	Peel
Will Svitek	Svee-tech



# 2009 PARTICIPATION

	MIA	CAR	@NE	@SF	CHI	@DAL	@NO	WAS	@CAR	@NYG	TB	PHI	NO	@NYJ	BUF	@TB	*PL	S	DNP	IA
55 Abraham, J.	RE	RE															2	2	0	0
59 Adkins, S.	IA	IA															0	0	0	2
98 Anderson, J.	LE	LE															2	2	0	0
95 Babineaux, J.	DT	DT															2	2	0	0
72 Baker, S.	LT	LT															2	2	0	0
71 Biermann, K.	P	P															2	0	0	0
63 Blalock, J.	LG	LG															2	2	0	0
80 Booker, M.	P	P															2	0	0	0
77 Clabo, T.	RT	RT															2	2	0	0
26 Coleman, E.	SS	SS															2	2	0	0
73 Dahl, H.	RG	RG															2	2	0	0
92 Davis, C.	P	P															2	0	0	0
28 DeCoud, T.	FS	FS															2	2	0	0
1 Elam, J.	P	P															2	0	0	0
86 Finneran, B.	P	P															2	0	0	0
51 Gilbert, T.	P	P															2	0	0	0
88 Gonzalez, T.	TE	TE															2	2	0	0
20 Grimes, B.	P	P															2	0	0	0
41 Harris, A.	P	P															2	0	0	0
36 Haynes, V.		IA															0	0	0	1
24 Hill, T.	IA	IA															0	0	0	2
23 Houston, C.	RCB	RCB															2	2	0	0
22 Jackson, C.	DNP	P															0	0	2	0
12 Jenkins, M.	WR	WR															2	2	0	0
94 Jerry, P.	NT	NT															2	2	0	0
93 Johnson, T.	P	P															2	0	0	0
9 Koenen, M.	P	P															2	0	0	0
97 Lewis, T.	IA	IA															0	0	0	2
50 Lofton, C.	MLB	MLB															2	2	0	0
62 McClure, T.	C	C															2	2	0	0
25 Moore, W.	IA	IA															0	0	0	2
34 Mughelli, O.	FB	FB															2	2	0	0
54 Nicholas, S.	SLB	SLB															2	2	0	0
32 Norwood, J.	P	P															2	0	0	0
76 Ojinnaka, Q.	P	IA															1	0	0	1
21 Owens, C.	P	P															2	0	0	0
87 Peelle, J.	P	TE															2	1	0	0
53 Peterson, M.	WLB	WLB															2	2	0	0
8 Redman, C.	DNP	DNP															0	0	2	0
75 Reynolds, G.	IA	IA															0	0	0	2
66 Romberg, B.	P	DNP															1	0	1	0
2 Ryan, M.	QB	QB															2	2	0	0
46 Schneck, M.	P	P															2	0	0	0
90 Sidbury, L.	P	P															2	0	0	0
44 Snelling, J.	P	P															2	0	0	0
74 Svitek, W.	IA	P															1	0	0	1
33 Turner, M.	RB	RB															2	2	0	0
99 Walker, V.																	0	0	0	0
14 Weems, E.	P	P															2	0	0	0
84 White, R.	WR	WR															2	2	0	0
29 Williams, B.	LCB	LCB															2	2	0	0
4 Wilson, JP.	IA	IA															0	0	0	2
52 Wire, C.	P	P															2	0	0	0
89 Zinger, K.	P	P															2	0	0	0

**Position** - start **P** - played **IA** - inactive **DNP** - did not play **IR** - injured reserve **MR** - reserve/military **NFI** - reserve/non-football injury  
**PUP** - physically unable to perform **SR** - Suspended/Reserve **PS/IN** - practice squad/Injured

# HOW THE FALCONS WERE BUILT

Year	By Draft	By Trade	Unrestricted Free Agents	Free Agents
2009	S William Moore (2nd round) CB Christopher Owens (3rd round) DE Lawrence Sidbury (4th round) OT Garrett Reynolds (5th round) LB Spencer Adkins (6th round) DT Vance Walker (7th round)	TE Tony Gonzalez (KC) CB Tye Hill (Stl)	LB Mike Peterson (Jax)	WR Marty Booker FB Verron Haynes DT Thomas Johnson C Brett Romberg OT Will Svitek DB Brian Williams QB John Parker Wilson
2008	QB Matt Ryan (1st round) OT Sam Baker (1st round) LB Curtis Lofton (2nd round) CB Chevis Jackson (3rd round) S Thomas Decoud (3rd round) DE Kroy Biermann (5th round) TE Keith Zinger (7th round)		K Jason Elam (Den) RB Michael Turner (SD)	S Erik Coleman LB Tony Gilbert TE Justin Peelle LB Coy Wire
2007	DE Jamaal Anderson (1st round) OG Justin Blalock (2nd round) CB Chris Houston (2nd round) LB Stephen Nicholas (4th round) DT Trey Lewis (6th round) RB Jason Snelling (7th round)	FB Ovie Mughelli (Bal)		OG Harvey Dahl CB Brent Grimes S Antoine Harris QB Chris Redman LS Mike Schneck WR Eric Weems
2006	RB Jerious Norwood (3rd round) OG Quinn Ojinnaka (5th round)	DE John Abraham (NYJ)		OT Tyson Clabo
2005	WR Roddy White (1st round) DT Jonathan Babineaux (2nd round) DE Chauncey Davis (4th round)			P Michael Koenen
2004	WR Michael Jenkins (1st round)			
2003				
2002				
2001				
2000				WR Brian Finneran
1999	C Todd McClure (7th round)			



# 2009 Atlanta Falcons Transactions

Date	Position	Player	Transaction
January 5	DT	MYLES, Tywain	Signed as Reserve/Future Free Agent
	OL	BENNETT, Nathan	Signed as Reserve/Future Free Agent
	OL	BUTTERWORTH, Michael	Signed as Reserve/Future Free Agent
	DE	EVANS, Willie	Signed as Reserve/Future Free Agent
	CB	VINNETT, Darius	Signed as Reserve/Future Free Agent
	WR	WILLIAMS, Chandler	Signed as Reserve/Future Free Agent
	TE	ZINGER, Keith	Signed as Reserve/Future Free Agent
January 7	DT	JOHNSON, Thomas	Signed as Reserve/Future Free Agent
	CB	PRUDE, Ronnie	Signed as Reserve/Future Free Agent
	S	PASCHAL, Marcus	Signed as Reserve/Future Free Agent
February 3	CB	TILLER, Tony	Signed as a Free Agent
	OL	WEINER, Todd	Retires
February 12	OT	SVITEK, Will	Signed as a Free Agent
March 3	TE	PEELLE, Justin	Re-signed
	LB	WIRE, Coy	Re-signed
	DT	JEFFERSON, Jason	Re-signed
	OL	WILKERSON, Ben	Re-signed
	LB	GILBERT, Tony	Re-signed
	S	FUDGE, Jamaal	Re-signed
	RB	SNELLING, Jason	Signed exclusive rights contract
	CB	GRIMES, Brent	Signed exclusive rights contract
	S	HARRIS, Antoine	Signed exclusive rights contract
	DE	DAVIS, Chauncey	Re-signed
	C	ROMBERG, Brett	Signed as a Free Agent
	LB	PETERSON, Mike	Signed as a Free Agent
	WR	ROBINSON, Laurent	Traded to St. Louis along with the 160th and 196th overall selections in the 2009 NFL Draft in exchange for the Rams 138th and 176 overall selections in the 2009 NFL Draft
April 23	TE	GONZALEZ, Tony	Acquired in a trade from Kansas City in exchange for the Falcons second round selection in the 2010 NFL Draft
April 25	DT	PERIA, Jerry	Drafted (first round, 24th overall)
	S	MOORE, William	Drafted (second round, 55th overall)
April 26	CB	OWENS, Chris	Drafted (third round, 90th overall)
	DE	SIDBURY, Lawrence	Drafted (fourth round, 125th overall)
	CB	MIDDLETON, William	Drafted (fifth round, 138th overall)
April 27			Traded the 143rd overall selection in the 2009 NFL Draft to the Dallas Cowboys in exchange for the 156th and 210th overall selections in the '09 Draft
	OT	REYNOLDS, Garrett	Drafted (fifth round, 156th overall)
	LB	ADKINS, Spencer	Drafted (sixth round, 176 overall)
	DT	WALKER, Vance	Drafted (seventh round, 210th overall)
	WR	MOUGEY, Darren	Signed as a Rookie Free Agent
	WR	KELLY, Aaron	Signed as a Rookie Free Agent
	QB	WILSON, John Parker	Signed as a Rookie Free Agent
	DE	LUCAS, Maurice	Signed as a Rookie Free Agent
	LS	SHIVER, Robert	Signed as a Rookie Free Agent
	OL	STANCHEK, Ryan	Signed as a Rookie Free Agent
	OL	VALDEZ, Jose	Signed as a Rookie Free Agent
	LB	NICHOLSON, Derek	Signed as a Rookie Free Agent

# 2009 Atlanta Falcons Transactions

Date	Position	Player	Transaction
April 27	P/K	DEHAZE, Robbie	Signed as a Rookie Free Agent
cont...	LB	CHRISTOPHER, Brock	Signed as a Rookie Free Agent
	WR	BERGERON, Troy	Signed as a Free Agent
	DE	FRASER, Simon	Released
	DT	MOOREHEAD, Kindal	Released
	DB	VINNETT, Darius	Waived
	OL	BENNETT, Nathan	Waived
April 28	RB	HAYNES, Verron	Signed as a Free Agent
	WR	BERGERON, Troy	Waived
April 29	LB	MILES, Edmond	Signed as a Free Agent
May 10	WR	BERGERON, Troy	Signed as a Free Agent
May 13	LB	BOBINO, Rashad	Signed as a Free Agent
May 14	LB	NICHOLSON, Derek	Released
	CB	PRUDE, Ronnie	Released
	S	PASCHAL, Marcus	Released
May 20	WR	JONES, Khalil	Signed as a Free Agent
June 2	LB	CHRISTOPHER, Brock	Released
	OG	CLABO, Tyson	Signed Tender
June 3	WR	GODFREY, Bradon	Signed as a Free Agent
June 12	QB	VICK, Michael	Released
June 15	OL	NEWBERRY, Jeremy	Signed as a Free Agent
June 16	OL	FOSTER, Renardo	Released
	K/P	DEHAZE, Robbie	Released
June 17	OL	STEPANOVICH, Alex	Released
June 22	WR	JONES, Khalil	Waived
July 22	OL	NEWBERRY, Jeremy	Retires
July 28	CB	IRONS, David	Waived
July 31	OT	SPEER, Adam	Signed as a Free Agent
August 1	LB	WINBORN, Jamie	Signed as a Free Agent
	LB	BOBINO, Rashad	Waived
August 4	WR	LYONS, Dicky	Signed as a Free Agent
August 5	WR	LYONS, Dicky	Waived
August 6	WR	FERGUSON, Robert	Signed as a Free Agent
	WR	BOOKER, Marty	Signed as a Free Agent
	WR	GODFREY, Bradon	Waived
	WR	DOUGLAS, Harry	Placed on Injured Reserve
August 9	WR	MOUGEY, Darren	Waived
August 25	LB	MILES, Edmond	Released
August 30	DT	JEFFERSON, Jason	Released
	DT	MYLES, Tywain	Released
	LS	SHIVER, Robert	Released
September 1	DE	EVANS, Willie	Released
	TE	HARTSOCK, Ben	Released
	CB	HUTCHINS, Von	Released
	CB	HILL, Tye	Acquired in a trade from St. Louis in exchange for an undisclosed 2010 draft selection
September 4	S	BROCK, Eric	Released
	CB	SHARPE, Glenn	Released
	OT	SPEER, Adam	Released
	OG	STANCHEK, Ryan	Released
	CB	TILLER, Tony	Released





# 2009 Atlanta Falcons Transactions

Date	Position	Player	Transaction
September 4	C	WILKERSON, Ben	Released
cont...	WR	WILLIAMS, Chandler	Released
September 5	WR	BERGERON, Troy	Released
	RB	BROWN, Thomas	Released
	OL	BUTTERWORTH, Michael	Released
	WR	FERGUSON, Robert	Released
	LB	JAMES, Robert	Released
	WR	KELLY, Aaron	Released
	DE	LUCAS, Maurice	Released
	CB	MIDDLETON, William	Released
	TE	RADER, Jason	Released
	QB	SHOCKLEY, D.J.	Released
	OG	VALDEZ, Jose	Released
	DT	WALKER, Vance	Released
	LB	WINBORN, Jamie	Released
September 6	WR	BERGERON, Troy	Signed to the practice squad
	OL	BUTTERWORTH, Michael	Signed to the practice squad
	LB	JAMES, Robert	Signed to the practice squad
	DE	LUCAS, Maurice	Signed to the practice squad
	CB	SHARPE, Glenn	Signed to the practice squad
	QB	SHOCKLEY, D.J.	Signed to the practice squad
	OG	VALDEZ, Jose	Signed to the practice squad
	DT	WALKER, Vance	Signed to the practice squad
	DB	WILLIAMS, Brian	Signed as a Free Agent
	S	FUDGE, Jamaal	Released
September 7	C	BRUGGEMAN, Rob	Signed as a Free Agent
	OL	BUTTERWORTH, Michael	Released
September 12	FB	HAYNES, Verron	Released
September 14	FB	HAYNES, Verron	Signed as a Free Agent
	CB	SHARPE, Glenn	Released from the practice squad
	CB	MIDDLETON, William	Signed to the practice squad
September 21	DT	JERRY, Peria	Placed on Injured Reserve
	DT	WALKER, Vance	Signed to the active roster
	CB	SHARPE, Glenn	Signed to the practice squad
	CB	MIDDLETON, William	Signed off the practice squad by Jacksonville
	DT	CLARK, Jeremy	Signed to the practice squad







<div>  <b>2009 ATLANTA FALCONS</b>  <b>DEFENSIVE STATS</b>  </div>												
PLAYER	SOLO	AST	TOTAL	SACKS	YDS	TFL	QH	INT	PD	FF	FR	
Curtis Lofton	16	7	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Mike Peterson	17	5	22	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	
Erik Coleman	11	6	17	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
Thomas DeCoud	7	9	16	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	
Stephen Nicholas	11	3	14	1	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Brian Williams	6	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Chris Houston	5	2	7	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	
John Abraham	5	1	6	2	7	1	3	0	0	0	0	
Brent Grimes	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Thomas Johnson	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Jamaal Anderson	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Jonathan Babineaux	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Kroy Biermann	1	1	2	2	6	1	2	0	0	1	0	
Chauncey Davis	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Chevis Jackson	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Peria Jerry	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Brian Finneran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	

<b>2009 ATLANTA FALCONS</b> <b>SPECIAL TEAMS STATS</b>						
PLAYER	SOLO	AST	TOTAL	FF	FR	BLK
Kroy Biermann	2	0	2	0	0	0
Eric Weems	2	0	2	0	0	0
Christopher Owens	2	0	2	0	0	0
Coy Wire	1	0	1	0	0	0
Stephen Nicholas	1	0	1	0	0	0
Brian Finneran	1	0	1	0	0	0
Brian Williams	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**ATLANTA**  
**FALCONS**



**STAT PACK**

## 2009 GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

### OFFENSE

		WR	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	TE	WR	QB	RB	FB
09.13	MIA	M. Jenkins	S. Baker	J. Blalock	T. McClure	H. Dahl	T. Clabo	T. Gonzalez	R. White	M. Ryan	M. Turner	O. Mughelli
09.20	CAR	M. Jenkins	S. Baker	J. Blalock	T. McClure	H. Dahl	T. Clabo	T. Gonzalez	R. White	M. Ryan	M. Turner	J. Peelle (TE)
09.27	@NE											
10.11	@SF											
10.18	CHI											
10.25	@DAL											
11.02	@NO											
11.08	WSH											
11.15	@CAR											
11.22	@NYG											
11.29	TB											
12.06	PHI											
12.13	NO											
12.20	@NYJ											
12.27	BUF											
01.03	@TB											

### DEFENSE

		RE	DT	DT	LE	WLB	MLB	SLB	RCB	LCB	SS	FS
09.13	MIA	J. Anderson	P. Jerry	J. Babineaux	J. Abraham	M. Peterson	C. Lofton	S. Nicholas	C. Houston	B. Williams	E. Coleman	T. DeCoud
09.20	CAR	J. Abraham	P. Jerry	J. Babineaux	J. Anderson	M. Peterson	C. Lofton	S. Nicholas	C. Houston	B. Williams	E. Coleman	T. DeCoud
09.27	@NE											
10.11	@SF											
10.18	CHI											
10.25	@DAL											
11.02	@NO											
11.08	WSH											
11.15	@CAR											
11.22	@NYG											
11.29	TB											
12.06	PHI											
12.13	NO											
12.20	@NYJ											
12.27	BUF											
01.03	@TB											

## 2009 GAMEDAY INACTIVES

MIA	John Parker Wilson (3rd QB)	Tye Hill	William Moore	Spencer Adkins	Will Svitek	Garrett Reynolds	Trey Lewis	
CAR	John Parker Wilson (3rd QB)	Tye Hill	William Moore	Spencer Adkins	Verron Haynes	Garrett Reynolds	Trey Lewis	Quinn Ojinnaka
@NE								
@SF								
CHI								
@DAL								
@NO								
WSH								
@CAR								
@NYG								
TB								
PHI								
NO								
@NYJ								
BUF								
@TB								



## 3RD AND 4TH DOWN CONVERSIONS

OPPONENT	FALCONS						OPPONENTS					
	3rd Down			4th Down			3rd Down			4th Down		
	Made	Att.	Effic.	Made	Att.	Effic.	Made	Att.	Effic.	Made	Att.	Effic.
MIA	6	15	40%	0	0	0%	4	11	36%	1	1	100%
CAR	6	12	50%	2	2	100%	7	12	58%	0	1	0%
@NE												
@SF												
CHI												
@DAL												
@NO												
WSH												
@CAR												
@NYG												
TB												
PHI												
NO												
@NYJ												
BUF												
@TB												
TOTALS	12	27	44%	2	2	100%	11	23	47%	1	2	50%

## 2009 ATLANTA FALCONS RED ZONE STATISTICS "INSIDE THE 20"

OPPONENT	Score		Drives in Red Zone	Scores	Scoring %	Pts	TDs	TD%	FGs	Turnovers
	ATL	Opp								
MIA	19	7	4	1	25	7	1	25	0	0
CAR	28	20	4	3	75	21	3	75	0	1
@NE										
@SF										
CHI										
@DAL										
@NO										
WSH										
@CAR										
@NYG										
TB										
PHI										
NO										
@NYJ										
BUF										
@TB										
TOTALS	47	27	8	4	50	28	4	50	0	1

## 2009 ATLANTA FALCONS OPPONENTS' RED ZONE STATISTICS "INSIDE THE 20"

OPPONENT	Score		Drives in Red Zone	Scores	Scoring %	Pts	TDs	TD%	FGs	Turnovers
	ATL	Opp								
MIA	19	7	2	1	50	7	1	50	0	0
CAR	28	20	3	2	66	14	2	66	0	1
@NE										
@SF										
CHI										
@DAL										
@NO										
WSH										
@CAR										
@NYG										
TB										
PHI										
NO										
@NYJ										
BUF										
@TB										
TOTALS	47	27	5	3	60	21	3	60	0	1

## 2009 FALCONS SCORING DRIVES

<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Qtr</u>	<u>Time Rem.</u>	<u>Plays</u>	<u>Net Yards</u>	<u>Poss.</u>	<u>How Acquired</u>	<u>Scoring Play</u>
Miami	2	8:37	14	89	7:27	Punt	O. Mughelli 1 yd. pass from M. Ryan
Miami	2	0:32	5	13	1:11	Fumble	J. Elam 36 yd. Field Goal
Miami	3	1:17	3	20	0:22	Intercepted	T. Gonzalez 20 yd. pass from M. Ryan
Miami	4	7:35	8	38	3:55	Punt	J. Elam 50 yd. Field Goal
Carolina	1	0:37	2	53	1:02	Blocked Punt	T. Gonzalez 24 yd. pass from M. Ryan
Carolina	2	5:10	14	80	7:15	Kickoff	J. Snelling 10 yd. pass from M. Ryan
Carolina	2	0:50	5	56	0:59	Kickoff	R. White 7 yd. pass from M. Ryan
Carolina	4	12:23	12	47	6:52	Fumble	M. Turner 1 yd. run

## FALCONS KICKOFF ANALYSIS

<u>Opponent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. in EZ</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>Opp. Ret.</u>	<u>Ret. Yds.</u>	<u>Ret. Avg.</u>	<u>Squib</u>	<u>Out of Bounds</u>	<u>Onside Rec/Att</u>
MIA	5	4	0	5	92	18.4	0	0	0
CAR	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
@NE									
@SF									
CHI									
@DAL									
@NO									
WSH									
@CAR									
@NYG									
TB									
PHI									
NO									
@NYJ									
BUF									
@TB									
TOTALS	10	9	5	5	92	18.4	0	0	0

## 2009 TEAM HIGHS & LOWS

### **MOST POINTS**

Falcons: 28 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 20 vs. Carolina

### **MOST POINTS IN A HALF**

Falcons: 21 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 13 vs. Carolina

### **MOST FIRST DOWNS**

Falcons: 23 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 24 vs. Carolina

### **MOST RUSHING YARDS**

Falcons: 151 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 144 vs. Carolina

### **MOST RUSHING ATTEMPTS**

Falcons: 37 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 25 vs. Carolina

### **MOST PASSING YARDS**

Falcons: 220 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 296 vs. Carolina

### **MOST PASS ATTEMPTS**

Falcons: 36 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 41 vs. Carolina

### **MOST PASS COMPLETIONS**

Falcons: 22 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 25 vs. Carolina

### **MOST SACKS**

Falcons: 4 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 2 vs. Miami

### **MOST TOTAL NET YARDS**

Falcons: 371 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 440 vs. Carolina

### **MOST TIME OF POSSESSION**

Falcons: 31:32 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 29:07 vs. Miami

### **MOST INTERCEPTIONS**

Falcons: 1 (2 times) vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 1 vs. Carolina

### **MOST PENALTIES (NO.)**

Falcons: 6 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 6 vs. Carolina

### **MOST YARDS PENALIZED**

Falcons: 40 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 35 vs. Carolina

### **FEWEST POINTS**

Falcons: 19 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 7 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST POINTS IN A HALF**

Falcons: 7 (2 times) vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 0 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST FIRST DOWNS**

Falcons: 19 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 16 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST RUSHING YARDS**

Falcons: 68 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 96 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST RUSHING ATTEMPTS**

Falcons: 27 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 22 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST PASSING YARDS**

Falcons: 213 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 163 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST PASS ATTEMPTS**

Falcons: 27 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 30 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST PASS COMPLETIONS**

Falcons: 21 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 21 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST SACKS**

Falcons: 1 vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 0 vs. Carolina

### **FEWEST TOTAL NET YARDS**

Falcons: 281 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 259 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST TIME OF POSSESSION**

Falcons: 30:53 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 28:28 vs. Carolina

### **FEWEST INTERCEPTIONS**

Falcons: 1 (2 times) vs. Carolina  
Opponents: 0 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST PENALTIES (NO.)**

Falcons: 4 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 4 vs. Miami

### **FEWEST YARDS PENALIZED**

Falcons: 35 vs. Miami  
Opponents: 27 vs. Miami



## 2009 INDIVIDUAL HIGHS

### MOST YARDS RUSHING

Falcons:	105	M. Turner	vs. Carolina 9/20
Opponents:	79	D. Williams	vs. Carolina 9/20

### MOST RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS

Falcons:	1	M. Turner	vs. Carolina 9/20
Opponents:	1	D. Williams	vs. Carolina 9/20

### MOST YARDS PASSING

Falcons:	229	M. Ryan	vs. Miami 9/13
Opponents:	308	J. Delhomme	vs. Carolina 9/20

### MOST PASSING ATTEMPTS

Falcons:	36	M. Ryan	vs. Miami 9/13
Opponents:	41	J. Delhomme	vs. Carolina 9/20

### MOST COMPLETIONS

Falcons:	22	M. Ryan	vs. Miami 9/13
Opponents:	25	J. Delhomme	vs. Carolina 9/20

### HIGHEST COMPLETION PCT. (MIN. 15 ATT)

Falcons:	77.7	M. Ryan	vs. Carolina 9/20
Opponents:	72.4	C. Pennington	vs. Miami 9/13

### MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES

Falcons:	3	M. Ryan	vs. Carolina 9/20
Opponents:	1	(2 times) J. Delhomme	vs. Carolina 9/20

### MOST RECEPTIONS

Falcons:	7	T. Gonzalez	vs. Carolina 9/20
Opponents:	8	S. Smith	vs. Carolina 9/20

### MOST RECEIVING YARDS

Falcons:	73	T. Gonzalez	vs. Miami 9/13
Opponents:	131	S. Smith	vs. Carolina 9/20

### MOST TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS

Falcons:	1	(4 times)last time: R. White	vs. Carolina 9/20
Opponents:	1	(2 times) last time: D. Rosariovs. Carolina 9/20	

### MOST POINTS

Falcons:	7	J. Elam	vs. Miami 9/13
Opponents:	8	J. Kasay	vs. Carolina 9/20

### MOST SACKS

Falcons:	2	J. Abraham	vs. Miami 9/13
	2	K. Biermann	vs. Miami 9/13
Opponents:	1	(2 times) J. Taylor	vs. Miami 9/13

### MOST INTERCEPTIONS

Falcons:	1	M. Peterson	vs. Miami 9/13
	1	C. Houston	vs. Carolina 9/20
Opponents:	1	R. Marshall	vs. Carolina 9/20

## FALCONS TOP PERFORMANCES

### RUSHING YARDS

105	M. Turner	vs. Carolina 9/20
65	M. Turner	vs. Miami 9/13

### RUSHING ATTEMPTS

28	M. Turner	vs. Carolina 9/20
22	M. Turner	vs. Miami 9/13

### LONGEST RUSH

20	J. Snelling	vs. Carolina 9/20
16	M. Turner	vs. Carolina 9/20

### RECEPTIONS

7	T. Gonzalez	vs. Carolina 9/20
6	R. White	vs. Carolina 9/20

### RECEIVING YARDS

73	T. Gonzalez	vs. Miami 9/13
71	T. Gonzalez	vs. Carolina 9/20
53	R. White	vs. Carolina 9/20

### LONGEST RECEPTION

27	M. Booker	vs. Carolina 9/20
24t	T. Gonzalez	vs. Carolina 9/20
24	M. Jenkins	vs. Carolina 9/20
22	M. Jenkins	vs. Miami 9/13

### PASSING ATTEMPTS

36	M. Ryan	vs. Miami 9/13
27	M. Ryan	vs. Carolina 9/20

### PASS COMPLETIONS

22	M. Ryan	vs. Miami 9/13
21	M. Ryan	vs. Carolina 9/20

### LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN

41	E. Weems	vs. Carolina 9/20
39	J. Norwood	vs. Carolina 9/20

### LONGEST FIELD GOAL

50	J. Elam	vs. Miami 9/13
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# THE FALCONS RECORD WHEN...

	<u>2009</u>		<u>2008</u>		<u>2007</u>		<u>2006</u>		<u>2005</u>		<u>5-Year Total</u>		
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	T
<b>Overall Record</b>	2	0	11	5	4	12	7	9	8	8	32	34	0
Home	2	0	7	1	3	5	3	5	4	4	19	15	0
Away	0	0	4	4	1	7	4	4	4	4	13	19	0
<b>By Month</b>													
September	2	0	2	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	9	7	0
October	0	0	2	1	0	3	3	1	3	1	8	6	0
November	0	0	4	1	2	2	0	4	2	2	8	9	0
December	0	0	3	1	1	4	2	3	1	3	7	11	0
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
<b>vs. AFC</b>	1	0	3	1	1	3	2	2	3	1	11	7	0
South	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
East	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	1	0
North	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	0
West	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
<b>vs. NFC</b>	1	0	6	4	3	9	5	6	5	7	20	26	0
South	1	0	3	3	1	5	3	3	2	4	10	15	0
East	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	1	0	2	5	4	0
North	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	5	4	0
West	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	3	3	0
<b>Playing Conditions</b>													
On grass	0	0	3	3	1	4	3	1	1	3	8	11	0
On Turf	2	0	8	2	3	8	4	7	7	5	24	22	0
Outdoors	0	0	3	3	1	3	4	2	2	4	10	12	0
Indoors	2	0	8	2	3	9	3	7	6	4	22	22	0
Day	2	0	10	5	4	9	7	8	5	7	28	29	0
Night	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	3	1	3	5	0
Temp. 85 or higher	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
Temp. 32 or lower	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
<b>Following a win</b>	1	0	5	5	1	2	4	4	3	3	14	14	0
<b>Following a loss</b>	0	0	5	0	3	9	2	5	4	3	14	17	0
<b>Falcons score on first drive</b>	0	0	8	0	1	2	2	1	5	1	16	4	0
<b>Opp. score on first drive</b>	1	0	0	3	2	2	5	3	1	3	9	11	0
<b>Falcons score first</b>	1	0	11	1	2	3	4	2	7	3	25	9	0
<b>Opp. score first</b>	1	0	0	4	2	9	3	7	1	5	7	25	0
<b>Leading at halftime</b>	2	0	11	1	2	2	3	2	8	1	26	6	0
<b>Tied at halftime</b>	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	4	0
<b>Trailing at halftime</b>	0	0	0	4	1	8	4	6	0	6	5	0	0
<b>Ahead going into 4th quarter</b>	2	0	10	1	2	1	7	0	7	1	28	3	0
<b>Tied going into 4th quarter</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Trailing going into 4th quarter</b>	0	0	1	4	1	11	0	9	0	6	2	30	0
<b>Outcome 3 points or less</b>	0	0	3	0	1	1	2	0	2	3	8	4	0
<b>Outcome 7 points or less</b>	0	0	3	2	2	4	1	3	4	4	10	13	0
<b>Scoring 20 or more points</b>	1	0	10	2	4	2	5	1	6	4	26	9	0
<b>Allowing 20 or more points</b>	1	0	6	5	1	11	2	7	2	6	12	29	0
<b>+ turnover margin</b>	1	0	5	0	4	3	7	1	4	3	21	7	0
<b>Even turnover margin</b>	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	4	3	0	6	7	0
<b>- turnover margin</b>	0	0	4	4	0	7	0	4	1	5	5	20	0
<b>Falcons 300+ total offense yards</b>	1	0	10	3	2	5	6	6	7	4	26	18	0
<b>Falcons -300 total offense yards</b>	1	0	1	2	2	7	1	3	1	4	6	16	0
<b>Falcons 30+ rushing attempts</b>	1	0	10	2	2	1	7	2	8	3	28	8	0
<b>Falcons -30 rushing attempts</b>	1	0	1	3	2	10	0	7	0	5	4	25	0
<b>Time of Poss. 30:00+</b>	2	0	6	2	3	6	6	2	5	3	22	13	0
<b>Time of Poss. -30:00</b>	0	0	5	3	1	6	1	7	3	5	10	21	0
<b>Falcons 100-yard rusher</b>	1	0	8	0	1	0	4	2	5	0	19	2	0
<b>Falcons 100-yard receiver</b>	0	0	4	3	0	5	1	1	1	2	6	11	0
<b>Falcons 300-yard passer</b>	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	4	0
<b>Opp. 100-yard rusher</b>	0	0	3	3	0	4	1	4	1	7	5	18	0
<b>Opp. 100-yard receiver</b>	1	0	5	1	3	3	3	3	1	4	13	11	0
<b>Opp. 300-yard passer</b>	1	0	2	0	1	4	1	3	0	1	5	8	0

# 2009 FALCONS WEEKLY TEAM RANKINGS

## NFL

## NFC

	OFFENSE			DEFENSE				OFFENSE			DEFENSE		
	OVERALL	RUSH	PASS	OVERALL	RUSH	PASS		OVERALL	RUSH	PASS	OVERALL	RUSH	PASS
Week 1	19/281.0	26/68.0	18/213.0	9/259.0	21/96.0	8/163.0	Week 1	9/281.0	13/68.0	8/213.0	6/259.0	10/96.0	4/163.0
Week 2	18/326.0	16/109.5	17/216.5	22/349.5	19/120.0	17/229.5	Week 2	8/326.0	9/109.5	9/216.5	12/349.5	9/120.0	9/229.5
Week 3							Week 3						
Week 4							Week 4						
Week 5							Week 5						
Week 6							Week 6						
Week 7							Week 7						
Week 8							Week 8						
Week 9							Week 9						
Week 10							Week 10						
Week 11							Week 11						
Week 12							Week 12						
Week 13							Week 13						
Week 14							Week 14						
Week 15							Week 15						
Week 16							Week 16						
Week 17							Week 17						

## 2009 TURNOVER TABLE

OPPONENT	--- TAKEAWAYS ---			FUMBLES	--- GIVEAWAYS ---		DIFFERENCE	RESULT
	FUMBLES	INT	TOTAL		INT	TOTAL		
MIA	3	1	4	0	0	0	+4	W, 19-7
CAR	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	W, 28-20
@NE								
@SF								
CHI								
@DAL								
@NO								
WSH								
@CAR								
@NYG								
TB								
PHI								
NO								
@NYJ								
BUF								
@TB								
TOTALS	4	2	6	1	1	2	+4	2 - 0

## TAKEAWAYS

## POINTS OFF TAKEAWAYS

	INT	Fumbles	Total		TDs	FGs	Total	Score %		Points
FALCONS	2	4	6		2	1	3	50.0		16
OPPONENTS	1	1	2		0	0	0	0.0		0



# BIG PLAYS

## FALCONS COMPLETIONS OVER 20 YARDS

<u>YDS</u>	<u>RECEIVER</u>	<u>PASSER</u>	<u>QTR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPP</u>
27	M. Booker	M. Ryan	2	9/20	vs. Carolina
24t	T. Gonzalez	M. Ryan	1	9/20	vs. Carolina
24	M. Jenkins	M. Ryan	1	9/20	vs. Carolina
22	M. Jenkins	M. Ryan	2	9/13	vs. Miami
21	O. Mughelli	M. Ryan	4	9/13	vs. Miami
20	T. Gonzalez	M. Ryan	3	9/13	vs. Miami

## OPPONENTS COMPLETIONS OVER 20 YARDS

<u>YDS</u>	<u>RECEIVER</u>	<u>PASSER</u>	<u>QTR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPP</u>
32	J. King	J. Delhomme	4	9/20	vs. Carolina
28	S. Smith	J. Delhomme	2	9/20	vs. Carolina
27	S. Smith	J. Delhomme	1	9/20	vs. Carolina
23	S. Smith	J. Delhomme	4	9/20	vs. Carolina
21	J. Haynos	C. Pennington	2	9/13	vs. Miami
21	D. Bess	C. Pennington	4	9/13	vs. Miami
20	S. Smith	J. Delhomme	4	9/20	vs. Carolina

## FALCONS RUSHES OVER 15 YARDS

<u>YDS</u>	<u>RUSHER</u>	<u>QTR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPP</u>
20	J. Snelling	2	9/20	vs. Carolina
16	M. Turner	3	9/20	vs. Carolina

## OPPONENTS RUSHES OVER 15 YARDS

<u>YDS</u>	<u>RUSHER</u>	<u>QTR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPP</u>
28	J. Stewart	2	9/20	vs. Carolina
16	D. Williams	1	9/20	vs. Carolina

## 2009 GAME-BY-GAME RUSHING

SCORE			JERIOUS NORWOOD						MATT RYAN						JASON SNELLING						MICHAEL TURNER					
Game	Atl	Opp	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD				
MIA	19	7	2	7	3.5	5	0	3	-4	-1.3	-1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	22	65	3.0	12	0				
CAR	28	20	1	6	6.0	6	0	2	3	1.5	2	0	6	37	6.2	20	0	28	105	3.8	16	1				
@NE																										
@SF																										
CHI																										
@DAL																										
@NO																										
WSH																										
@CAR																										
@NYG																										
TB																										
PHI																										
NO																										
@NYJ																										
BUF																										
@TB																										
TOTALS	47	27	3	13	4.3	6	0	5	-1	-0.2	2	0	6	37	6.2	20	0	50	170	3.4	16	1				

## 2009 GAME-BY-GAME PASSING

SCORE			MATT RYAN										CHRIS REDMAN									
Game	Atl	Opp	Att	Comp	Comp%	Gross	Net	Long	TD	Int	Rate	Att	Comp	Comp%	Gross	Net	Long	TD	Int	Rate		
MIA	19	7	36	22	61%	229	213	22	2	0	98.0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0.0		
CAR	28	20	27	21	77%	220	220	27	3	1	122.2	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0.0		
@NE																						
@SF																						
CHI																						
@DAL																						
@NO																						
WSH																						
@CAR																						
@NYG																						
TB																						
PHI																						
NO																						
@NYJ																						
BUF																						
@TB																						
TOTALS	47	27	63	43	68%	449	433	27	5	1	108.5	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0.0		

# 2009 GAME-BY-GAME RECEIVING

SCORE			MARTY BOOKER						BRIAN FINNERAN						TONY GONZALEZ						MICHAEL JENKINS					
Game	Atl	Opp	Rec	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	LG	TD				
MIA	19	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	73	14.6	20t	1	4	41	10.3	22	0				
CAR	28	20	2	42	21.0	27	0	1	6	6.0	6	0	7	71	10.1	24t	1	3	33	11.0	24	0				
@NE																										
@SF																										
CHI																										
@DAL																										
@NO																										
WSH																										
@CAR																										
@NYG																										
TB																										
PHI																										
NO																										
@NYJ																										
BUF																										
@TB																										
TOTALS	47	27	2	42	21.0	27	0	1	6	6.0	6	0	12	144	24.0	24t	2	7	74	10.6	24	0				

SCORE			OVIE MUGHELLI						JERIOUS NORWOOD						JASON SNELLING						MICHAEL TURNER					
Game	Atl	Opp	Rec	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	LG	TD				
MIA	19	7	2	22	11.0	21	1	5	49	9.8	12	0	1	2	2.0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0				
CAR	28	20	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	10	10.0	10	1	1	5	5.0	5	0				
@NE																										
@SF																										
CHI																										
@DAL																										
@NO																										
WSH																										
@CAR																										
@NYG																										
TB																										
PHI																										
NO																										
@NYJ																										
BUF																										
@TB																										
TOTALS	47	27	2	22	11.0	21	1	5	49	9.8	12	0	2	12	6.0	10t	1	1	5	5.0	5	0				

SCORE			RODDY WHITE											
Game	Atl	Opp	Rec	Yds	Avg	LG	TD		Rec	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	
MIA	19	7	11	95	8.6	17	1							
CAR	28	20	6	53	8.8	17	1							
@NE														
@SF														
CHI														
@DAL														
@NO														
WSH														
@CAR														
@NYG														
TB														
PHI														
NO														
@NYJ														
BUF														
@TB														
TOTALS	47	27	11	95	8.6	24	1							



## 2009 GAME-BY-GAME SACKS

[illegible]

## 2009 GAME-BY-GAME INTERCEPTIONS

[illegible]

## 2009 GAME-BY-GAME OFFENSIVE STATISTICS

[illegible]

## 2009 GAME-BY-GAME OPPONENT STATISTICS

[illegible]

**ATLANTA**  
**FALCONS**



**UPDATED**  
**PLAYER BIOS**



## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**T**      **SAM BAKER**      **72**  
HT: 6-5      WT: 307      YEAR: 2ND  
COLLEGE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)  
CAREER GP/GS: (10/7)


- Started at left tackle vs. Miami (9/13) for an offense that recorded 281 total yards.
- Started at left tackle vs. Carolina (9/20) for an offensive line that did not allow a sack on 27 pass attempts.



**G**      **JUSTIN BLALOCK**      **63**  
HT: 6-4      WT: 329      YEAR: 3RD  
COLLEGE: TEXAS  
GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)  
CAREER GP/GS: (32/32)

- Started at left guard vs. Miami (9/13).
- Member of an offensive line that produced 151 total rushing yards vs. Carolina (9/20), including 105 by RB Michael Turner.

UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**WR**

**MARTY BOOKER**

**80**

HT: 6-0

WT: 205

YEAR: 11TH

COLLEGE: LOUISIANA-MONROE

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (143/116)

- Saw action at wide receiver vs. Miami (9/13) in his Falcons debut.
- Posted two catches for 42 yards vs. Carolina (9/20).

BOOKER'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.20	CAR	2	42	21.0	27	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	2	42	21.0	27	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		525	6,564	12.5	66T	36	17	34	2.0	18	0



**T**

**TYSON CLABO**

**77**

HT: 6-6

WT: 331

YEAR: 4TH


COLLEGE: WAKE FOREST

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (39/39)

- Started at right tackle vs. Miami (9/13).
- Part of an offensive line that protected QB Matt Ryan so that he could throw a career-high three touchdown passes vs. Carolina (9/20).

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**G HARVEY DAHL 73**

HT: 6-5 WT: 305 YEAR: 3RD

COLLEGE: NEVADA-RENO

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (23/18)

- Started at right guard vs. Miami (9/13) for an offense that tallied 281 total yards.
- Part of an offensive line that did not allow a sack in 27 pass attempts vs. Carolina (9/20).



**WR BRIAN FINNERAN 86**

HT: 6-5 WT: 210 YEAR: 9TH

COLLEGE: VILLANOVA

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (104/35)

- Saw action at wide receiver and on special teams vs. Miami (9/13) and recorded six kickoff return yards on one attempt.
- Hauled in one reception for six yards on offense vs. Carolina (9/20), and added one pass defended on defense and one tackle on special teams.

### FINNERAN'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.20	CAR	1	6	6.0	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	1	6	6.0	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		209	2,822	13.5	53	16	0	0	0.0	0	0

### FINNERAN'S GAME-BY-GAME RETURN STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	KR	YDS	AVG.	TD	PR	YDS	AVG.	FC	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	1	6	6.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	1	6	6.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
CAREER		3	13	4.3	5	5	9	1.8	14	5	0

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**TE TONY GONZALEZ 88**

HT: 6-5 WT: 243 YEAR: 13TH

COLLEGE: CALIFORNIA

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (192/176)

- Led the team in receiving on five receptions for 73 yards with one touchdown in his Falcons debut vs. Miami (9/13). On his 20-yard touchdown reception, he became the 21st player in NFL history to record over 11,000 receiving yards and the first tight end to accomplish the feat.
- Logged a team-high seven receptions for 71 yards with one touchdown vs. Carolina (9/20).

### GONZALEZ'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	5	73	14.6	20T	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.20	CAR	7	71	10.1	24T	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	12	144	12.0	24T	2	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		928	11,084	11.9	73T	78	2	14	7.0	9	0

### GONZALEZ'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

**RECEPTIONS:** 7 vs. Carolina (9/20)

**RECEIVING YARDS:** 73 vs. Miami (9/13)

**RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS:** 1 (two times) last time: vs. Carolina (9/20)



**FB VERRON HAYNES 36**

HT: 5-9 WT: 233 YEAR: 6TH

COLLEGE: GEORGIA

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (0/0/0/1)

CAREER GP/GS: (61/0)

- Released September 12 and was signed back to the active roster on September 14.
- Inactive vs. Carolina (9/20).

### HAYNES' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA										
09.20	CAR						INACTIVE				
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		174	738	4.2	20	3	58	429	7.4	26	2



## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**WR    MICHAEL JENKINS    12**

HT: 6-4                      WT: 217                      YEAR: 6TH

COLLEGE: OHIO STATE

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (79/47)

- Recorded four catches for 41 yards vs. Miami (9/13).
- Logged 33 receiving yards on three catches vs. Carolina (9/20).


### JENKINS' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	4	41	10.3	22	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.20	CAR	3	33	11.0	24	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	7	74	10.6	24	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		192	2,446	12.7	62T	17	2	4	2.0	2	0

### JENKINS' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

**RECEPTIONS:** 4 vs. Miami (9/13)

**RECEIVING YARDS:** 41 vs. Miami (9/13)



**C        TODD McCLURE        62**

HT: 6-1                      WT: 296                      YEAR: 11TH


COLLEGE: LSU

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (138/136)

- Started his 113th consecutive game at center vs. Miami (9/13).
- Member of an offensive line that did not allow a sack on 27 pass attempts vs. Carolina (9/20) and allowed QB Matt Ryan to throw a career-high three touchdown passes.

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**FB DVIE MUGHELLI 34**  
**HT: 6-1 WT: 252 YEAR: 7TH**  
**COLLEGE: WAKE FOREST**  
**GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/1/0/0)**  
**CAREER GP/GS: (72/34)**

- Posted two receptions for 22 yards with one score vs. Miami (9/13).
- Helped block for an offensive unit that tallied 151 total rushing yards vs. Carolina (9/20).

### MUGHELLI'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	22	11.0	21	1
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	22	11.0	21	1
CAREER		23	73	3.2	12	1	40	310	7.8	30T	3



**RB JERIOUS NORWOOD 32**  
**HT: 5-11 WT: 209 YEAR: 4TH**  
**COLLEGE: MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
**GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)**  
**CAREER GP/GS: (47/2)**

- Hauled in five receptions for 49 yards vs. Miami (9/13) and added seven rushing yards on two carries.
- Recorded one kickoff return for 39 yards vs. Carolina (9/20) and added one rush for six yards before leaving the game with an injury (head).

### NORWOOD'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	2	7	3.5	5	0	5	49	9.8	12	0
09.20	CAR	1	6	6.0	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	3	13	4.3	6	0	5	49	9.8	12	0
CAREER		300	1,748	5.8	78T	7	81	766	9.5	67T	2

### NORWOOD'S GAME-BY-GAME RETURN STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	KR	YDS	AVG.	TD	PR	YDS	AVG.	FC	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	1	39	39.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	1	39	39.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
CAREER		117	2,987	25.5	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**OL QUINN OJINNAKA 76**

HT: 6-5 WT: 299 YEAR: 4TH

COLLEGE: SYRACUSE

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (1/0/0/1)

CAREER GP/GS: (31/7)

- Saw action on special teams vs. Miami (9/13).
- Inactive vs. Carolina (9/20).



**TE JUSTIN PEELE 87**

HT: 6-4 WT: 251 YEAR: 8TH

COLLEGE: OREGON

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/1/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (111/51)

- Saw action at tight end vs. Miami (9/13).
- Started at tight end vs. Carolina (9/20).

### PEELLE'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		100	773	7.7	35	9	0	0	0.0	0	0

UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**QB CHRIS REDMAN 8**  
HT: 6-3 WT: 229 YEAR: 7TH  
COLLEGE: LOUISVILLE  
GP/GS/DNP/IA: (0/0/2/0)  
CAREER GP/GS: (17/10)

- Did not play vs. Miami (9/13).
- Did not paly vs. Carolina (9/20).

REDMAN'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	ATT	CMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	LG	SK	RTG	RSH	YDS	AVG	TD
09.13	MIA													
09.20	CAR													
09.27	@NE													
10.11	@SF													
10.18	CHI													
10.25	@DAL													
11.02	@NO													
11.08	WSH													
11.15	@CAR													
11.22	@NYG													
11.29	TB													
12.06	PHI													
12.13	NO													
12.20	@NYJ													
12/27	BUF													
01.03	@TB													
2009 TOTALS		0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
CAREER		347	195	56.2	2,190	17	10	74T	43	79.5	21	28	1.3	0




**T GARRETT REYNOLDS 75**  
HT: 6-7 WT: 317 YEAR: ROOKIE  
COLLEGE: NORTH CAROLINA  
GP/GS/DNP/IA: (0/0/0/2)  
CAREER GP/GS: (0/0)

- Inactive vs. Miami (9/13).
- Inactive vs. Carolina (9/20).



## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**C BRETT ROMBERG 66**


HT: 6-2 WT: 293 YEAR: 6TH

COLLEGE: MIAMI

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (1/0/1/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (35/18)

- Saw action on special teams vs. Miami (9/13).
- Did not play vs. Carolina (9/20).



**QB MATT RYAN 2**

HT: 6-4 WT: 213 YEAR: 2ND

COLLEGE: BOSTON COLLEGE

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (18/18)

- Completed 22 of 36 passes for 229 yards with two touchdowns vs. Miami (9/13).
- Posted 220 passing yards on 21 of 27 passing with a career-high three touch-down passes vs. Carolina (9/20). His 77.7 completion percentage was also a career-high in addition to his 13 consecutive completions, which began in the second quarter.

### RYAN'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	ATT	CMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	LG	SK	RTG	RSH	YDS	AVG	TD
09.13	MIA	36	22	61.1	229	2	0	22	2	98.0	3	-4	-1.3	0
09.20	CAR	27	21	77.7	220	3	1	27	0	122.2	2	3	1.5	0
09.27	@NE													
10.11	@SF													
10.18	CHI													
10.25	@DAL													
11.02	@NO													
11.08	WSH													
11.15	@CAR													
11.22	@NYG													
11.29	TB													
12.06	PHI													
12.13	NO													
12.20	@NYJ													
12/27	BUF													
01.03	@TB													
2009 TOTALS		63	43	68.3	449	5	1	27	2	108.5	5	-1	-0.2	0
CAREER		497	308	62.0	3,889	21	12	70T	19	90.4	60	103	1.7	1

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**RB JASON SNELLING 44**

HT: 5-11 WT: 223 YEAR: 3RD

COLLEGE: VIRGINIA

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (25/1)

- Posted one reception for two yards vs. Miami (9/13).
- Recorded 37 rushing yards on six carries and hauled in his first career receiving score on a 10-yard grab in the second quarter vs. Carolina (9/20).

### SNELLING'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	2	2.0	2	0
09.20	CAR	6	37	6.2	20	0	1	10	10.0	10T	1
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	6	37	6.2	20	0	2	12	6.0	10T	1
CAREER		34	142	4.2	20	1	10	101	10.1	27	1



**T WILL SVITEK 74**

HT: 6-6 WT: 309 YEAR: 4TH

COLLEGE: STANFORD

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (1/0/0/1)

CAREER GP/GS: (17/4)

- Inactive vs. Miami (9/13).
- Inactive vs. Carolina (9/20).

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**RB MICHAEL TURNER 33**

HT: 5-10 WT: 244 YEAR: 4TH

COLLEGE: NORTHERN ILLINOIS

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (77/19)

- Tallied 22 carries for 65 yards vs. Miami (9/13).
- Posted his first 100-yard rushing game of the season (105) on 28 carries with one touchdown vs. Carolina (9/20). He also added one catch for five yards.

### TURNER'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS


DATE	OPP	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	22	65	3.0	12	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.20	CAR	28	105	3.8	16	1	1	5	5.0	5	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	50	170	3.4	16	1	1	5	5.0	5	0
CAREER		654	3,126	4.8	83T	24	18	117	6.5	30	0

### TURNER'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

**ATTEMPTS:** 28 vs. Carolina (9/20)

**RUSHING YARDS:** 105 vs. Carolina (9/20)

**RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS:** 1 vs. Carolina (9/20)



**WR ERIC WEEMS 14**

HT: 5-9 WT: 194 YEAR: 2ND

COLLEGE: BETHUNE-COOKMAN

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (9/0)

- Tied for the team lead in special teams tackles (two) vs. Miami (9/13).
- Recorded 63 kickoff return yards on two attempts vs. Carolina (9/20).

### WEEMS' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		1	4	4.0	4	0	0	0	0.0	0	0

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**WR RODDY WHITE 84**  
 HT: 6-0 WT: 212 YEAR: 5TH  
 COLLEGE: ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM  
 GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)  
 CAREER GP/GS: (66/45)

- Hauled in five catches for 42 yards vs. Miami (9/13).
- Recorded six receptions for 53 yards with one score vs. Carolina (9/20).

### WHITE'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	5	42	8.4	14	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.20	CAR	6	53	8.8	17	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	11	95	8.6	17	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		241	3,631	15.1	70T	17	7	14	2.0	16	0

### WHITE'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

**RECEPTIONS:** 6 vs. Carolina (9/20)

**RECEIVING YARDS:** 53 vs. Miami (9/13)

**RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS:** 1 vs. Carolina (9/20)



**QB JOHN PARKER WILSON 4**  
 HT: 6-2 WT: 218 YEAR: ROOKIE  
 COLLEGE: ALABAMA  
 GP/GS/DNP/IA: (0/0/0/2)  
 CAREER GP/GS: (0/0)

- Designated the third quarterback vs. Miami (9/13).
- Designated the third quarterback vs. Carolina (9/20).

### WILSON'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	ATT	CMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	LG	SK	RTG	RSH	YDS	AVG	TD
09.13	MIA													
09.20	CAR													
09.27	@NE													
10.11	@SF													
10.18	CHI													
10.25	@DAL													
11.02	@NO													
11.08	WSH													
11.15	@CAR													
11.22	@NYG													
11.29	TB													
12.06	PHI													
12.13	NO													
12.20	@NYJ													
12/27	BUF													
01.03	@TB													
2009	TOTALS	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
CAREER		0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - OFFENSE



**TE KEITH ZINGER 82**

HT: 6-4 WT: 258 YEAR: 1ST

COLLEGE: LSU

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (2/0)

- Made his NFL debut vs. Miami (9/13).
- Saw action on special teams vs. Carolina (9/20).

### ZINGER'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	RUSH	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
09.27	@NE										
10.11	@SF										
10.18	CHI										
10.25	@DAL										
11.02	@NO										
11.08	WSH										
11.15	@CAR										
11.22	@NYG										
11.29	TB										
12.06	PHI										
12.13	NO										
12.20	@NYJ										
12.27	BUF										
01.03	@TB										
2009	TOTALS	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0



## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - SPECIAL TEAMS



**K JASON ELAM I**

HT: 5-11 WT: 195 YEAR: 17TH

COLLEGE: HAWAII

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (254/0)

- Recorded seven points vs. Miami (9/13) by connecting on two field goals (36 yards and 50 yards) and one PAT.
- Connected on all four PATs vs. Carolina (9/20).

### ELAM'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

OPP	0-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	TOTAL	LG	PCT.	PATS	PTS
MIA	0-0	0-0	1-2	0-1	1-1	2-4	50	.500	1-2	7
CAR	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	-	---	4-4	4
@NE										
@SF										
CHI										
@DAL										
@NO										
WSH										
@CAR										
@NYG										
TB										
PHI										
NO										
@NYJ										
BUF										
@TB										
2009	0-0	0-0	1-2	0-1	1-1	2-4	50	.500	5-6	11
CAREER	4-4	146-152	129-141	108-164	40-65	426-525	63	.811	647-652	1,926



**P MICHAEL KOENEN 9**

HT: 5-11 WT: 198 YEAR: 5TH

COLLEGE: WESTERN WASHINGTON

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (66/0)

- Logged four punts for 155 yards with one being downed inside the 20-yard line vs. Miami (9/13).
- Posted five touchbacks on five kickoffs vs. Carolina (9/20) in addition to recording one punt inside the 20-yard line on three punts. His five touchbacks tied the franchise-high, which was set on September 3, 1995 vs. Carolina.

### KOENEN'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS


Date	Opp	FG	Att	FG%	Lg	PAT	Pts	Punt	Yds	Avg	Net	In20	Lg	KO/TB
09.13	MIA	0	0	.000	0	0	0	4	155	38.8	31.0	1	44	5/0
09.20	CAR	0	0	.000	0	0	0	3	149	49.7	44.0	1	57	5/5
09.27	@NE													
10.11	@SF													
10.18	CHI													
10.25	@DAL													
11.02	@NO													
11.08	WSH													
11.15	@CAR													
11.22	@NYG													
11.29	TB													
12.06	PHI													
12.13	NO													
12.20	@NYJ													
12.27	BUF													
01.03	@TB													
2009 Totals		0	0	---	0	0	0	7	304	43.4	36.6	2	57	10/5
Career Totals		4	13	30.8	58	4	16	250	10,627	42.5	37.8	78	67	213/45

## UPDATED PLAYER BIDS - SPECIAL TEAMS

	<b>LS    MIKE SCHNECK    46</b> <b>HT:</b> 6-1 <b>WT:</b> 231 <b>YEAR:</b> 11TH <b>COLLEGE:</b> WISCONSIN <b>GP/GS/DNP/IA:</b> (2/0/0/0) <b>CAREER GP/GS:</b> (154/0)
---	---

- Handled all long snapping duties vs. Miami (9/13).
- Handled all long snapping duties vs. Carolina (9/20).

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**DE JOHN ABRAHAM 55**

HT: 6-4 WT: 263 YEAR: 10TH

COLLEGE: SOUTH CAROLINA

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (115/104)

- Collared three tackles, two sacks (seven yards) and one tackle for loss vs. Miami (9/13).
- Posted three tackles vs. Carolina (9/20).


### ABRAHAM'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	3	3	2.0	7.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	3	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		6	5	2.0	7.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		437	310	86.0	541.0	0	31	5	12

### ABRAHAM'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

**TACKLES:** 3 (two times) last time: vs. Carolina (9/20)

**SACKS:** 2.0 vs. Miami (9/13)



**LB SPENCER ADKINS 59**

HT: 5-11 WT: 242 YEAR: ROOKIE

COLLEGE: MIAMI

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (0/0/0/2)

CAREER GP/GS: (0/0)

- Inactive vs. Miami (9/13).
- Inactive vs. Carolina (9/20).

### ADKINS' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA				INACTIVE				
09.20	CAR				INACTIVE				
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**DE JAMAAL ANDERSON 98**  
 HT: 6-6 WT: 289 YEAR: 3RD  
 COLLEGE: ARKANSAS  
 GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)  
 CAREER GP/GS: (33/33)

- Recorded two tackles and one pass defended vs. Miami (9/13).
- Posted two tackles vs. Carolina (9/20).

### ANDERSON'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1
09.20	CAR	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		4	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1
CAREER		85	60	2.0	10.0	0	1	0	7



**DT JONATHAN BABINEAUX 95**  
 HT: 6-2 WT: 296 YEAR: 5TH  
 COLLEGE: IOWA  
 GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)  
 CAREER GP/GS: (64/33)

- Tallied one tackle, two fumble recoveries and one tackle for loss vs. Miami (9/13).
- Posted two tackles vs. Carolina (9/20).

### BABINEAUX'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	0
09.20	CAR	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		3	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	0
CAREER		168	120	8.0	54.0	1	3	6	8

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**DE KROY BIERMANN 71**  
**HT:** 6-3 **WT:** 260 **YEAR:** 2ND  
**COLLEGE:** MONTANA  
**GP/GS/DNP/IA:** (2/0/0/0)  
**CAREER GP/GS:** (18/0)

- Posted a career-high two sacks (six yards) vs. Miami (9/13) in addition to adding one tackle for loss, one forced fumble and one tackle. He also recorded two tackles on special teams.
- Assisted on one tackle vs. Carolina (9/20).

### BIERMANN'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	1	1	2.0	6.0	0	1	0	0
09.20	CAR	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		2	1	2.0	6.0	0	1	0	0
CAREER		16	12	4.0	19.0	0	1	0	0



**S ERIK COLEMAN 26**  
**HT:** 5-10 **WT:** 207 **YEAR:** 6TH  
**COLLEGE:** WASHINGTON STATE  
**GP/GS/DNP/IA:** (2/2/0/0)  
**CAREER GP/GS:** (81/68)

- Logged eight tackles vs. Miami (9/13) for a defense that allowed 259 total yards of offense.
- Recorded a season-high nine tackles, one tackle for loss and one forced fumble vs. Carolina (9/20).

### COLEMAN'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	8	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	9	8	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		17	11	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
CAREER		495	333	2.0	9.0	10	4	1	28


### COLEMAN'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

**TACKLES:** 9 vs. Carolina (9/20)

**FORCED FUMBLES:** 1 vs. Carolina (9/20)



## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**DE CHAUNCEY DAVIS 92**

HT: 6-2 WT: 262 YEAR: 5TH

COLLEGE: FLORIDA STATE

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (65/19)

- Totaled one tackle for loss vs. Miami (9/13).
- Logged one tackle vs. Carolina (9/20).

### DAVIS' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		148	104	8.0	49.0	1	1	7	3



**S THOMAS DeCOUD 28**

HT: 6-0 WT: 193 YEAR: 2ND

COLLEGE: CALIFORNIA

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (12/2)

- Started his first career game vs. Miami (9/13) and tallied four tackles.
- Tallied a team-high 13 tackles, one pass defended and one fumble recovery vs. Carolina (9/20).

### DeCOUD'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	4	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	13	5	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	1
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		17	7	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	1
CAREER		17	7	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	1

### DeCOUD'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

**TACKLES:** 13 vs. Carolina (9/20)

**SOLO TACKLES:** 5 vs. Carolina (9/20)

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**LB TONY GILBERT 51**

HT: 6-0 WT: 245 YEAR: 6TH

COLLEGE: GEORGIA


GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (58/0)

- Saw action on special teams vs. Miami (9/13).
- Saw action on special teams vs. Carolina (9/20).

### GILBERT'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		23	15	1.0	0.0	0	0	1	0



**CB BRENT GRIMES 20**

HT: 5-10 WT: 181 YEAR: 2ND

COLLEGE: SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (16/6)

- Logged three tackles vs. Miami (9/13).
- Recorded one tackle and one pass defended vs. Carolina (9/20).

### GRIMES' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	3	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		4	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1
CAREER		51	42	1.0	0.0	1	0	0	7

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**S ANTOINE HARRIS 41**  
**HT: 5-10 WT: 205 YEAR: 3RD**  
**COLLEGE: LOUISVILLE**  
**GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)**  
**CAREER GP/GS: (27/0)**

- Saw action on special teams vs. Miami (9/13).
- Saw action on special teams vs. Carolina (9/20).

### HARRIS' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		10	7	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1



**CB TYE HILL 24**  
**HT: 5-10 WT: 185 YEAR: 4TH**  
**COLLEGE: CLEMSON**  
**GP/GS/DNP/IA: (0/0/0/2)**  
**CAREER GP/GS: (28/21)**

- Inactive vs. Miami (9/13).
- Inactive vs. Carolina (9/20).

### HILL'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA				INACTIVE				
09.20	CAR				INACTIVE				
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		94	79	0.0	0.0	4	1	1	15

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**CB CHRIS HOUSTON 23**  
 HT: 5-11 WT: 178 YEAR: 3RD  
 COLLEGE: ARKANSAS  
 GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)  
 CAREER GP/GS: (34/29)

- Recorded two tackles vs. Maimi (9/13).
- Posted five tackles, two passes defended and one interception (four yards) vs. Carolina (9/20).

### HOUSTON'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	5	3	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	2
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		7	5	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	2
CAREER		119	105	0.0	0.0	3	1	1	27

### HOUSTON'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

**TACKLES:** 5 vs. Carolina (9/20)

**INTERCEPTIONS:** 1 vs. Carolina (9/20)

**PASSES DEFENSED:** 2 vs. Carolina (9/20)



**CB CHEVIS JACKSON 22**  
 HT: 5-11 WT: 193 YEAR: 2ND  
 COLLEGE: LSU  
 GP/GS/DNP/IA: (1/0/1/0)  
 CAREER GP/GS: (17/2)

- Did not play vs. Miami (9/13).
- Recorded two tackles vs. Carolina (9/20).

### JACKSON'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA								
09.20	CAR	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		35	29	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	5

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**DT PERIA JERRY 94**  
 HT: 6-2 WT: 294 YEAR: ROOKIE  
 COLLEGE: MISSISSIPPI  
 GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)  
 CAREER GP/GS: (2/2)

- Started his first career NFL game vs. Miami (9/13) and collared one tackle.
- Started vs. Carolina vs. (9/20) before leaving the game with an injury (knee).
- Placed on Injured Reserve September 21.

### JERRY'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0



**DT THOMAS JOHNSON 93**  
 HT: 6-2 WT: 304 YEAR: 2ND  
 COLLEGE: MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE  
 GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)  
 CAREER GP/GS: (15/3)

- Posted three tackles vs. Miami (9/13).
- Recorded one assisted tackle vs. Carolina (9/20).

### JOHNSON'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	3	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		4	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		20	14	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0



## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**DT TREY LEWIS 97**

HT: 6-3 WT: 316 YEAR: 2ND

COLLEGE: WASHBURN

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (0/0/0/2)

CAREER GP/GS: (9/5)

- Inactive vs. Miami (9/13).
- Inactive vs. Carolina (9/20).

### LEWIS' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA				INACTIVE				
09.20	CAR				INACTIVE				
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		23	12	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	0



**LB CURTIS LOFTON 50**

HT: 6-0 WT: 242 YEAR: 2ND

COLLEGE: OKLAHOMA

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (18/17)

- Recorded a career-high 13 tackles and one forced fumble vs. Miami (9/13).
- Posted 10 tackles vs. Carolina (9/20).

### LOFTON'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	13	10	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
09.20	CAR	10	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		23	16	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
CAREER		131	83	1.0	7.0	0	2	0	3

### LOFTON'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

**TACKLES:** 13 vs. Miami (9/13)

**SOLO TACKLES:** 10 vs. Miami (9/13)

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**S WILLIAM MOORE 25**

HT: 6-0 WT: 218 YEAR: ROOKIE

COLLEGE: MISSOURI


GP/GS/DNP/IA: (0/0/0/2)

CAREER GP/GS: (0/0)

- Inactive vs. Miami (9/13).
- Inactive vs. Carolina (9/20).

### MOORE'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA				INACTIVE				
09.20	CAR				INACTIVE				
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0



**LB STEPHEN NICHOLAS 54**

HT: 6-3 WT: 230 YEAR: 3RD

COLLEGE: SOUTH FLORIDA

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/2/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (31/2)

- Started his first career game vs. Miami (9/13) and posted six tackles.
- Posted eight tackles and one sack (12 yards) vs. Carolina (9/20).

### NICHOLAS' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	6	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	8	5	1.0	12.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		14	11	1.0	12.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		60	46	3.0	18.0	0	0	1	2

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**CB CHRIS OWENS 21**  
**HT:** 5-9 **WT:** 179 **YEAR:** ROOKIE  
**COLLEGE:** SAN JOSE STATE  
**GP/GS/DNP/IA:** (2/0/0/0)  
**CAREER GP/GS:** (2/0)

- Saw action on special teams vs. Miami (9/13).
- Recorded one tackle on special teams vs. Carolina (9/20).

### OWENS' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0



**LB MIKE PETERSON 53**  
**HT:** 6-1 **WT:** 233 **YEAR:** 11TH  
**COLLEGE:** FLORIDA  
**GP/GS/DNP/IA:** (2/2/0/0)  
**CAREER GP/GS:** (137/129)

- Collared 11 tackles, one interception and one forced fumble in his Falcons debut vs. Miami (9/13).
- Posted 11 tackles, one pass defended and one forced fumble vs. Carolina (9/20).

### PETERSON'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	11	8	0.0	0.0	1	1	0	0
09.20	CAR	11	9	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	1
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		22	17	0.0	0.0	1	2	0	1
CAREER		1,387	809	19.5	129.5	16	8	7	41

### PETERSON'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

**TACKLES:** 11 (two times) last time: vs. Carolina (9/20)

**SOLO TACKLES:** 9 vs. Carolina (9/20)

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**DE LAWRENCE SIDBURY 90**  
 HT: 6-3 WT: 265 YEAR: ROOKIE  
 COLLEGE: RICHMOND  
 GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)  
 CAREER GP/GS: (2/0)

- Saw action vs. Maimi (9/13).
- Saw action vs. Carolina (9/20).

### SIDBURY'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0




**CB BRIAN WILLIAMS 29**  
 HT: 5-11 WT: 202 YEAR: 8TH  
 COLLEGE: NORTH CAROLINA STATE  
 GP/GS/DNP/IA: (1/1/0/0)  
 CAREER GP/GS: (108/94)

- Started in his Falcons debut and recorded four tackles and one fumble recovery vs. Miami (9/13).
- Posted four tackles and blocked a punt on special teams vs. Carolina (9/20).

### WILLIAMS' GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	4	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0
09.20	CAR	4	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		8	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0
CAREER		492	393	4.0	0.0	18	9	2	0

## UPDATED PLAYER BIOS - DEFENSE



**LB**      **COY WIRE**      **52**

HT: 6-0      WT: 225      YEAR: 8TH

COLLEGE: STANFORD

GP/GS/DNP/IA: (2/0/0/0)

CAREER GP/GS: (98/25)

- Recorded one tackle on special teams vs. Miami (9/13).
- Saw action on special teams vs. Carolina (9/20).

### WIRE'S GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

DATE	OPP.	TKLS	SOLO	SACKS	YDS	INT	FF	FR	PD
09.13	MIA	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.20	CAR	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
09.27	@NE								
10.11	@SF								
10.18	CHI								
10.25	@DAL								
11.02	@NO								
11.08	WSH								
11.15	@CAR								
11.22	@NYG								
11.29	TB								
12.06	PHI								
12.13	NO								
12.20	@NYJ								
12.27	BUF								
01.03	@TB								
2009 TOTALS		0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		117	71	5.0	39.0	0	1	0	5



**ATLANTA**  
**FALCONS**



**ADDITIONAL BIDS**



# MARTY BOOKER

## #80

**Wide Receiver**

**Height:** 6-0

**Weight:** 205

**NFL Experience:** 11

**Acquired:** FA-'09

**1st Year with Falcons**

**Birthdate:** 7/31/76

**College:** Louisiana-Monroe



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### TRANSACTIONS

- Selected as a third round (78th overall) draft choice by the Chicago Bears in 1999.
- Traded to the Miami Dolphins with a conditional pick on August 21, 2004.
- Released by Miami on February 12, 2008 and signed with Chicago on March 11, 2008.
- Signed by the Falcons as a free agent on August 6, 2009.

### CAREER

- In 141 career games, has totaled 523 receptions for 6,522 yards (12.5 avg.) and 36 touchdowns.
- Currently ranks tied for third in Bears history with 329 receptions and sixth in receiving yardage (3,895).
- Posted two 1,000-yard receiving campaigns in 2001 and '02 while combining for 14 touchdowns in those two seasons.
- Received his first Pro Bowl nomination in 2002 after finishing the season with 1,189 yards and six touchdowns on 97 receptions.

### 2008 (BEARS)

- In 13 games, totaled 14 receptions for 211 yards and two touchdowns.
- Extended his streak of consecutive games with at least one catch to a franchise-record 60 games at Carolina (9/14).
- Hauled in three receptions for a team-high 79 yards (26.3 avg.) against Minnesota (10/19), including a 51-yard touchdown.

### 2007 (DOLPHINS)

- Led the Dolphins in receptions (50) and receiving yardage (556) while adding one touchdown in 15 games.
- The campaign marked the sixth time in his nine-year career he recorded 50-plus catches.
- Recorded his 500th reception of his career against Baltimore (12/16).

### 2006 (DOLPHINS)

- Saw action in 14 contests and finished with 55 receptions for 747 yards and six touchdowns. Also contributed with three rushes for 19 yards.
- His receiving total led the team and his six touchdown grabs on 55 receptions ranked fourth.
- Caught a 52-yard pass in the season opener at Pittsburgh (9/7), which marked the longest reception for the Dolphins all season.
- Notched a career-long 18-yard rush against Tennessee (9/24).
- Matched a career-high with a touchdown catch in three-straight contests.

### 2005 (DOLPHINS)

- Ranked second on the Dolphins with 686 receiving yards and third with 39 receptions and three touchdown catches in 15 games.
- Caught a 60-yard touchdown against Denver (9/11), which was the second-longest pass play for the team in 2005.

### 2004 (DOLPHINS)

- In 15 starts, finished third on the Miami roster with 50 receptions for 638 yards and one touchdown.
- Completed a 48-yard touchdown pass against St. Louis (10/24).
- Posted a reception in every contest he played in for the fourth year in a row.

### 2003 (BEARS)

- Competed in 13 games and led the Bears in receiving for the third-straight season finishing the year with 715 yards and four touchdowns on 52 receptions.
- Led or tied the team in receptions on 10 occasions and receiving yards eight times.

## 2002 (BEARS)

- Earned his first Pro Bowl selection after he accumulated 97 receptions (ranked third in the NFC and tied for sixth in the NFL) for 1,189 yards (seventh in the NFC) and six touchdowns.
- His 97 receptions ranked second in team history trailing his 100 catches from the 2001 campaign.
- His 1,189 receiving yards ranked fourth for a single-season in Bears history.
- Tied for fourth in the League with 20 receptions of 20 yards or longer while placing seventh in the NFC with 54 first-down catches.
- Threw a 44-yard touchdown pass to Marcus Robinson against New England (11/10).

## 2001 (BEARS)

- Started all 16 games and set a Bears single-season reception record with 100, breaking the old mark of 93 set by Johnny Morris in 1964.
- His reception total ranked second in the NFC and sixth in the NFL.
- Ranked ninth in the NFC with 1,071 receiving yards.
- Became just the seventh receiver (eighth time) in Bears history to post a 1,000-yard receiving season.

## 2000 (BEARS)

- In 15 games, finished third on the Bears with 47 receptions for 490 yards and two touchdowns.
- Had five catches for 56 yards against Detroit (9/24), a game which began his streak of 82-straight games with a reception.

## 1999 (BEARS)

- Caught 19 passes for 219 yards and three touchdowns in nine games.
- First NFL reception occurred against Minnesota (11/14) while he finished the game with seven receptions for 134 yards and two touchdowns in his first start.
- Became the first Bears rookie to register a 100-yard receiving game since 1983.

## COLLEGE

- Finished his four-year collegiate career (1995-98) ranked second in Louisiana-Monroe history with 178 receptions and 2,784 yards.
- Was a three-year starter who scored 23 touchdowns and averaged 15.6 yards per catch.
- Was an All-Independent first-team selection as a senior with 75 catches for 1,168 yards and 11 touchdowns, averaging 106.2 yards per game.

## PERSONAL

- Attended Jonesboro-Hodge High School in Jonesboro, La. and finished his prep career with 1,418 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior quarterback.
- Was named the 2002 Bear of the Year by Chicago Chapter of the March of Dimes.
- Born in Marrero, Louisiana.
- Has a daughter, Darian Brianna and a son, Jaden Montez.

## BOOKER'S CAREER RECEIVING AND RUSHING STATISTICS

### OFFENSE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>GP/GS</u>	<u>Rec</u>	<u>Yds</u>	Receiving			<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	Rushing		
					<u>Avg</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>			<u>Avg</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>
1999	Chi	9/4	19	219	11.5	57t	3	1	8	8.0	8	0
2000	Chi	15/7	47	490	10.4	41	2	2	-1	-0.5	5	0
2001	Chi	16/16	100	1,071	10.7	66t	8	4	8	2.0	13	0
2002	Chi	16/16	97	1,189	12.3	54	6	0	0	0.0	0	0
2003	Chi	13/13	52	715	13.8	61t	4	3	-7	-2.3	1	0
2004	Mia	15/15	50	638	12.8	45	1	1	-8	-8.0	-8	0
2005	Mia	15/12	39	686	17.6	60t	3	0	0	0.0	0	0
2006	Mia	14/13	55	747	13.6	52	6	3	19	6.3	18	0
2007	Mia	15/15	50	556	11.1	26	1	2	12	6.0	12	0
2008	Chi	13/5	14	211	15.1	51t	2	1	3	3.0	3	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>141/116</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>6,522</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>66t</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>

## BOOKER'S POSTSEASON CAREER RECEIVING AND RUSHING STATISTICS

### OFFENSE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>GP/GS</u>	<u>Rec</u>	<u>Yds</u>	Receiving			<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	Rushing		
					<u>Avg</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>			<u>Avg</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>
2001	Chi	1/1	2	18	9.0	14	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1/1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



# TYE HILL

## #24

**Cornerback**  
**Height:** 5-10  
**Weight:** 185  
**NFL Experience:** 4  
**Acquired:** Tr - '09 (Stl)  
**1st Year with Falcons**  
**Birthdate:** 6/3/82  
**College:** Clemson



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### TRANSACTIONS

- Originally selected by the St. Louis Rams in the first round (15th overall) in the 2006 NFL Draft.
- Traded to the Atlanta Falcons on September 1, 2009 in exchange for a 2010 undisclosed draft selection.

### CAREER

- Has started in 21 of 28 career games while contributing with 94 tackles (79 solo), four interceptions, 15 passes defended, one fumble recovery and one forced fumble.
- Earned All-Rookie honors from *Pro Football Weekly* and the Professional Football Writers of America.

### 2008 (RAMS)

- Started the first four games of the season at left cornerback and totaled 22 tackles (19 solo), two passes defended and one fumble recovery.
- A knee injury suffered against Buffalo in Week 4 sidelined Hill until he was finally placed on injured reserve (12/8).
- Tied a career-high with six solo tackles against Philadelphia (9/7).
- Made a career-high with seven tackles (five solo) vs. the New York Giants (9/14).

### 2007 (RAMS)

- Competed in eight games (starting in seven) while contributing with 30 tackles (27 solo), one interception and nine passes defended.
- Placed on injured reserve (12/7).
- Collared a career-high with six solo tackles against Carolina (9/9).
- Grabbed his first interception of the season, added three solo tackles and posted a season-high three passes defended at San Francisco (11/18).

### 2006 (RAMS)

- Started in 10 of 16 games as a rookie and finished the season with 42 tackles (33 solo), a team-high three interceptions, four passes defended and one fumble recovery.
- His three interceptions were the most by a Rams rookie since linebacker Pisa Tinoisamoa tallied three in 2003.
- Earned All-Rookie honors from *Pro Football Weekly* and the Professional Football Writers of America.
- Made his first career interception against Denver (9/10).
- Tied for the team lead with six tackles vs. Chicago (12/11).

### COLLEGE

- Finished his Clemson career with 149 tackles (118 solo), three sacks, two forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries, five interceptions and 35 passes defended.
- In 12 games on offense, gained 209 yards with two touchdowns on 37 carries.
- A finalist for the Thorpe Award, given to the nation's top defensive back.
- Named the team's most improved player as a sophomore.
- Earned ACC Defensive Back of the Week honors against Florida State.

### PERSONAL

- Attended Woodland High School in St. George, South Carolina and was an all-state selection as a junior and senior.
- Rushed for 1,445 yards and 16 touchdowns in seven games as a senior.
- Was an All-America selection in both football and track.
- Earned *High School Sports Report* and Low Country Track Athlete of the Year.

**DEFENSE**

<u>Year</u>		<u>GP/GS</u>	<u>Tckls</u>	<u>Solo</u>	<u>Asst</u>	<u>Sks</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Int</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>PD</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>TD</u>
2006	STL	16/10	42	33	9	0.0	0.0	3	20	14	0	4	0	1	2	0
2007	STL	8/7	30	27	3	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0
2008	STL	4/4	22	19	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>28/21</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Statistics:** Totaled nine special teams tackles in 2006 and posted three special teams stops in 2007.



# BRIAN WILLIAMS

## #29

**Defensive Back**

**Height:** 5-11

**Weight:** 202

**NFL Experience:** 8

**Acquired:** FA - '09

**1st Year with Falcons**

**Birthdate:** 7/2/79

**College:** North Carolina State



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### TRANSACTIONS

- Originally selected by the Minnesota Vikings in the fourth round (105th overall) of the 2002 NFL Draft.
- Signed by Jacksonville as an unrestricted free agent on March 11, 2006.
- Signed by the Falcons as a free agent on September 6, 2009.

### CAREER

- A versatile defender who can play both the safety and cornerback positions.
- Has competed in 107 career games (93 starts) and totaled 484 tackles (387 solo), 18 interceptions, 71 passes defended, four sacks, nine forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and 42 special teams tackles.
- Set a Jaguars team record in 2007 having intercepted a pass in three consecutive games.
- Tied a Minnesota single-game record with three interceptions against Detroit on November 23, 2003.
- Only the fourth player in Vikings history to post 200-plus yards on interception returns in a season (2003).
- Holds Minnesota's single-season sack record by a cornerback with three in 2003.
- Earned NFC Defensive Player of the Week honors in 2003.

### 2008 (JAGUARS)

- Only one of four players to start all 16 games, starting at strong safety for the first five before moving to cornerback for the final 11 contests.
- Ranked fourth on the team and led the secondary with 89 tackles (78 solo), the second-highest total of his career.
- Added two interceptions, 10 passes defended and three tackles for loss.
- Totaled 11 tackles against Buffalo (9/14).
- Led the secondary with 10 tackles (nine solo) at Chicago (12/7).

### 2007 (JAGUARS)

- Started 14 games at right cornerback and finished the season with 71 tackles (51 solo), one forced fumble, three interceptions and nine passes defended.
- Set a team record with an interception in three consecutive games.
- Recorded a season-high eight tackles and one pass defended in the season opener against Tennessee (9/9).
- His three interceptions came in consecutive weeks against Matt Schaub (10/14 vs. Hou), Peyton Manning (10/22 vs. Ind) and Vince Young (11/11 at Ten).

### 2006 (JAGUARS)

- Started 15 games in his first season with the Jaguars and totaled 63 tackles (47 solo), one forced fumble, one interception and six special teams tackles.
- Collected his first interception as a member of the Jaguars against the New York Jets (10/8).

### 2005 (VIKINGS)

- Played in 14 games with nine starts and totaled 46 tackles (40 solo), four interceptions, one sack, two forced fumbles and nine passes defended.
- Posted five tackles, one sack and one forced fumble against Detroit (11/6).
- Made a season-high two interceptions and six tackles along with one forced fumble against St. Louis (12/11).

### 2004 (VIKINGS)

- Started all 16 games and two postseason games while ranking sixth on the team with a career-high 92 tackles and 11 passes defended.
- Finished with two interceptions, two forced fumbles and led the secondary with four tackles for loss.
- Recorded nine tackles, one forced fumble and two passes defended against Jacksonville (11/28).
- Grabbed one interception in his second consecutive game to go along with seven tackles at Detroit (12/19).



## 2003 (VIKINGS)

- Started all 16 games for the first time in his career and totaled 80 tackles (63 solo), five interceptions, 16 passes defended, three sacks and two forced fumbles.
- Helped the Vikings rank second in the NFL with 28 total interceptions.
- His three sacks set a team record for a cornerback.
- Totaled 205 interception return yards, becoming only the fourth player in team history with 200-plus yards on interception returns.
- Returned an interception 42 yards for his first career touchdown against Detroit (11/23).
- Set a career-high with 10 tackles (seven solo) at Detroit (9/21).
- Posted six tackles and one interception along with three passes defended against San Francisco (9/28).
- Finished with six tackles, one sack and one forced fumble at Oakland (11/16).
- Tied the club's single-game record with three interceptions, earning NFC Defensive Player of the Week honors against Detroit (11/23).

## 2002 (VIKINGS)

- Stepped in as a rookie and competed in 16 games with seven starts.
- Compiled 44 tackles, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery, six passes defended and one interception.
- Earned first career start and finished with four tackles and one pass defended against Green Bay (11/17).
- Started in the season finale and recorded his first career interception and forced fumble at Detroit (12/29).

## COLLEGE

- A three-year starter for North Carolina State at free safety and cornerback.
- Started 10 of 11 games as a senior following his move to free safety from cornerback in his junior campaign.
- Led the team as a sophomore and ranked fifth in the ACC in with a career-high 131 tackles, which was the best single-season total by a Wolfpack player since 1994.

## PERSONAL

- Attended Southwest Guilford High School in High Point, North Carolina.
- Selected as Piedmont Triad 3A 1997 Player of the Year.
- Named to the *Raleigh News Observer* Carolinas' Top 25 prospect recognition.
- Competed in the 1997 Shrine Bowl Game.

## DEFENSE

<u>Year</u>		<u>GP/GS</u>	<u>Tckls</u>	<u>Solo</u>	<u>Asst</u>	<u>Sks</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Int</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>PD</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>TD</u>
2002	MIN	16/7	44	38	6	0.0	0.0	1	2	2	0	6	1	1	0	0
2003	MIN	16/16	80	63	17	3.0	17.0	5	205	77	1	16	2	0	0	0
2004	MIN	16/16	92	71	21	0.0	0.0	2	14	14	0	11	2	0	0	0
2005	MIN	14/9	46	40	6	1.0	6.0	4	59	31	0	9	2	0	0	0
2006	JAX	15/15	63	47	16	0.0	0.0	1	4	4	0	10	1	0	0	0
2007	JAX	14/14	70	50	20	0.0	0.0	3	10	6	0	9	1	0	0	0
2008	JAX	16/16	89	78	11	0.0	0.0	2	31.0	27	0	10	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>107/93</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Statistics:** Totaled 12 special teams tackles in 2002, 13 special teams stops in 2003, two special teams tackles in 2004, nine special teams stops in 2005 and six special teams tackles in 2006.

**ATLANTA**  
**FALCONS**



**GAME REVIEWS**



# FALCONS 19 DOLPHINS 7

December 14, 2008  
Georgia Dome - Atlanta, GA



The Atlanta Falcons pledged to get younger and faster on defense in the offseason -- and they did -- but in their impressive season-opening defensive performance in a 19-7 win over the Miami Dolphins at the Georgia Dome, the thirty-somethings were the ones who made most of the big plays.

Thirty-one-year-old defensive end John Abraham produced two sacks, 33-year-old linebacker Mike Peterson forced a fumble that ended a Dolphins' drive in the red zone and also intercepted a pass, and 30-year-old corner back Brian Williams returned a fumble 53 yards to set up a Falcons' field goal.

Not to be completely outdone by his elders, second-year defensive end Kroy Biermann notched a career-high two sacks and forced a fumble and second-year linebacker Curtis Lofton also forced a fumble and led the team with 11 tackles.

In the end, an all-around team performance led to a showing that few saw coming: The Falcons kept the Dolphins scoreless until the final 3:21 of regulation, forced four turnovers and held Miami to 259 total yards.

In comparison, when the Falcons ranked 24th overall in total yards last season, they allowed 348.2 per game and they earned the 11th best scoring defense in the NFL by yielding 20.3 points per game. So, one game into the season -- against a quality opponent -- the Falcons are ahead on both counts.

On the offensive side of the ball, quarterback Matt Ryan completed 22 of 36 passes for 229 yards, two touchdowns and a long reception of 22 yards for a 98.0 passer rating. The first touchdown of the 2009 season came on a one-yard toss to fullback Ovie Mughelli in the second quarter to give the Falcons a 7-0 lead. Ryan totaled 149 first half passing yards, which marked his fifth-highest career total in a first half.

Ryan opened the scoring in the third quarter when he threw a 20-yard touchdown strike to tight end Tony Gonzalez, giving the Falcons a 16-0 lead. The touchdown for Gonzalez was his first in a Falcons uniform as he led the team with five receptions for 73 yards and that score. He also became the 21st player in NFL history to surpass 11,000 career receiving yards when he hauled in the 20-yard score.

With the addition of two Jason Elam field goals from 36 and 50 yards away, the Falcons solidified a 19-7 victory.

Three other Atlanta receivers produced over 40 receiving yards including running back Jerious Norwood who tied his single-game career high with five receptions.

Running back Michael Turner led the Falcons in rushing with 65 yards on 22 carries.

## ATLANTA FALCONS

RUSHING	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
M. Turner	22	65	3.0	12	0
J. Norwood	2	7	3.5	5	0
M. Ryan	4	-4	-1.3	-1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>

PASSING	No	Cmp	Yds	Sk/Yd	TD	LG	INT	RT
M. Ryan	36	22	229	2/16	2	22	0	98.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>2/16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98.0</b>

RECEIVING	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
T. Gonzalez	5	73	14.6	20	1
J. Norwood	5	49	9.8	12	0
R. White	5	42	8.4	14	0
M. Jenkins	4	41	10.3	22	0
O. Mughelli	2	22	11.0	21	1
J. Snelling	1	2	2.0	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>

## FALCONS VS. DOLPHINS STARTERS

### FALCONS

#### OFFENSE

WR	M. Jenkins
LT	S. Baker
LG	J. Blalock
C	T. McClure
RG	H. Dahl
RT	T. Clabo
TE	T. Gonzalez
WR	R. White
QB	M. Ryan
RB	M. Turner
FB	O. Mughelli

#### DEFENSE

RE	J. Abraham
DT	P. Jerry
DT	J. Babineaux
LE	J. Anderson
OLB	S. Nicholas
MLB	C. Lofton
OLB	M. Peterson
RCB	C. Houston
LCB	B. Williams
SS	E. Coleman
FS	T. DeCoud

### DOLPHINS

#### OFFENSE

WR	T. Ginn
LT	J. Long
LG	J. Smiley
C	J. Grove
RG	D. Thomas
RT	V. Carey
WR	G. Camarillo
TE	A. Fasano
QB	C. Pennington
RB	R. Brown
FB	L. Polite

#### DEFENSE

LE	K. Langford
DT	J. Ferguson
RE	R. Starks
SLB	J. Taylor
ILB	C. Crowder
ILB	A. Ayodele
WLB	J. Porter
LCB	W. Allen
RCB	S. Smith
SS	Y. Bell
FS	G. Wilson

## TEAM STATISTICS

	Dolphins	Falcons
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	16	19
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	4-11-36%	6-15-40
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-1-100%	0-0-0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	259	281
NET YARDS RUSHING	96	68
NET YARDS PASSING	163	213
PASS ATTEMPTS - COMPLETIONS-HAD INTERCEPTED	30-21-1	36-22-0
KICKOFFS - NUMBER - IN ENDZONE - TOUCHBACK	2-0-0	5-4-0
PUNTS - NUMBER AND AVERAGE	5-45.0	4-38.8
FGS - PATS HAD BLOCKED	0-0	0-0
NET PUNTING AVERAGE	38.8	31.0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (NOT INCLUDING KICKOFFS)	11	70
PENALTIES NUMBER AND YARDS	4-27	4-35
FUMBLES NUMBER AND LOST	3-3	1-0
TOUCHDOWNS	1	2
EXTRA POINTS MADE-ATTEMPTS	1-1	1-2
FIELD GOALS MADE-ATTEMPTS	0-0	2-4
RED ZONE EFFICIENCY	1-2-50%	1-4-25%
GOAL TO GO EFFICIENCY	1-1-100%	1-2-50%
SAFETIES	0	0
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:07	30:53

## SCORING DRIVE

Team	Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	Dolphins	Falcons
Falcons	2	8:37	O. Mughelli 1 yd. pass from M. Ryan (J. Elam kick)	0	7
Falcons	2	0:32	J. Elam 36 yd. Field Goal	0	10
Falcons	3	1:17	T. Gonzalez 20 yd. pass from M. Ryan (Kick Failed)	0	16
Falcons	4	7:35	J. Elam 50 yd. Field Goal	0	19
Dolphins	4	3:22	R. Williams 9 yd. pass from C. Pennington (D. Carpenter kick)	7	19

## MIAMI DOLPHINS

RUSHING	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
R. Brown	10	43	4.3	14	0
R. Williams	7	39	5.6	14	0
T. Ginn	2	9	4.5	8	0
L. Polite	2	5	2.5	9	0
P. White	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>

PASSING	No	Cmp	Yds	Sk/Yd	TD	LG	INT	RT
C. Pennington	29	21	176	4/13	1	21	1	84.8
P. White	1	0	0	0/0	0	0	0	39.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>4/13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>82.1</b>

RECEIVING	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
D. Bess	7	57	8.1	21	0
R. Brown	3	10	3.3	9	0
T. Ginn	2	26	13.0	16	0
G. Camarillo	2	20	10.0	15	0
R. Williams	2	19	9.5	10	1
B. Hartline	2	13	6.5	7	0
A. Fasano	2	10	5.0	10	0
J. Haynos	1	21	21.0	21	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>



# FALCONS 28 PANTHERS 20

December 20, 2009  
Georgia Dome - Atlanta, GA



Matt Ryan completed 78 percent of his passes in a 28-20 victory over Carolina at the Georgia Dome on Sunday and threw for three touchdowns in one half for the first time in his career – both career firsts.

The Falcons are 2-0 for the first time since 2006 and Ryan is 43-of-63 (68 percent) for 449 yards with five touchdowns and one interception, which he threw on Sunday.

In the victory over the Panthers, he completed 13 consecutive passes from the 6:09 mark of the second quarter until 13:11 remained in the fourth. During that time period, the Falcons went from trailing by 10-7 to building the lead they would never surrender. He even put his shoulder into the line on two occasions to collect two huge fourth-down conversions on quarterback sneaks.

Carolina notched a field goal on its opening offensive possession, however the Falcons responded when Ryan completed a 24-yard strike to tight end Tony Gonzalez late in the first quarter. Gonzalez led the team in receiving for the second consecutive week with seven receptions for 71 yards and a touchdown.

Both teams combined for 24 points in the second quarter as Ryan hit running back Jason Snelling for a 10-yard touchdown, the first receiving score of his career, and found wide receiver Roddy White for a seven-yard touchdown with 50 seconds remaining until halftime. The Panthers kept it close with a DeAngelo Williams three-yard rushing touchdown and a John Kasay 50-yard field goal.

After a scoreless third quarter, Falcons running back Michael Turner hit paydirt for the first time this season on a one-yard rush to put Atlanta ahead 28-13. Carolina quarterback Jake Delhomme then hit Dante Rosario for an 11-yard touchdown at the 6:45 mark in the fourth quarter to bring the Panthers within one score.

Carolina got the ball back on two occasions in the closing minutes of the game, however cornerback Chris Houston stalled the Panthers first attempt at a comeback with an interception at the four-yard line. After the Falcons were forced to punt again, Michael Koenen unloaded a 57-yard punt, causing the Carolina to start its ensuing drive on their own 26-yard line. A Hail Mary attempt was knocked down in the end zone as the Falcons claimed a 28-20 win. Koenen tied a Falcons single-game record with five touchbacks on five attempts and recorded a 49.7 punting average.

On the defensive side of the ball, Atlanta forced two turnovers while linebacker Stephen Nicholas posted his first sack of the season.

Linebacker Mike Peterson forced his second fumble of the year in the third quarter. The ball was recovered by the Falcons, which led to an eventual touchdown. In two games this season, Peterson has forced three opponent turnovers, which have accounted for 16 Falcons points.

## TEAM STATISTICS

	Panthers	Falcons
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	24	23
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	7-12-58%	6-12-50%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-1-0%	2-2-100%
TOTAL NET YARDS	440	371
NET YARDS RUSHING	144	151
NET YARDS PASSING	296	220
PASS ATTEMPTS - COMPLETIONS-HAD INTERCEPTED	41-25-1	27-21-1
KICKOFFS - NUMBER - IN ENDZONE - TOUCHBACK	5-4-2	5-5-5
PUNTS - NUMBER AND AVERAGE	2-25.5	3-49.7
FGS - PATS HAD BLOCKED	0-0	0-0
NET PUNTING AVERAGE	25.5	44.0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (NOT INCLUDING KICKOFFS)	30	4
PENALTIES NUMBER AND YARDS	6-35	6-40
FUMBLES NUMBER AND LOST	2-1	1-1
TOUCHDOWNS	2	4
EXTRA POINTS MADE-ATTEMPTS	2-2	4-4
FIELD GOALS MADE-ATTEMPTS	2-2	0-0
RED ZONE EFFICIENCY	2-3-67%	3-4-75%
GOAL TO GO EFFICIENCY	1-1-100%	3-3-100%
SAFETIES	0	0
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:28	31:32

## SCORING DRIVE

Team	Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	Panthers	Falcons
Panthers 1	9:52	J. Kasay 38 yd. Field Goal		3	0
Falcons 1	0:37	T. Gonzalez 24 yd. pass from M. Ryan (J. Elam kick)		3	7
Panthers 2	12:25	D. Williams 3 yd. run (J. Kasay kick)		10	7
Falcons 2	5:10	J. Snelling 10 yd. pass from M. Ryan (J. Elam kick)		10	14
Panthers 2	1:49	J. Kasay 50 yd. Field Goal		13	14
Falcons 2	0:50	R. White 7 yd. pass from M. Ryan (J. Elam kick)		13	21
Falcons 4	12:23	M. Turner 1 yd. run (J. Elam kick)		13	28
Panthers 4	6:45	D. Rosario 11 yd. pass from J. Delhomme (J. Kasay kick)		20	28

## ATLANTA FALCONS

RUSHING	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
M. Turner	28	105	3.8	16	1
J. Snelling	6	37	6.2	20	0
J. Norwood	1	6	6.0	6	0
M. Ryan	2	3	1.5	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>

PASSING	No	Cmp	Yds	Sk/Yd	TD	LG	INT	RT
M. Ryan	27	21	220	0/0	3	27	1	122.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>122.2</b>

RECEIVING	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
T. Gonzalez	7	71	10.1	24t	1
R. White	6	53	8.8	17	1
M. Jenkins	3	33	11.0	24	0
M. Booker	2	42	21.0	27	0
J. Snelling	1	10	10.0	10t	1
B. Finneran	1	6	6.0	6	0
M. Turner	1	5	5.0	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>

## FALCONS VS. PANTHERS

### STARTERS

#### FALCONS

##### OFFENSE

WR	M. Jenkins
LT	S. Baker
LG	J. Blalock
C	T. McClure
RG	H. Dahl
RT	T. Clabo
TE	T. Gonzalez
WR	R. White
QB	M. Ryan
RB	M. Turner
TE	J. Peele

##### DEFENSE

RE	J. Abraham
DT	P. Jerry
DT	J. Babineaux
LE	J. Anderson
OLB	S. Nicholas
MLB	C. Lofton
OLB	M. Peterson
RCB	C. Houston
LCB	B. Williams
SS	E. Coleman
FS	T. DeCoud

#### PANTHERS

##### OFFENSE

WR	S. Smith
LT	J. Gross
LG	T. Wharton
C	R. Kalil
RG	K. Vincent
RT	J. Otah
WR	M. Muhammad
TE	J. King
QB	J. Delhomme
RB	D. Williams
FB	B. Hoover

##### DEFENSE

LE	T. Brayton
DT	L. Leonard
DT	D. Lewis
RE	J. Peppers
SLB	N. Diggs
MLB	J. Beason
WLB	T. Davis
LCB	C. Gamble
RCB	R. Marshall
SS	Q. Teal
FS	C. Godfrey

## CAROLINA PANTHERS

RUSHING	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
D. Williams	16	79	4.9	16	1
J. Stewart	9	65	7.2	28	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>

PASSING	No	Cmp	Yds	Sk/Yd	TD	LG	INT	RT
J. Delhomme	25	41	308	1/12	1	32	1	82.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>1/12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>82.2</b>

RECEIVING	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
S. Smith	8	131	16.4	28	0
M. Muhammad	4	47	11.8	19	0
D. Williams	3	32	10.7	18	0
D. Rosario	3	31	10.3	11t	1
J. Stewart	3	14	4.7	5	0
J. King	2	38	19.0	32	0
D. Jarrett	1	9	9.0	9	0
K. Moore	1	6	6.0	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>

**ATLANTA**  
**FALCONS**



**GAME BOOK**

Date: Sunday, 9/20/2009

Carolina Panthers At Atlanta Falcons

Start Time: 1:02 PM EDT

at The Georgia Dome, Atlanta, GA

Game Day Weather

Played Indoor on Turf: Stadium Turf

Outdoor Weather: Dreary

Officials		
Referee: Carey, Don (126)	Umpire: DeFelice, Garth (53)	Head Linesman: McKenzie, Dana (8)
Line Judge: Johnson, Carl (101)	Side Judge: Meyer, Greg (78)	Field Judge: Weir, Mike (50)
Back Judge: Miles, Terrence (111)	Replay Official: McPeters, Lloyd	

Carolina Panthers				Atlanta Falcons			
Offense		Defense		Offense		Defense	
WR	89 S.Smith	LDE	96 T.Brayton	WR	12 M.Jenkins	RE	55 J.Abraham
LT	69 J.Gross	LDT	94 L.Leonard	LT	72 S.Baker	UT	95 J.Babineaux
LG	70 T.Wharton	RDT	92 D.Lewis	LG	63 J.Blalock	NT	94 P.Jerry
C	67 R.Kalil	RDE	90 J.Peppers	C	62 T.McClure	LE	98 J.Anderson
RG	68 K.Vincent	SLB	53 N.Diggs	RG	73 H.Dahl	SLB	54 S.Nicholas
RT	79 J.Otah	MLB	52 J.Beason	RT	77 T.Clabo	MLB	50 C.Lofton
TE	47 J.King	WLB	58 T.Davis	TE	88 T.Gonzalez	WLB	53 M.Peterson
WR	87 M.Muhammad	LCB	20 C.Gamble	WR	84 R.White	CB	23 C.Houston
QB	17 J.Delhomme	RCB	31 R.Marshall	QB	2 M.Ryan	CB	29 B.Williams
FB	45 B.Hoover	SS	26 Q.Teal	RB	33 M.Turner	SS	26 E.Coleman
RB	34 D.Williams	FS	30 C.Godfrey	FB	87 J.Peelle	FS	28 T.DeCoud
Substitutions				Substitutions			
K 4 J.Kasay, K 5 R.Lloyd, P 7 J.Baker, CB 21 D.Wesley, CB 23 S.Martin, RB 28 J.Stewart, RB 33 M.Goodson, CB 41 C.Munnerlyn, FB 42 T.Fiammetta, LS 44 J.Jansen, LB 50 J.Anderson, LB 55 D.Connor, LB 59 L.Johnson, G 73 M.Bernadeau, T 74 G.Schwartz, DT 77 R.Harris, WR 80 D.Jarrett, WR 81 K.Moore, TE 82 G.Barnidge, TE 88 D.Rosario, DE 91 E.Brown, DE 95 C.Johnson				K 1 J.Elam, P 9 M.Koenen, WR 14 E.Weems, CB 20 B.Grimes, CB 21 C.Owens, CB 22 C.Jackson, RB 32 J.Norwood, FB 34 O.Mughelli, S 41 A.Harris, RB 44 J.Snelling, LS 46 M.Schneck, LB 51 T.Gilbert, LB 52 C.Wire, DE 71 K.Biermann, T 74 W.Svitek, WR 80 M.Booker, WR 86 B.Finneran, TE 89 K.Zinger, DE 90 L.Sidbury, DE 92 C.Davis, DT 93 T.Johnson			
Did Not Play				Did Not Play			
QB 3 M.Moore				QB 8 C.Redman, C 66 B.Romberg			
Not Active				Not Active			
QB 11 A.Feeley, RB 22 T.Sutton, CB 27 C.Wilson, S 43 C.Harris, T 65 G.Williams, G 72 D.Robinson, DE 97 H.Taylor, DT 98 N.Hayden				QB 4 J.Wilson, CB 24 T.Hill, S 25 W.Moore, FB 36 V.Haynes, LB 59 S.Adkins, T 75 G.Reynolds, T 76 Q.Ojinnaka, DT 97 T.Lewis			

Field Goals (made ( ) & missed)	
J.Kasay	(38) (50)

		1	2	3	4	OT	Total
VISITOR:	Carolina Panthers	3	10	0	7	0	20
HOME:	Atlanta Falcons	7	14	0	7	0	28

Scoring Plays						Visitor	Home
Team	Qtr	Time	Play Description (Extra Point) (Drive Info)				
Panther	1	9:52	J.Kasay 38 yd. Field Goal (10-60, 5:08)			3	0
Falcons	1	0:37	T.Gonzalez 24 yd. pass from M.Ryan (J.Elam kick) (2-53, 1:02)			3	7
Panther	2	12:25	D.Williams 3 yd. run (J.Kasay kick) (6-80, 3:12)			10	7
Falcons	2	5:10	J.Snelling 10 yd. pass from M.Ryan (J.Elam kick) (14-80, 7:15)			10	14
Panther	2	1:49	J.Kasay 50 yd. Field Goal (8-48, 3:21)			13	14
Falcons	2	0:50	R.White 7 yd. pass from M.Ryan (J.Elam kick) (5-56, 0:59)			13	21
Falcons	4	12:23	M.Turner 1 yd. run (J.Elam kick) (12-47, 6:52)			13	28
Panther	4	6:45	D.Rosario 11 yd. pass from J.Delhomme (J.Kasay kick) (10-80, 5:38)			20	28

Paid Attendance: 67,313

Time: 3:31



Carolina Panthers vs Atlanta Falcons

9/20/2009 at The Georgia Dome

Final Individual Statistics

Carolina Panthers									Atlanta Falcons												
RUSHING			ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		RUSHING			ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD					
D.Williams			16	79	4.9	16	1		M.Turner			28	105	3.8	16	1					
J.Stewart			9	65	7.2	28	0		J.Snelling			6	37	6.2	20	0					
									J.Norwood			1	6	6.0	6	0					
									M.Ryan			2	3	1.5	2	0					
Total			25	144	5.8	28	1		Total			37	151	4.1	20	1					
PASSING			ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT	PASSING			ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT
J.Delhomme			41	25	308	1/12	1	32	1	82.2	M.Ryan			27	21	220	0/0	3	27	1	122.2
Total			41	25	308	1/12	1	32	1	82.2	Total			27	21	220	0/0	3	27	1	122.2
PASS RECEIVING			TAR	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		PASS RECEIVING			TAR	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD			
S.Smith			15	8	131	16.4	28	0		T.Gonzalez			7	7	71	10.1	24	1			
M.Muhammad			7	4	47	11.8	19	0		R.White			10	6	53	8.8	17	1			
D.Williams			6	3	32	10.7	18	0		M.Jenkins			4	3	33	11.0	24	0			
D.Rosario			4	3	31	10.3	11	1		M.Booker			3	2	42	21.0	27	0			
J.Stewart			3	3	14	4.7	5	0		J.Snelling			1	1	10	10.0	10	1			
J.King			3	2	38	19.0	32	0		B.Finneran			1	1	6	6.0	6	0			
D.Jarrett			1	1	9	9.0	9	0		M.Turner			1	1	5	5.0	5	0			
K.Moore			1	1	6	6.0	6	0													
T.Fiammetta			1	0	0	0.0	0	0													
Total			41	25	308	12.3	32	1		Total			27	21	220	10.5	27	3			
INTERCEPTIONS			NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		INTERCEPTIONS			NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD					
R.Marshall			1	13	13.0	13	0		C.Houston			1	4	4.0	4	0					
Total			1	13	13.0	13	0		Total			1	4	4.0	4	0					
PUNTING			NO	YDS	AVG	NET	TB	IN20	LG	PUNTING			NO	YDS	AVG	NET	TB	IN20	LG		
J.Baker			1	51	51.0	25.5	0	0	51	M.Koenen			3	149	49.7	44.0	0	1	57		
[BLOCKED]			1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0												
Total			2	51	25.5	25.5	0	0	51	Total			3	149	49.7	44.0	0	1	57		
PUNT RETURNS			NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD		PUNT RETURNS			NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD			
C.Munnerlyn			2	17	8.5	1	10	0		[OUT OF BOUNDS]			1	0	0.0	0	0	0			
Returns			2	17	8.5	1	10	0		Returns			0	0	0.0	0	0	0			
KICKOFF RETURNS			NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD		KICKOFF RETURNS			NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD			
[TOUCHBACK]			5	0	0.0	0	0	0		E.Weems			2	63	31.5	0	41	0			
									J.Norwood			1	39	39.0	0	39	0				
									[TOUCHBACK]			2	0	0.0	0	0	0				
Returns			0	0	0.0	0	0	0		Returns			3	102	34.0	0	41	0			

Carolina Panthers

FUMBLES	FUM	LOST	OWN-REC	YDS	TD	FORCED	OPP-REC	YDS	TD	OUT-BDS
J.Stewart	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Williams	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Godfrey	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Q.Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0

Atlanta Falcons

FUMBLES	FUM	LOST	OWN-REC	YDS	TD	FORCED	OPP-REC	YDS	TD	OUT-BDS
M.Turner	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E.Coleman	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
M.Peterson	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
T.DeCoud	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0

Carolina Panthers vs Atlanta Falcons

9/20/2009 at The Georgia Dome

Final Team Statistics

	Visitor Panthers	Home Falcons
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	24	23
By Rushing	8	10
By Passing	16	12
By Penalty	0	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	7-12-58%	6-12-50%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-1-0%	2-2-100%
TOTAL NET YARDS	440	371
Total Offensive Plays (inc. times thrown passing)	67	64
Average gain per offensive play	6.6	5.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	144	151
Total Rushing Plays	25	37
Average gain per rushing play	5.8	4.1
Tackles for a loss-number and yards	1-4	2-5
NET YARDS PASSING	296	220
Times thrown - yards lost attempting to pass	1-12	0-0
Gross yards passing	308	220
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INTERCEPTED	41-25-1	27-21-1
Avg gain per pass play (inc.# thrown passing)	7.0	8.1
KICKOFFS Number-In End Zone-Touchbacks	5-4-2	5-5-5
PUNTS Number and Average	2-25.5	3-49.7
Had Blocked	1	0
FGs - PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
Net Punting Average	25.5	44.0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	30	4
No. and Yards Punt Returns	2-17	0-0
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	0-0	3-102
No. and Yards Interception Returns	1-13	1-4
PENALTIES Number and Yards	6-35	6-40
FUMBLES Number and Lost	2-1	1-1
TOUCHDOWNS	2	4
Rushing	1	1
Passing	1	3
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	2-2	4-4
Kicking Made-Attempts	2-2	4-4
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	2-2	0-0
RED ZONE EFFICIENCY	2-3-67%	3-4-75%
GOAL TO GO EFFICIENCY	1-1-100%	3-3-100%
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	20	28
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:28	31:32

Carolina Panthers vs Atlanta Falcons

9/20/2009 at The Georgia Dome

Ball Possession And Drive Chart

Carolina Panthers

#	Time Recd	Time Lost	Time Poss	How Ball Obtained	Drive Began	# Play	Yds Gain	Yds Pen	Net Yds	1st Down	Last Scrm	How Given Up
1	15:00	9:52	5:08	Kickoff	CAR 20	10	60	0	60	3	ATL 20	Field Goal
2	7:32	6:34	0:58	Punt	CAR 5	3	1	0	1	0	CAR 6	Punt
3	3:41	1:39	2:02	Interception	CAR 46	4	6	5	11	1	ATL 43	Blocked Punt
4	0:37	12:25	3:12	Kickoff	CAR 20	6	80	0	80	4	* ATL 3	Touchdown
5	5:10	1:49	3:21	Kickoff	CAR 20	8	48	0	48	3	ATL 32	Field Goal
6	0:50	0:00	0:50	Kickoff	CAR 20	6	32	0	32	2	ATL 48	End of Half
7	8:06	4:15	3:51	Fumble	CAR 8	8	36	0	36	2	CAR 40	Fumble
8	12:23	6:45	5:38	Kickoff	CAR 20	10	85	-5	80	4	* ATL 11	Touchdown
9	5:35	2:37	2:58	Punt	CAR 32	9	61	-10	51	3	* ATL 17	Interception
10	0:30	0:00	0:30	Punt	CAR 26	5	31	0	31	2	ATL 43	End of Game
(217) Average CAR 22												

Atlanta Falcons

#	Time Recd	Time Lost	Time Poss	How Ball Obtained	Drive Began	# Play	Yds Gain	Yds Pen	Net Yds	1st Down	Last Scrm	How Given Up
1	9:52	7:32	2:20	Kickoff	ATL 39	5	28	-15	13	1	CAR 48	Punt
2	6:34	3:41	2:53	Punt	ATL 43	5	21	-10	11	1	CAR 46	Interception
3	1:39	0:37	1:02	Blocked Punt	ATL 47	2	48	5	53	2	CAR 24	Touchdown
4	12:25	5:10	7:15	Kickoff	ATL 20	14	85	-5	80	5	* CAR 10	Touchdown
5	1:49	0:50	0:59	Kickoff	ATL 44	5	56	0	56	4	* CAR 7	Touchdown
6	15:00	8:06	6:54	Kickoff	ATL 20	13	70	0	70	4	* CAR 13	Fumble
7	4:15	12:23	6:52	Fumble	CAR 47	12	43	4	47	5	* CAR 1	Touchdown
8	6:45	5:35	1:10	Kickoff	ATL 19	3	1	0	1	0	ATL 20	Punt
9	2:37	0:30	2:07	Interception	ATL 8	5	19	0	19	1	ATL 27	Punt
(293) Average ATL 33												

\* inside opponent's 20

Time of Possession by Quarter					1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Visitor	Carolina Panthers				8:45	6:46	3:51	9:06		28:28
Home	Atlanta Falcons				6:15	8:14	11:09	5:54		31:32
Kickoff Drive No.-Start Average					Panthers: 5 - CAR 20			Falcons: 5 - ATL 28		

Carolina Panthers vs Atlanta Falcons  
9/20/2009 at The Georgia Dome

Final Defensive Statistics

Carolina Panthers		Regular Defensive Plays											Special Teams					Misc					
		TKL	AST	COMB	SK /	YDS	TFL	QH	IN	PD	FF	FR		TKL	AST	FF	FR	BL		TKL	AST	FF	FR
T.Davis		10	2	12	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
C.Godfrey		8	0	8	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	1	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
J.Beason		6	0	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
J.Anderson		4	2	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
L.Leonard		4	0	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
C.Gamble		4	0	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
C.Munnerlyn		4	0	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Q.Teal		3	0	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
R.Marshall		2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	1	0	0		1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
D.Lewis		2	0	2	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
J.Peppers		2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
T.Brayton		1	1	2	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
N.Diggs		1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
C.Johnson		1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
E.Brown		1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
R.Harris		0	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
D.Connor		0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
S.Smith		0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0
J.Stewart		0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	1
Total		53	6	59	0.0	0.0	2	0	1	1	1	1		4	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	1

TKL /TK=Tackle   AST /AS=Assist   COMB=Combined   TFL=Tackles for a Loss   QH=Quarterback  
Hit  
IN=Interception   PD=Pass Defense   FF =Forced Fumble   FR=Fumble Recovery   BL=Blocked

Atlanta Falcons	Regular Defensive Plays												Special Teams					Misc			
	TKL	AST	COMB	SK	/	YDS	TFL	QH	IN	PD	FF	FR	TKL	AST	FF	FR	BL	TKL	AST	FF	FR
M.Peterson	9	0	9	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E.Coleman	8	1	9	0.0		0.0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Lofton	6	2	8	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.Nicholas	5	1	6	1.0		12.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T.DeCoud	5	0	5	0.0		0.0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Houston	3	2	5	0.0		0.0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Abraham	2	1	3	0.0		0.0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Babineaux	2	0	2	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Jackson	2	0	2	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Davis	1	1	2	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.Williams	1	0	1	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
K.Biermann	0	1	1	0.0		0.0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.Grimes	0	1	1	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T.Johnson	0	1	1	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.Finneran	0	0	0	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Owens	0	0	0	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Jenkins	0	0	0	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	44	11	55	1.0		12.0	2	4	1	6	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0

Carolina Panthers vs Atlanta Falcons  
9/20/2009 at The Georgia Dome

First Half Summary

PERIOD SCORES				TIME OF POSSESSION	
Panthers (Visitor)		3	10 = 13	Panthers	15:31
Falcons (Home)		7	14 = 21	Falcons	14:29
Scoring Plays					
Team	Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	Score	
				Visitor	Home
Panther	1	9:52	J.Kasay 38 yd. Field Goal (10-60, 5:08)	3	0
Falcons	1	0:37	T.Gonzalez 24 yd. pass from M.Ryan (J.Elam kick) (2-53, 1:02)	3	7
Panther	2	12:25	D.Williams 3 yd. run (J.Kasay kick) (6-80, 3:12)	10	7
Falcons	2	5:10	J.Snelling 10 yd. pass from M.Ryan (J.Elam kick) (14-80, 7:15)	10	14
Panther	2	1:49	J.Kasay 50 yd. Field Goal (8-48, 3:21)	13	14
Falcons	2	0:50	R.White 7 yd. pass from M.Ryan (J.Elam kick) (5-56, 0:59)	13	21

				Panthers	Falcons
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS				13	13
First Downs Rushing-Passing-by Penalty				7 - 6 - 0	3 - 10 - 0
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY				2-6-33%	4-6-67%
TOTAL NET YARDS				227	238
Total Offensive Plays				35	31
NET YARDS RUSHING				115	71
NET YARDS PASSING				112	167
Gross Yards Passing				124	167
Times thrown-yards lost attempting to pass				1-12	0-0
Pass Attempts-Completions-Had Intercepted				17 - 9 - 0	17 - 13 - 1
Punts-Number and Average				2 - 25.5	1 - 37
Penalties-Number and Yards				2 - 11	5 - 35
Fumbles-Number and Lost				0 - 0	0 - 0
Red Zone Efficiency				1-1-100%	2-2-100%
Average Drive Start				CAR 22	ATL 39

Carolina Panthers										Atlanta Falcons									
RUSHING		ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	RUSHING		ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD						
D.Williams		11	68	6.2	16	1	J.Snelling		3	33	11.0	20	0						
J.Stewart		6	47	7.8	28	0	M.Turner		10	32	3.2	9	0						
							J.Norwood		1	6	6.0	6	0						
Total		17	115	6.8	28	1	Total		14	71	5.1	20	0						
PASSING		ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT	PASSING		ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT
J.Delhomme		17	9	124	1/12	0	28	0	76.6	M.Ryan		17	13	167	0/0	3	27	112	1.8
Total		17	9	124	1/12	0	28	0	76.6	Total		17	13	167	0/0	3	27	112	1.8
PASS RECEIVING		TAR	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD	PASS RECEIVING		TAR	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD				
S.Smith		11	5	88	17.6	28	0	T.Gonzalez		5	5	63	12.6	24	1				
M.Muhammad		2	1	19	19.0	19	0	R.White		6	3	22	7.3	8	1				
J.King		1	1	6	6.0	6	0	M.Booker		3	2	42	21.0	27	0				
K.Moore		1	1	6	6.0	6	0	M.Jenkins		1	1	24	24.0	24	0				
J.Stewart		1	1	5	5.0	5	0	J.Snelling		1	1	10	10.0	10	1				
D.Williams		1	0	0	0.0	0	0	B.Finneran		1	1	6	6.0	6	0				
Total		17	9	124	13.8	28	0	Total		17	13	167	12.8	27	3				

Carolina Panthers	Regular Defensive Plays												Special Teams					Misc			
	TKL	AST	COMB	SK	/	YDS	TFL	QH	IN	PD	FF	FR	TKL	AST	FF	FR	BL	TKL	AST	FF	FR
T.Davis	6	0	6	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Godfrey	4	0	4	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Munnerlyn	3	0	3	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Anderson	2	1	3	0.0		0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Atlanta Falcons										Regular Defensive Plays						Special Teams					Misc			
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9/20/2009 at The Georgia Dome

## First Half Summary

	TKL	AST	COMB	SK / YDS	TFL	QH	IN	PD	FF	FR		TKL	AST	FF	FR	BL		TKL	AST	FF	FR
C.Lofton	4	2	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
E.Coleman	4	0	4	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
T.DeCoud	4	0	4	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
S.Nicholas	4	0	4	1.0	12.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0



CAR wins toss, elects to Receive, and ATL elects to defend the East goal.

M.Koenen kicks 70 yards from ATL 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Carolina Panthers at 15:00

1-10-CAR 20	(15:00) D.Williams right end to CAR 20 for no gain (M.Peterson, C.Lofton).	
2-10-CAR 20	(14:23) J.Delhomme pass deep right to S.Smith ran ob at CAR 47 for 27 yards.	P1
<u>1-10-CAR 47</u>	(13:59) J.Delhomme pass short left to M.Muhammad to ATL 34 for 19 yards (S.Nicholas).	P2
<u>1-10-ATL 34</u>	(13:14) D.Williams left end to ATL 31 for 3 yards (C.Lofton).	
2-7-ATL 31	(12:34) J.Delhomme pass short left to J.Stewart pushed ob at ATL 26 for 5 yards (S.Nicholas).	
3-2-ATL 26	(12:10) J.Delhomme pass short right to S.Smith to ATL 23 for 3 yards (E.Coleman).	P3
<u>1-10-ATL 23</u>	(11:31) J.Stewart right tackle to ATL 22 for 1 yard (C.Lofton, C.Davis).	
2-9-ATL 22	(10:51) D.Williams right tackle to ATL 20 for 2 yards (J.Babineaux, T.Johnson).	
	Timeout #1 by CAR at 10:07.	
3-7-ATL 20	(10:07) J.Delhomme pass incomplete short left to D.Williams (C.Houston).	
4-7-ATL 20	<b>(9:53) J.Kasay 38 yard field goal is GOOD, Center-J.Jansen, Holder-J.Baker.</b>	
<b>CAR 3 ATL 0, 10 plays, 60 yards, 5:08 drive, 5:08 elapsed</b>		

R.Lloyd kicks 70 yards from CAR 30 to ATL 0. J.Norwood to ATL 39 for 39 yards (D.Connor).

Atlanta Falcons at 9:52, (1st play from scrimmage 9:45)

1-10-ATL 39	(9:45) M.Ryan pass short left to R.White to ATL 47 for 8 yards (R.Marshall).	
2-2-ATL 47	(9:28) M.Turner right tackle to ATL 49 for 2 yards (T.Davis).	R1
<u>1-10-ATL 49</u>	(8:49) (Shotgun) J.Norwood right tackle to CAR 45 for 6 yards (T.Davis).	
	<i>PENALTY on ATL-H.Dahl, Personal Foul, 15 yards, enforced at CAR 45.</i>	
2-19-ATL 40	(8:27) M.Ryan pass short left to T.Gonzalez to CAR 48 for 12 yards (N.Diggs).	
3-7-CAR 48	(7:42) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short middle to R.White to CAR 39 for 9 yards (T.Davis).	
	Carolina challenged the pass completion ruling, and the play was REVERSED.	
	(Shotgun) M.Ryan pass incomplete short middle to R.White.	
4-7-CAR 48	(7:40) M.Koenen punts 37 yards to CAR 11, Center-M.Schneck, fair catch by C.Munnerlyn.	
	<i>PENALTY on CAR-J.Anderson, Unnecessary Roughness, 6 yards, enforced at CAR 11.</i>	

Carolina Panthers at 7:32

1-10-CAR 5	(7:32) J.Stewart right tackle to CAR 6 for 1 yard (C.Lofton).	
2-9-CAR 6	(6:53) J.Delhomme pass incomplete short left to S.Smith.	
3-9-CAR 6	(6:48) J.Delhomme pass incomplete deep middle to S.Smith.	
4-9-CAR 6	(6:42) J.Baker punts 51 yards to ATL 43, Center-J.Jansen, out of bounds.	

Atlanta Falcons at 6:34

1-10-ATL 43	(6:34) M.Turner left end to 50 for 7 yards (C.Godfrey).	
2-3-50	(5:55) M.Turner left tackle to CAR 41 for 9 yards (C.Godfrey).	R2
<u>1-10-CAR 41</u>	(5:20) M.Ryan pass short right to R.White to CAR 31 for 10 yards (C.Gamble).	
	<i>PENALTY on ATL-J.Balock, Ineligible Downfield Pass, 5 yards, enforced at CAR 41 - No Play.</i>	
1-15-CAR 46	(4:45) M.Ryan pass incomplete short right to R.White.	
2-15-CAR 46	(4:41) J.Snelling up the middle to CAR 41 for 5 yards (J.Beason).	
3-10-CAR 41	<i>(4:03) (Shotgun) PENALTY on ATL-T.Gonzalez, False Start, 5 yards, enforced at CAR 41 - No Play.</i>	
3-15-CAR 46	(3:50) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short middle intended for M.Booker INTERCEPTED by R.Marshall at CAR 33.	
	R.Marshall to CAR 46 for 13 yards (M.Jenkins).	

Carolina Panthers at 3:41

1-10-CAR 46	<i>(3:41) PENALTY on ATL-T.Johnson, Neutral Zone Infraction, 5 yards, enforced at CAR 46 - No Play.</i>	
1-5-ATL 49	(3:41) D.Williams up the middle to ATL 37 for 12 yards (E.Coleman).	R4
<u>1-10-ATL 37</u>	(3:05) J.Delhomme sacked at ATL 49 for -12 yards (S.Nicholas).	
2-22-ATL 49	(2:31) D.Williams up the middle to ATL 43 for 6 yards (J.Abraham).	
3-16-ATL 43	(1:50) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass incomplete short left to S.Smith.	
4-16-ATL 43	(1:46) J.Baker punt is BLOCKED by B.Williams, Center-J.Jansen, RECOVERED by ATL-M.Peterson at ATL 38.	
	M.Peterson to ATL 47 for 9 yards (N.Diggs). CAR-N.Diggs was injured during the play. His return is Questionable.	

Atlanta Falcons at 1:39

1-10-ATL 47	(1:39) M.Ryan pass deep left to M.Jenkins to CAR 29 for 24 yards (C.Godfrey).	P3
<u>1-10-CAR 29</u>	(:58) M.Turner up the middle to CAR 29 for no gain (T.Davis).	
	<i>PENALTY on CAR-L.Leonard, Defensive Offside, 5 yards, enforced at CAR 29 - No Play.</i>	
1-5-CAR 24	<b>(:43) M.Ryan pass deep middle to T.Gonzalez for 24 yards, TOUCHDOWN.</b>	P4
	J.Elam extra point is GOOD, Center-M.Schneck, Holder-M.Koenen.	
<b>CAR 3 ATL 7, 2 plays, 53 yards, 1 penalty, 1:02 drive, 14:23 elapsed</b>		

M.Koenen kicks 70 yards from ATL 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Carolina Panthers at 0:37

1-10-CAR 20	(:37) D.Williams left tackle to CAR 36 for 16 yards (S.Nicholas).	R5
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END OF QUARTER	Score	Time	First Downs				Efficiencies	
==== Quarter Summary =====		Poss	R	P	X	T	3Down	4Down
Carolina Panthers	3	8:45	2	3	0	5	1/4	0/0
Atlanta Falcons	7	6:15	2	2	0	4	0/2	0/0

Carolina Panthers continued.

<u>1-10-CAR 36</u>	(15:00) D.Williams up the middle to CAR 40 for 4 yards (C.Davis, C.Lofton).	
2-6-CAR 40	(14:22) J.Delhomme pass deep middle to S.Smith to ATL 32 for 28 yards (T.DeCoud).	P6
<u>1-10-ATL 32</u>	(13:40) J.Stewart left end to ATL 31 for 1 yard (C.Lofton).	
2-9-ATL 31	(13:02) J.Stewart right end pushed ob at ATL 3 for 28 yards (E.Coleman).	R7
<u>1-3-ATL 3</u>	<b>(12:31) D.Williams left end for 3 yards, TOUCHDOWN.</b>	<b>R8</b>
J.Kasay extra point is GOOD, Center-J.Jansen, Holder-J.Baker.		
<b>CAR 10 ATL 7, 6 plays, 80 yards, 3:12 drive, 2:35 elapsed</b>		

R.Lloyd kicks 70 yards from CAR 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Atlanta Falcons at 12:25

1-10-ATL 20	(12:25) M.Turner left tackle to ATL 22 for 2 yards (L.Leonard, R.Harris).	
2-8-ATL 22	(11:45) M.Turner right end to ATL 28 for 6 yards (T.Davis).	
3-2-ATL 28	(11:06) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short right to T.Gonzalez ran ob at ATL 31 for 3 yards.	P5
<u>1-10-ATL 31</u>	(10:40) M.Turner right end to ATL 35 for 4 yards (J.Anderson).	
2-6-ATL 35	(10:03) M.Ryan pass incomplete short middle to J.Peelle. <i>PENALTY on ATL, Illegal Shift, 5 yards, enforced at ATL 35 - No Play.</i>	
2-11-ATL 30	(9:59) M.Ryan pass short right to R.White to ATL 37 for 7 yards (C.Gamble, T.Brayton).	
3-4-ATL 37	(9:27) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass deep left to M.Booker to CAR 36 for 27 yards (C.Munnerlyn).	P6
<u>1-10-CAR 36</u>	(8:47) M.Turner right tackle to CAR 33 for 3 yards (C.Gamble, J.Anderson).	
2-7-CAR 33	(8:05) M.Turner up the middle to CAR 37 for -4 yards (D.Lewis).	
3-11-CAR 37	(7:29) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short left to M.Booker to CAR 22 for 15 yards (T.Davis).	P7
<u>1-10-CAR 22</u>	(6:52) M.Ryan pass incomplete short right to R.White.	
2-10-CAR 22	(6:47) M.Turner left tackle to CAR 19 for 3 yards (T.Davis).	
3-7-CAR 19	(6:09) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass incomplete short right to T.Gonzalez. Atlanta challenged the pass completion ruling, and the play was REVERSED. (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short right to T.Gonzalez to CAR 10 for 9 yards (C.Godfrey).	P8
<u>1-10-CAR 10</u>	(5:54) M.Turner up the middle to CAR 10 for no gain (J.Anderson).	
2-10-CAR 10	<b>(5:16) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short middle to J.Snelling for 10 yards, TOUCHDOWN.</b>	<b>P9</b>
J.Elam extra point is GOOD, Center-M.Schneck, Holder-M.Koenen.		
<b>CAR 10 ATL 14, 14 plays, 80 yards, 7:15 drive, 9:50 elapsed</b>		

M.Koenen kicks 70 yards from ATL 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Carolina Panthers at 5:10

1-10-CAR 20	(5:10) J.Delhomme pass deep middle to S.Smith to CAR 38 for 18 yards (C.Houston).	P9
<u>1-10-CAR 38</u>	(4:32) J.Stewart up the middle to 50 for 12 yards (T.DeCoud).	R10
<u>1-10-50</u>	(4:01) J.Delhomme pass short right to J.King to ATL 44 for 6 yards (M.Peterson).	
2-4-ATL 44	(3:21) J.Delhomme pass short right to S.Smith pushed ob at ATL 32 for 12 yards (T.DeCoud).	P11
<u>1-10-ATL 32</u>	(2:58) J.Stewart up the middle to ATL 28 for 4 yards (J.Babineaux).	
2-6-ATL 28	(2:19) D.Williams left end to ATL 32 for -4 yards (E.Coleman).	

Two-Minute Warning

3-10-ATL 32	(2:00) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass incomplete short left to M.Muhammad (M.Peterson).	
4-10-ATL 32	<b>(1:54) J.Kasay 50 yard field goal is GOOD, Center-J.Jansen, Holder-J.Baker.</b>	
<b>CAR 13 ATL 14, 8 plays, 48 yards, 3:21 drive, 13:11 elapsed</b>		

R.Lloyd kicks 67 yards from CAR 30 to ATL 3. E.Weems to ATL 44 for 41 yards (R.Marshall).

Atlanta Falcons at 1:49, (1st play from scrimmage 1:41)

1-10-ATL 44	(1:41) J.Snelling up the middle to CAR 36 for 20 yards (Q.Teal).	R10
<u>1-10-CAR 36</u>	(1:11) J.Snelling left end to CAR 28 for 8 yards (C.Munnerlyn). Timeout #1 by ATL at 01:04.	
2-2-CAR 28	(1:04) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short left to B.Finneran pushed ob at CAR 22 for 6 yards (C.Munnerlyn).	P11
<u>1-10-CAR 22</u>	(:58) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short right to T.Gonzalez to CAR 7 for 15 yards (T.Davis). <i>Penalty on CAR-T.Davis, Defensive Pass Interference, declined.</i>	P12
<u>1-7-CAR 7</u>	<b>(:53) M.Ryan pass short right to R.White for 7 yards, TOUCHDOWN.</b>	<b>P13</b>
J.Elam extra point is GOOD, Center-M.Schneck, Holder-M.Koenen.		
<b>CAR 13 ATL 21, 5 plays, 56 yards, 0:59 drive, 14:10 elapsed</b>		

M.Koenen kicks 70 yards from ATL 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Carolina Panthers at 0:50

1-10-CAR 20	(:50) J.Delhomme pass incomplete short right to S.Smith [J.Abraham].	
2-10-CAR 20	(:45) D.Williams left end to CAR 32 for 12 yards (T.DeCoud, C.Houston).	R12
<u>1-10-CAR 32</u>	(:19) J.Delhomme pass short left to K.Moore ran ob at CAR 38 for 6 yards.	
2-4-CAR 38	(:17) J.Delhomme pass incomplete deep left to S.Smith (T.DeCoud) [T.DeCoud].	
3-4-CAR 38	(:12) D.Williams up the middle to ATL 48 for 14 yards (M.Peterson). CAR-M.Muhammad was injured during the play. His return is Probable. Timeout #2 by CAR at 00:02.	R13
<u>1-10-ATL 48</u>	(:02) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass incomplete deep left to S.Smith (B.Finneran). CAR-S.Smith was injured during the play. His return is Probable.	

END OF QUARTER	Score	Time	First Downs				Efficiencies	
==== Quarter Summary =====		Poss	R	P	X	T	3Down	4Down
Carolina Panthers	13	6:46	5	3	0	8	1/2	0/0
Atlanta Falcons	21	8:14	1	8	0	9	4/4	0/0

ATL elects to Receive, and CAR elects to defend the East goal.  
R.Lloyd kicks 70 yards from CAR 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Atlanta Falcons at 15:00

1-10-ATL 20	(15:00) M.Turner left tackle to ATL 24 for 4 yards (J.Beason).	
2-6-ATL 24	(14:23) M.Turner up the middle to ATL 26 for 2 yards (J.Peppers).	
3-4-ATL 26	(13:46) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short right to R.White to ATL 43 for 17 yards (C.Godfrey).	P14
<u>1-10-ATL 43</u>	(13:10) M.Ryan pass short middle to M.Turner to ATL 48 for 5 yards (J.Beason).	
2-5-ATL 48	(12:32) M.Turner left end pushed ob at CAR 36 for 16 yards (C.Godfrey).	R15
<u>1-10-CAR 36</u>	(12:10) J.Snelling up the middle to CAR 35 for 1 yard (J.Beason, T.Davis).	
2-9-CAR 35	(11:32) M.Ryan pass short right to R.White to CAR 29 for 6 yards (C.Gamble).	
3-3-CAR 29	(11:00) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short left to T.Gonzalez to CAR 24 for 5 yards (J.Beason).	P16
	<i>Penalty on CAR-C.Munnerlyn, Illegal Use of Hands, declined.</i>	
<u>1-10-CAR 24</u>	(10:36) M.Turner right end to CAR 24 for no gain (T.Davis, J.Anderson).	
2-10-CAR 24	(9:56) M.Ryan pass short left to M.Jenkins to CAR 17 for 7 yards (T.Davis).	
3-3-CAR 17	(9:20) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short right to M.Jenkins to CAR 15 for 2 yards (C.Munnerlyn).	
4-1-CAR 15	(8:56) M.Ryan up the middle to CAR 13 for 2 yards (J.Peppers).	R17
<u>1-10-CAR 13</u>	(8:15) M.Turner up the middle to CAR 10 for 3 yards (C.Godfrey). FUMBLES (C.Godfrey), RECOVERED by CAR-Q.Teal at CAR 8.	

Carolina Panthers at 8:06

1-10-CAR 8	(8:06) D.Williams up the middle to CAR 12 for 4 yards (M.Peterson).	
2-6-CAR 12	(7:26) D.Williams left tackle to CAR 15 for 3 yards (M.Peterson).	
3-3-CAR 15	(6:48) J.Delhomme pass short right to M.Muhammad to CAR 23 for 8 yards (B.Williams).	P14
<u>1-10-CAR 23</u>	(6:15) J.Stewart up the middle to CAR 26 for 3 yards (M.Peterson).	
2-7-CAR 26	(5:41) J.Delhomme pass short right to J.King to CAR 35 for 9 yards (S.Nicholas).	
	Play Challenged by ATL and REVERSED.	
	J.Delhomme pass incomplete short right to J.King.	
3-7-CAR 26	(5:37) J.Delhomme pass short left to D.Rosario to CAR 35 for 9 yards (E.Coleman, J.Abraham).	P15
<u>1-10-CAR 35</u>	(5:03) J.Delhomme pass short left to J.Stewart to CAR 40 for 5 yards (C.Lofton, S.Nicholas).	
2-5-CAR 40	(4:24) D.Williams up the middle to CAR 44 for 4 yards (M.Peterson). FUMBLES (M.Peterson), RECOVERED by ATL-T.DeCoud at CAR 47.	

Atlanta Falcons at 4:15

1-10-CAR 47	(4:15) M.Ryan pass short left to T.Gonzalez to CAR 44 for 3 yards (C.Godfrey).	
2-7-CAR 44	(3:36) M.Turner right tackle to CAR 30 for 14 yards (C.Gamble).	R18
<u>1-10-CAR 30</u>	(2:51) M.Turner up the middle to CAR 26 for 4 yards (J.Anderson).	
2-6-CAR 26	(2:17) M.Turner left end to CAR 21 for 5 yards (J.Anderson).	
3-1-CAR 21	(1:38) J.Snelling left tackle to CAR 21 for no gain (T.Davis).	
4-1-CAR 21	(1:13) M.Ryan up the middle to CAR 20 for 1 yard (D.Lewis).	R19
<u>1-10-CAR 20</u>	(:42) M.Ryan pass short right to R.White to CAR 12 for 8 yards (T.Davis).	

END OF QUARTER	Score	Time	First Downs				Efficiencies	
==== Quarter Summary =====		Poss	R	P	X	T	3Down	4Down
Carolina Panthers	13	3:51	0	2	0	2	2/2	0/0
Atlanta Falcons	21	11:09	4	2	0	6	2/4	2/2

Atlanta Falcons continued.

2-2-CAR 12	(15:00) M.Turner up the middle to CAR 10 for 2 yards (C.Johnson, T.Davis).	R20
<u>1-10-CAR 10</u>	(14:21) M.Turner up the middle to CAR 8 for 2 yards (E.Brown).	
2-8-CAR 8	(13:46) J.Snelling up the middle to CAR 5 for 3 yards (L.Leonard).	
3-5-CAR 5	(13:11) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass incomplete short middle to T.Gonzalez. <i>PENALTY on CAR-R.Marshall, Defensive Pass Interference, 4 yards, enforced at CAR 5 - No Play.</i>	X21
<u>1-1-CAR 1</u>	(13:06) M.Turner up the middle to CAR 1 for no gain (L.Leonard).	
2-1-CAR 1	<b>(12:27) M.Turner up the middle for 1 yard, TOUCHDOWN.</b> J.Elam extra point is GOOD, Center-M.Schneck, Holder-M.Koenen.	R22

CAR 13 ATL 28, 12 plays, 47 yards, 1 penalty, 6:52 drive, 2:37 elapsed
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M.Koenen kicks 70 yards from ATL 30 to end zone, Touchback.

Carolina Panthers at 12:23

1-10-CAR 20	(12:23) D.Williams up the middle to CAR 20 for no gain (S.Nicholas, K.Biermann).	
2-10-CAR 20	(11:41) J.Delhomme pass deep middle to J.King to ATL 48 for 32 yards (E.Coleman).	P16
<u>1-10-ATL 48</u>	(11:03) D.Williams up the middle to ATL 48 for no gain (M.Peterson, E.Coleman).	
2-10-ATL 48	(10:23) D.Williams left tackle to ATL 44 for 4 yards (K.Biermann). <i>PENALTY on ATL-K.Biermann, Defensive Offside, 5 yards, enforced at ATL 48 - No Play.</i>	
2-5-ATL 43	(10:00) J.Delhomme pass deep middle to S.Smith to ATL 23 for 20 yards (C.Lofton).	P17
<u>1-10-ATL 23</u>	(9:24) J.Delhomme pass short right to S.Smith to ATL 13 for 10 yards (B.Williams). ATL-P.Jerry was injured during the play. He is Out. <i>PENALTY on CAR-S.Smith, Offensive Pass Interference, 10 yards, enforced at ATL 23 - No Play.</i>	
1-20-ATL 33	(9:07) J.Delhomme pass incomplete short left to T.Fiammetta.	
2-20-ATL 33	(9:00) J.Delhomme pass short left to J.Stewart to ATL 29 for 4 yards (C.Houston).	
3-16-ATL 29	(8:15) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass short right to D.Williams to ATL 11 for 18 yards (E.Coleman).	P18
<u>1-10-ATL 11</u>	(7:36) J.Stewart up the middle to ATL 11 for no gain (J.Abraham, C.Houston).	
2-10-ATL 11	(6:57) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass incomplete short middle to M.Muhammad.	
3-10-ATL 11	<b>(6:53) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass short middle to D.Rosario for 11 yards, TOUCHDOWN.</b> <b>Atlanta challenged the pass completion ruling, and the play was Upheld. (Timeout #1 at 06:45.)</b> J.Kasay extra point is GOOD, Center-J.Jansen, Holder-J.Baker.	P19

CAR 20 ATL 28, 10 plays, 80 yards, 1 penalty, 5:38 drive, 8:15 elapsed
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R.Lloyd kicks 73 yards from CAR 30 to ATL -3. E.Weems to ATL 19 for 22 yards (J.Anderson).

Atlanta Falcons at 6:45, (1st play from scrimmage 6:39)

1-10-ATL 19	(6:39) M.Turner left tackle to ATL 20 for 1 yard (J.Beason).	
2-9-ATL 20	(5:59) M.Ryan pass incomplete deep right to R.White.	
3-9-ATL 20	(5:52) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass incomplete deep middle to M.Jenkins.	
4-9-ATL 20	(5:46) M.Koenen punts 55 yards to CAR 25, Center-M.Schneck. C.Munnerlyn to CAR 32 for 7 yards (C.Owens).	

Carolina Panthers at 5:35

1-10-CAR 32	(5:35) J.Delhomme pass short right to D.Rosario to CAR 43 for 11 yards (M.Peterson, B.Grimes).	P20
<u>1-10-CAR 43</u>	<i>(5:00) PENALTY on CAR-L.Johnson, False Start, 5 yards, enforced at CAR 43 - No Play.</i>	
1-15-CAR 38	(4:45) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass short left to S.Smith to CAR 38 for no gain (C.Houston).	
2-15-CAR 38	(4:05) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass short right to D.Williams to 50 for 12 yards (T.DeCoud).	
3-3-50	(3:32) J.Delhomme pass deep left to S.Smith ran ob at ATL 27 for 23 yards.	P21
<u>1-10-ATL 27</u>	<i>(3:26) (Shotgun) PENALTY on CAR-J.Otah, False Start, 5 yards, enforced at ATL 27 - No Play.</i>	
1-15-ATL 32	(3:26) J.Stewart up the middle to ATL 18 for 14 yards (E.Coleman). FUMBLES (E.Coleman), and recovers at ATL 17.	R22
<u>1-10-ATL 17</u>	(3:00) J.Delhomme pass incomplete short right to D.Williams.	
2-10-ATL 17	(2:55) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass incomplete short right to D.Williams [K.Biermann].	
3-10-ATL 17	(2:48) J.Delhomme pass incomplete short right to D.Rosario.	
4-10-ATL 17	(2:44) J.Delhomme pass short left intended for S.Smith INTERCEPTED by C.Houston at ATL 4. C.Houston pushed ob at ATL 8 for 4 yards (S.Smith).	

Atlanta Falcons at 2:37

1-10-ATL 8	(2:37) M.Turner left tackle to ATL 17 for 9 yards (R.Marshall).	
Two-Minute Warning		
2-1-ATL 17	(2:00) M.Turner up the middle to ATL 18 for 1 yard (L.Leonard). Timeout #1 by CAR at 01:54.	R23
<u>1-10-ATL 18</u>	(1:54) M.Turner up the middle to ATL 17 for -1 yards (T.Brayton). Timeout #2 by CAR at 01:48.	
2-11-ATL 17	(1:48) M.Turner right end to ATL 26 for 9 yards (Q.Teal). Timeout #3 by CAR at 01:40.	
3-2-ATL 26	(1:40) M.Turner left tackle to ATL 27 for 1 yard (Q.Teal). CAR-L.Leonard was injured during the play. He is Out. Timeout #2 by ATL at 00:41.	
4-1-ATL 27	(:41) M.Koenen punts 57 yards to CAR 16, Center-M.Schneck. C.Munnerlyn to CAR 26 for 10 yards (B.Finneran).	

Carolina Panthers at 0:30

1-10-CAR 26	(:30) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass short left to M.Muhammad ran ob at CAR 35 for 9 yards.	
2-1-CAR 35	(:24) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass short left to D.Williams ran ob at CAR 37 for 2 yards (C.Jackson).	P23
<u>1-10-CAR 37</u>	(:18) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass short right to M.Muhammad ran ob at CAR 48 for 11 yards.	P24
<u>1-10-CAR 48</u>	(:13) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass short left to D.Jarrett pushed ob at ATL 43 for 9 yards (C.Jackson).	
2-1-ATL 43	(:08) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass incomplete deep right to M.Muhammad (B.Grimes). The Replay Assistant challenged the pass completion ruling, and the play was Upheld.	

END OF QUARTER	Score	Time	First Downs				Efficiencies	
==== Quarter Summary ====		Poss	R	P	X	T	3Down	4Down
Carolina Panthers	20	9:06	1	8	0	9	3/4	0/1
Atlanta Falcons	28	5:54	3	0	1	4	0/2	0/0

# Miscellaneous Statistics Report

Carolina Panthers vs Atlanta Falcons  
9/20/2009 at The Georgia Dome

**Ten Longest Plays for Carolina Panthers**

Yards	Qtr	Play Start	Play Description
32	4	2-10-CAR 20	(11:41) J.Delhomme pass deep middle to J.King to ATL 48 for 32 yards (E.Coleman).
28	2	2-9-ATL 31	(13:02) J.Stewart right end pushed ob at ATL 3 for 28 yards (E.Coleman).
28	2	2-6-CAR 40	(14:22) J.Delhomme pass deep middle to S.Smith to ATL 32 for 28 yards (T.DeCoud).
27	1	2-10-CAR 20	(14:23) J.Delhomme pass deep right to S.Smith ran ob at CAR 47 for 27 yards.
23	4	3-3-50	(3:32) J.Delhomme pass deep left to S.Smith ran ob at ATL 27 for 23 yards.
20	4	2-5-ATL 43	(10:00) J.Delhomme pass deep middle to S.Smith to ATL 23 for 20 yards (C.Lofton).
19	1	1-10-CAR 47	(13:59) J.Delhomme pass short left to M.Muhammad to ATL 34 for 19 yards (S.Nicholas).
18	2	1-10-CAR 20	(5:10) J.Delhomme pass deep middle to S.Smith to CAR 38 for 18 yards (C.Houston).
18	4	3-16-ATL 29	(8:15) (Shotgun) J.Delhomme pass short right to D.Williams to ATL 11 for 18 yards (E.Coleman).
16	1	1-10-CAR 20	(:37) D.Williams left tackle to CAR 36 for 16 yards (S.Nicholas).

**Ten Longest Plays for Atlanta Falcons**

Yards	Qtr	Play Start	Play Description
27	2	3-4-ATL 37	(9:27) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass deep left to M.Booker to CAR 36 for 27 yards (C.Munnerlyn).
24	1	1-5-CAR 24	(:43) M.Ryan pass deep middle to T.Gonzalez for 24 yards, TOUCHDOWN.
24	1	1-10-ATL 47	(1:39) M.Ryan pass deep left to M.Jenkins to CAR 29 for 24 yards (C.Godfrey).
20	2	1-10-ATL 44	(1:41) J.Snelling up the middle to CAR 36 for 20 yards (Q.Teal).
17	3	3-4-ATL 26	(13:46) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short right to R.White to ATL 43 for 17 yards (C.Godfrey).
16	3	2-5-ATL 48	(12:32) M.Turner left end pushed ob at CAR 36 for 16 yards (C.Godfrey).
15	2	1-10-CAR 22	(:58) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short right to T.Gonzalez to CAR 7 for 15 yards (T.Davis). Penalty on CAR-T.Davis, Defensive Pass Interference, declined.
15	2	3-11-CAR 37	(7:29) (Shotgun) M.Ryan pass short left to M.Booker to CAR 22 for 15 yards (T.Davis).
14	3	2-7-CAR 44	(3:36) M.Turner right tackle to CAR 30 for 14 yards (C.Gamble).
12	1	2-19-ATL 40	(8:27) M.Ryan pass short left to T.Gonzalez to CAR 48 for 12 yards (N.Diggs).

**Touchdown Scoring Information**

		Offense	Defense	Special Teams
VISITOR:	Carolina Panthers	2	0	0
HOME:	Atlanta Falcons	4	0	0

**ATLANTA**  
**FALCONS**



**FEATURE CLIPS**



**GM Dimitroff looks to build on last year's success****Falcons will grade prospects at combine on as many as 20 criteria in 'scouting matrix'****By STEVE HUMMER**

The NFL combine is under way, the college draft is on deck, and free agents are just now ripening on the vine. There is no better time to be Thomas Dimitroff, Falcons stimulus planner.

"Obviously, I love the season, but this is the time of year when I really feel like rolling up my sleeves," the Falcons GM said last week. How reassuring to find one person thriving in his job.

Dimitroff is coming off one of the great years in NFL staffing, where his every decision came up a royal flush.

The NFL's Executive of the Year hired the Coach of the Year (Mike Smith) and drafted the Offensive Rookie of the Year (Matt Ryan). His prize free agent, Michael Turner, gained better than 1,600 yards and set a team touchdown record. His top four draft picks all started at some stage of the season, and two others contributed significantly.

It was just a year ago Sunday that Dimitroff walked into the league office in New York for a coin flip that eventually landed the Falcons the third overall pick in the 2008 draft. Joel Bussert, the NFL's vice president of player personnel, took one look at the spiky-haired dude in the hip, rectangular glasses and asked, "Who are you?"

The football establishment has a little better idea who Dimitroff is now, as it awaits the next act of a 42-year-old whiz kid. He won't have the benefit of that third-overall pick — the Falcons are scheduled to choose 24th in April. His team, theoretically, is better stocked than it was a year ago, with less room for dramatic change. So, what's the encore?

**Evaluation system**

Some of the answers to that are on the big board that dominates one wall of his Flowery Branch office. With an outsider visiting last week, Dimitroff had closed the partition in front of the board. He is compelled to protect the hundreds of names of college players he has ranked there, just as Coke does its formula.

He is the son of a lifelong football guy, a Cleveland Browns scout. The late Tom Dimitroff is remembered as a "professional, quiet, hard worker, good evaluator, you know, just a real pro at what he did." Those were the words of Charley Casserly, one of the most respected GMs in the business during 16 seasons in Washington and Houston. He now lends his expertise to CBS.

Casserly applies many of those same adjectives to the younger Dimitroff, even offering him the ultimate old school compliment of being "a grinder."

It's when Dimitroff starts throwing around such terms as "scouting matrix" and "system-specific scouting" that he betrays his thoroughly modern side.

Not about to give away too many specifics of the Falcons' evaluation system, Dimitroff did offer some insight into what he most values in a player and how his decisions get made.

The Falcons' personnel staff has graded out close to 3,000 college players, assigning each a value of between 1 and 9 based on as many as 20 criteria in its "scouting matrix." By draft day, that list will be whittled down to a few hundred likely players.

Right now, the Falcons would love to land a defensive player in the 7 to 8 range.

In that process, then, what kind of player is a Dimitroff kind of player?

He is not one who will rise or fall greatly by his performance in the combine. Perhaps that will change the day the NFL makes the vertical leap one of its playoff tiebreakers.

"For me, [the combine] is a gauge, a highlight to revisit," Dimitroff said. "In the end, it's how the player performs on the field. It's production. Is he a football player? I would much rather take a guy who is a half-inch short or a quarter of a step slow who is a passionate, tough, smart football player."

## Personal level

Based on one year of evidence, a Dimitroff player doesn't require a lot of seasoning. Rookies such as Ryan, Sam Baker and Curtis Lofton displayed leadership and maturity beyond their years. No coincidence. There are a couple of components in the Falcons' system designed to weigh a player's mental strength and personality.

On intelligence: "You research it at many different levels through your contacts at the school, your actual interview with the player and discussions with other people," Dimitroff said. "You analyze tape and determine how instinctive the player is, how he moves around the field, how he picks up his keys, how he reacts."

On character and leadership: "You're watching this player interact with his teammates on the practice field and on the game field. Then again, you follow up with the film work, how much is this player showing up on every play?"

## Right instincts

Still, the bulk of the process comes down to judging the player's athletic gifts and how he fits into a team's needs.

"There is an ongoing debate in football [about] how to define athleticism," Dimitroff said. He chooses not to rely heavily on the purely objective measurements of a 40-yard dash time or a bench press standard. Instead, it's back to the game tape once more, looking for subtle differences in movement that might separate one player from another. In the Falcons' matrix, those are some of the most elemental components.

"If you don't have the fluidity, the ability to stop and start and redirect, to ad lib in certain situations, to recover from the ground, then you're not going to be making plays on the field," Dimitroff said.

In the end, talent evaluation still comes down to "a guy looking at a player and deciding if he can play," Casserly said. "There's no system that dictates whether a guy can play or not. There's no statistical measurements, no computer measurements. It's you looking at Matt Ryan and saying he's good enough, and that's all there is to it."

That is Dimitroff's fundamental strength — not the system, not the jargon, but a connoisseur's eye for talent. Don't get science and art confused. Some people just know what works on the canvas, in the wine glass or on the field.

And being Dimitroff could get even better.

How quickly he got the Falcons' scouts and coaches working off the same evaluating template was one of the real behind-the-scenes successes of last season. Now they've had a year to refine the process.

"The second year together, they will be much more in sync as a group than they were in the first year. I know from experience that every year together you do a better job," Casserly said, piling even more expectation upon Dimitroff's stylish head.

**The football world according to Thomas Dimitroff, ace GM**  
**by Mark Bradley**

We Atlantans didn't know Thomas Dimitroff from Terdell Middleton when he arrived 14 months ago, and his new employer knew him only slightly. (Remember the job interview via webcam?) But by now we should have grasped what Dimitroff is doing with the Falcons and why he's doing it. And if for some reason you haven't caught on to the TD Method, here's a crash course.

He prefers the draft to free agency. It's cheaper — "More cost-effective," Dimitroff said Monday — and more easily controlled. A club is at the mercy of the marketplace when it comes to hiring veterans, but the draft is "a way of putting your team together in the style of play and with the kind of players you want." Meaning: If you have cause to believe a guy won't fit, draft somebody else.

He views free agency only as an opportunity for surgical strikes. Michael Turner was exactly what the Falcons needed — a big back who could control the clock and take the pressure off a quarterback — and Dimitroff signed him. Nobody among this free agency class fits a similar glaring need. That doesn't mean Dimitroff will never pursue another; it means only that he'll be exactingly picky. It will be a major shock if the Falcons sign a big-name free agent before 2010, if then.

He prefers young to old. Younger means faster. Younger means more malleable. Younger often means hungrier. Of the four veterans the Falcons have just shed — Michael Boley, Keith Brooking, Domonique Foxworth and Lawyer Milloy — not one was lost by accident or oversight. Each case was a considered Dimitroff decision. Not one of the four was seen as irreplaceable.

He says what he means. Two days after the Falcons' playoff loss in Phoenix, Dimitroff said, "Our [personnel] decisions will not be driven by emotion." This meant he wasn't going to lop Brooking simply because the linebacker whiffed on third-and-16, but neither were the Dimitroff-run Falcons going to keep a player just because he's a nice guy. This is a business he's in Flowery Branch, not a boys' club.

He has two watchwords — "urgency" and "consistency." Asked to define the former, Dimitroff said: "Someone who's incredibly focused on the task at hand and who's flying around the football field with controlled reckless abandon; someone who perceives every play as the most important. I know it's an idealistic approach, but urgency is what will allow us to make that interception or pick up that ball that's rolling on the ground."

He and his head coach are of like minds. Indeed, that's why Dimitroff — who didn't know Mike Smith before he interviewed him for the Falcons' job — recommended he be hired. "We're quite congruent in our approach," Dimitroff said. "We see through similar lenses. It's settling for Mike and me to know that we perceive the building process the same way." To wit: Smith sees tackles as the core of any defense, and so does Dimitroff.

He has a scout's eye and a GM's global view. Dimitroff chose to address the offense in his draft not just because he liked the cut of Matt Ryan's jib but because he knew, from being on the road all those years, the 2009 draft would be heavier in defenders.

He's the smartest general manager the Falcons have ever had. It sounds like a backhanded compliment, along the lines of being proclaimed the finest yachtsman in all of Kansas. It's meant, however, with the deepest sincerity. Dimitroff would be the smartest GM a lot of teams have ever had. After 14 months and an 11-5 season, he has earned the ultimate affirmation: If this team makes a move, we see it as a shrewd one. Because it's a Dimitroff move.

**After a brief rest, Ryan ready to build on rookie success****By Steve Wyche | NFL.com Senior Writer**

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. -- Matt Ryan spent a few months of his offseason peddling hair care products. Now that he's back at his day job as the Atlanta Falcons quarterback, he's sporting little more than cranial peach fuzz. Totally wash and wear.

Fun time - except for the occasional golf game - is over for the reigning NFL rookie of the year. He's cut back on public appearances and travel and dusted off the right arm he kept idle since Atlanta's first-round playoff loss to Arizona in January.

"I've been really throwing for about two weeks and it was tough," Ryan said. "When it's what you do it's tough to keep that ball down as long as you would like, but I needed to rest my arm."

There was plenty of speculation that Ryan needed the rest because he became arm weary down the final stretch of the season. His passing numbers and efficiency decreased over the last few regular-season games. Ryan never cited arm fatigue but at that point of the season, he'd been throwing for nearly a year straight.

**Help wanted**

While Joe Flacco and Matt Ryan solidified their teams' quarterback spots as rookies last season, other teams remain unsettled at the game's most important position. More ... This time last year he was in full-flinging mode, throwing passes daily for scouts who wanted to gauge his arm strength and accuracy before the NFL draft. He's where Georgia's Matthew Stafford and USC's Mark Sanchez are now.

Ryan went No. 3 overall to the Falcons and shortly after being selected, he was throwing again at minicamps, offseason workouts, then training camp. By the time the season was over, he had 434 official game throws and 265 completions for 3,440 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Those were a fraction of the total tosses he threw that didn't count.

Ryan led Atlanta to 11 wins and its first playoff berth since 2004. After completing 26 of 40 passes in the season-ending loss to the Cardinals, the only thing of note Ryan pitched with his arm was mousse and gel.

"It was a good opportunity to rest my arm," Ryan said. "It was a long offseason (last spring and summer). There were a lot of throws in the offseason. Before that you had to be on point leading up to the draft. You had to be on your game. It was good to get some rest. I'm a little bit rusty but I'm getting back into it and I'm feeling very good."

Ryan's affirmation that the Falcons are his team came after the season, when he was voted captain by his teammates. It's not a title he takes lightly, which is why he has been involved in every aspect of team activities since voluntary workouts started March 23. His willingness to be among the guys is why so many of the guys have a willingness to trust in him.

Though Ryan admits after being drafted by the Falcons he was overwhelmed by everything that came with being a top pick -- and Michael Vick's replacement -- his work ethic and approach to preparation haven't changed much. His circumstances have.

At this point last year, he was loved and loathed by media and the coaches as he prepped for the draft. Loved for his guile and guts and doubted for his supposed questionable decision-making and so-so arm strength.

In other words, the scrutiny endured by Stafford, Sanchez and Kansas State's Josh Freeman is nothing new.

Now, Ryan's the sure thing.

Along with Baltimore rookie quarterback Joe Flacco, Ryan set the bar so high for rookie starting quarterbacks that expectations for Stafford, Sanchez and Freeman might be unfairly misguided.

Teams could shy away from selecting a quarterback -- possibly with the top pick -- because he might fail to measure up to Ryan or Flacco. Teams also could select a quarterback because Stafford, Sanchez or Freeman could have many of the same qualities that project to similar success.

"It's pretty unbelievable outside of your own shoes to have two rookie quarterbacks come in and go to the playoffs," Ryan said. "I'm not sure if it changed the way people think but it was a good year for (Flacco) and a solid year for myself."

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Solid. Catch that?

Ryan's refusal to beat his chest has scored more points with his teammates than you'd think. Players hate when teammates reap praise when things are good then place blame elsewhere when things aren't. What players hate more though is when the self-deprecation is phony.

Ryan has been how he's been since he arrived, so all his teammates know is a humble guy who snatched the starting job by the team's second minicamp and led the Falcons to unexpected success. There is a faith in just about everything he does, even from a jaded fan base that was predominantly upset when Atlanta drafted him over LSU defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey.

About the only thing Ryan's ever boasted about -- with prodding -- was the round of 88 he recently shot Augusta National, home of the Masters.

"I'm proud of (the score)," Ryan said. "It's a tough course. I must have three-putted 15 holes over there of the 18 the day I played. I was happy with my 88."

That's one of the few things Ryan will settle for. But don't think, if he excuses himself from his football duties long enough to finagle another rare chance to play at Augusta, he'd be happy with that score again.

Not working to be better isn't how he operates.

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### **Peterson ready to tackle new role for Falcons**

**Posted by ESPN.com's Pat Yasinskas**

Let's run one up the gap just to see if Atlanta Falcons linebacker Mike Peterson still has his reflexes at 32.

The man's made more than 800 tackles in his NFL career. So let's watch as he adds another in textbook fashion. Here's the snap and here comes Peterson. Prepare for impact.

Once and for all, Peterson wants to take what happened between him and Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio last season and bring it forever to the ground.

"You know, I had to talk with teams all about that through free agency," Peterson said. "That really bothered me personally. I mean, really bothered me, really hurt me. I don't plan on having any more problems with coaches."

Peterson's not done just yet. He wants to put the finishing touches on an episode he doesn't want to be known for.

What happened exactly is up for interpretation and Peterson doesn't argue with the basics of what was reported at the time. To make a long story short, Del Rio criticized the team captain for celebrating after a sack against Cincinnati.

Peterson tried to defend his actions, but Del Rio didn't want to hear it. He sent Peterson home twice, fined him \$10,000 for "insubordination," benched him for a game and stripped him of his captaincy and starting job.

If you ever talk to Peterson, you instantly will see he's a guy with a lot of pride and those final three punishments bothered him way more than the \$10,000 fine.

"It was the first time in whole career, at any level, that there was even a little rift between me and the coach," Peterson said. "It was something real small that blew up and I regret that very much. We weren't winning at the time and the media twisted and turned it and it got ugly. But Jack and I are fine now. To me it's history."

There, the tackle's been made. Peterson wants to get back to being the Peterson of old -- the captain, the hard-nosed and emotional linebacker who'd be the last guy anyone would ever accuse of insubordination.

That's why Peterson came to Atlanta as a free agent. He wants to get back to being the player he was for his first five seasons with Jacksonville. There were opportunities elsewhere and Peterson even made a visit to Buffalo. But, pretty much from the moment last season ended, Peterson knew he was headed for Atlanta.

He wanted to reunite with Atlanta coach Mike Smith, who was Jacksonville's defensive coordinator for five years before moving on prior to last season.

"Smitty and I came into Jacksonville together," Peterson said. "I'm familiar with him, the defense they use and I know exactly what's expected of me. He's a down-to-earth kind of guy. That's how I try to conduct myself. He's a straight shooter. I consider myself the same way. It's been a love-love relationship and he's been a guy I've clicked with since the day I met him."

Peterson's looking to click with Smith in Atlanta again, but there will be some changes from their old days together. The biggest is that Peterson won't be asked to be Smith's middle linebacker, like he was in Jacksonville.

The Falcons have Curtis Lofton, who started in the middle as a rookie and isn't going anywhere else. That's more than fine with Peterson.

"Listen, to me, I'm a born outside linebacker," Peterson said. "That's what I played in college and in Indianapolis. Del Rio asked me to move to the middle in Jacksonville and I tackled that head on. But outside linebacker is like a first girlfriend or a first love to me. I'm happy to be back at Will. They're set at Mike with Curtis. My job is to play alongside him and help him along to the next level."

That brings up the other challenge Peterson wants to tackle head-on in Atlanta. Through much of last season's surprising run to the playoffs, Smith pointed to the "over-30-club" and praised guys like linebacker Keith Brooking and safety Lawyer Milloy for their leadership.



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But Milloy and Brooking are both gone now and, aside from end John Abraham, the Falcons don't have a lot of veteran leadership on defense. That's why Peterson was the first -- and really only -- significant free-agent signing by the Falcons.

"When I got here and sat down with Smitty, the first thing he expressed to me was that he needed a leader," Peterson said. "That's what I wanted to hear. I've always tried to lead by example and let my play set the tone. That's part of my nature."

The Falcons are hoping young guys like Lofton, defensive tackle Jonathan Babineaux and cornerback Chris Houston will start emerging as leaders this season. But if they truly are going to build on last season and continue their upward path, they're going to need leadership from a guy who was down last season.

That's why Peterson is brushing himself off after the tackle and getting back up.

"We've got a lot of young guys here," Peterson said. "I've been around a long time and I know how it works. Just because you won last year doesn't mean you're going to win this year. The young guys here need to know it's a process and it doesn't happen overnight. It starts now in the offseason workouts. It's not a light switch you flip off and on. You have to work for it every day and that's the attitude we're taking. We're setting ourselves up to have a big season."

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### **NFL draft's big winner—Atlanta Falcons again**

**By JIM LITKE, AP Sports Writer**

That would be Atlanta Falcons general manager Thomas Dimitroff for the second year in a row. While the hype this weekend will be trained on who gets the glamour-boy quarterbacks—Matthew Stafford of Georgia, Mark Sanchez of Southern California and Josh Freeman of Kansas State—Dimitroff has already been there and done that.

A year after he took a big gamble on quarterback Matt Ryan with the third pick overall, Dimitroff proved how savvy he really is. This time around, he not only saved some money, but probably locked up another winning season, another playoff appearance and maybe even another NFL executive of the year award.

All because of what he did on Thursday.

“Every team in this league dreams of having Tony Gonzalez run out of the tunnel for them,” Dimitroff said after trading a 2010 second-round pick to Kansas City for the perennial All-Pro tight end.

Every GM in the league also dreams of having a free pass heading into the weekend. But Dimitroff has already filled the Falcons' most pressing offensive need, freeing him to find a quality lineman or linebacker at a good price. That's a much easier order to fill with the No. 24 pick. And as a few of his rivals are about to be reminded, there's no bigger gamble than trying to find a franchise quarterback at the top of the draft.

They're all prohibitively expensive, and most who go to a team with too many other needs wind up failing. They're an even-bigger risk when they're underclassmen, like the top three QB prospects on the board. And even if you minimize all the other risk factors, recent research by analyst George Sarkisian found that only one of every three first-round QBs, on average, ever lead a team to a conference championship game or Super Bowl.

Dimitroff knew that before he drafted Ryan, then handed him the richest rookie contract ever. While Ryan adapted to the pro game faster than a rookie should, in hindsight, Dimitroff's bet wasn't as risky as it seemed. Ryan was a four-year starter at Boston College, and the Falcons had a serviceable offensive line to protect him, a strong ground game built around emerging running back Michael Turner, and an aging, but still solid, defense to take off some of the pressure.

Though Dimitroff couldn't have known the pieces would fall in place so fast, you can bet he had a good idea.

He's the son of NFL player, scout and coach Tom Dimitroff, and spent plenty of time scouting in Canada and other football backwaters before falling in with the Bill Belichick mob in New England. There, he was tutored by then-Patriots player personnel director Scott Pioli.

Everyone else in the NFL treats the draft like a chess game. But Belichick's disciples know building a team is more like three-dimensional chess. Based on past success, they rarely draft early and almost never look for the one player who can single-handedly turn a team around.

Taking Ryan was a gamble, to be sure. But Dimitroff had been on the job for four months at the time and something bold needed to happen if the Falcons were going to escape Michael Vick's disgraced shadow anytime soon. Besides, he liked that bet enough to double down by trading for Gonzalez. The teams that prepare harder for Ryan, now that he's a known commodity, will still have to account for his newest asset.

Gonzalez, a 10-time Pro Bowl selection who holds career marks for yards, catches and touchdowns at the position, also happens to be one of the best locker room guys in the league. That, too, places Dimitroff squarely in the Belichick mold, since teams turn over a third of their rosters, on average each season, and “character” guys are hard to come by.

The Falcons will need that, too, after losing a handful of defensive starters to free agency during the offseason. So look for the Falcons to grab defensive tackle Peria Jerry of Mississippi or linebacker Brian Cushing of USC, with their first pick.

Whomever Dimitroff selects, chances are he'll get a useful part. While choosing Ryan earned him kudos, he also found two starters and two specialists in the first three rounds. Not only does Dimitroff think like Belichick, he's beginning to sound like him, too.

“As long as it's not a drastic dropoff,” he said about his draft-day plans, “you seriously have to consider the need position.”

**Falcons hand QB Ryan new toy: NFL's greatest tight end****By Dennis Dillon - SportingNews**

Matt Ryan won't turn 24 for another three weeks, but the Atlanta Falcons' second-year quarterback received an early birthday present Thursday: a prodigious offensive weapon.

Tony Gonzalez, perhaps the greatest tight end in NFL history, was traded to Atlanta by the Kansas City Chiefs. In return, the Falcons gave up their second-round pick in the 2010 draft.

"He'll be a great addition for Matt Ryan and that offense," said Mark Koncz, director of pro scouting for the NFC South rival Carolina Panthers. "They'll be hard to stop."

Powered largely by the three-cylinder engine of Ryan (3,440 passing yards, 16 touchdowns), running back Michael Turner (1,699 rushing yards, 17 touchdowns) and wide receiver Roddy White (1,382 receiving yards, seven touchdowns), the Falcons pulled an about-face in 2008. After going 4-12 in '07, they were 11-5 last season and went to the playoffs.

To that arsenal they now add a player whose career totals of 916 catches, 10,940 yards and 76 touchdowns all are NFL records for a tight end. Gonzalez, 33, has been selected to 10 Pro Bowls—also a record for a tight end. And talk about durability. In 12 seasons, he has missed only two games and has started 172 of his last 174.

And did we mention that Gonzalez isn't just a one-dimensional tight end?

"One of the things people underestimate is that he's a good blocker," Koncz said. "He's not just one of these wide receiver types who lines up and all he does is run routes and catch balls."

A first-round pick out of Cal in 1997, Gonzalez was a cornerstone of the Chiefs' franchise—if not the face of it—during his 12 years in Kansas City. But the team won six games the past two seasons, and Gonzalez requested to be traded last October.

Although Chiefs general manager Scott Pioli noted the team was not seeking to trade Gonzalez, he said, "There was an opportunity that came to us and after a lot of internal discussions over a short time, we decided to make the trade." Pioli said the move was "in the best interest" of the Chiefs "in the short term and the long term."

Suddenly, the NFC South has the look of a tight end's division. The New Orleans Saints acquired Jeremy Shockey last year, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers traded for Kellen Winslow in March and now the Falcons have Gonzalez.

The addition of Gonzalez gives the Falcons an element they never have had in their 43-year history: a tight end who eclipsed 1,000 receiving yards in a season. Gonzalez has done that four times. Gonzalez's '08 statistics—96 catches, 1,058 yards, 10 touchdowns—exceed the combined totals of five different Falcons tight ends over the past two seasons.

"Tony's arrival will make an instant impact not only on the offensive side of the ball, but on the overall team in general," Ryan said. "I feel privileged to be throwing the ball to a future Hall of Famer, and I'm anxious to get on the field to start working with him."

In other words, Ryan can't wait to play with his early birthday present.

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### **The new Falcons: They're real simple and really smart**

**Mark Bradley**

Say hello to the newest Falcon, folks. But be careful if Peria Jerry tries to hug you.

Say this for the newfangled Falcons: They don't lie. They tell you what they plan to do, and then they do it. On the day Mike Smith became their coach, he said he wanted to run the ball and to stop the run. Last season his team managed half that. Round 1 of the 2009 draft was the first step toward getting the other half right.

"You want someone who can create double-teams and unblocked situations," Smith said Saturday, and in Peria – pronounced Per-RAY – Jerry, they believe they've found a newer and better and (slightly) sleeker Grady Jackson. And we on the periphery have no reason to doubt them. They've gotten pretty good at this talent-identification thing.

Already the Falcons are better than they were when they walked off in the field in Glendale, Ariz. They have a Pro Bowl tight end who will make a good offense better still, and now they have a defensive anchor.

There can be no real quibbles with this pick. (Not even from this observer, who favored Evander Hood for the selfish reason that a lineman nicknamed Ziggy would be worth his tonnage in puns.) They said they were going to upgrade their defense, and they determined the upgrading should begin at the heart.

Sometimes we confuse smart with clever, but the two aren't the same. Being clever can sometimes lead to overthink, which can lead to trouble. The newfangled Falcons are meat-and-potatoes smart. They see football as a simple game, and they've taken a simple approach to getting better.

Said Thomas Dimitroff, the architect: "We wanted to be stronger and faster and more aggressive and more urgent."

Said Smith, the foreman: "We wanted someone who would be very disruptive."

Granted, it's a new sensation. Mindful of Aundray Bruce and Steve Broussard and Bruce Pickens and Reggie Kelly, we're accustomed to approaching every Falcons draft with a dollop of dread. We should stop sweating. This franchise is in good hands. Matt Ryan was the perfect pick at the ideal moment, and the rest of the 2008 draft was nearly as inspired. And now the big man from Ole Miss arrives to plug the middle.

Dimitroff again: "He's country-strong. He's a 1-gap guy with a high motor."

First Michael Turner, then Matt Ryan, then Tony Gonzalez, now Peria Jerry. That's four major acquisitions in 15 months for the new regime, and every one of them makes unassailable sense. Given that the first three play offense, this draft had to be given over to D, and Jerry was the soundest possible start. In Round 2 the Falcons found a safety in William Moore of Missouri, and they'll surely seek a linebacker and a cornerback come Sunday. But you must grab an accomplished run-stuffer where you find him.

A good team a year ago, the Falcons have positioned themselves to be better in 2009. (Though their record, owing to the stiffer schedule, might not be quite so glittering.) They're building from the inside out, which is always the way to go if you want your construction to endure.

And this one will. These are not your dad's Falcons, who trafficked in gimmicks, or even your older brother's. These are the new Falcons. These are the smart Falcons.

**Falcons suddenly have a present, a future — and a window**  
**by Jeff Schultz**

Flowery Branch – In the past 16 months, the Falcons have gone from one of the most beat-up, put-down, staggered, dazed, lost and certainly humiliated franchises in pro sports history to one viewed as possibly just this side of Eden.

When that happens, plans change.

Windows open.

Tomorrow becomes today.

Hall-of-Fame-in-waiting tight ends are acquired for second-round draft picks.

On Sunday, the Falcons completed their second draft under Thomas Dimitroff. Screaming Twitters and ESPN's mock-till-you-drop coverage notwithstanding, the names really don't mean much yet. Nobody has played an NFL game. The fact that the Falcons took two defensive linemen and three defensive backs in their first five picks said something about their objectives.

But the transaction that tells you the most about where the Falcons are as an organization — and maybe where they're going — was the trade for tight end Tony Gonzalez.

A team that acquires a 33-year-old, 12-year tight end is not a young, rebuilding team just looking for respectability. It's a team looking to make the leap to the next level.

"I'd like to think we would have still gone after somebody like Tony if we were 6-10 last year," Dimitroff said Sunday. "But there's a side of me that thinks most of the highly heralded veteran players in this league would not have wanted to come to a 6-10 team.

"We've become a much more marketable team and we have a quarterback who is adept, yet evolving. We have some pieces on the offense and a coaching staff that's very attractive to other players. If we were 6-10, the probability of landing Tony Gonzalez would not have been the same."

The Falcons went 11-5 last season, when 5-11 seemed more likely. They have an opportunity that most clear-thinking people presumed they wouldn't have so soon, not even the GM or the coach or the owner.

Remember, it was only a year ago when the Falcons desperately were trying to peddle season tickets based on "hope." Or was that prayer?

Dimitroff's pursuit of Gonzalez shouldn't suggest that the Falcons have a small window for a Super Bowl. As he said, "We never thought, 'It's now or never.'" The team's core is young, particularly on offense (Matt Ryan, Michael Turner, Roddy White, Sam Baker).

But, "Any time you're a playoff team, you approach the draft and free agency a lot of more creatively and a lot more calculated," he said.

"This is about the here and now. It's always been that way in this league. We have to capitalize on opportunities we have right now. None of us want to sit back and think, 'Let's see where we are in five

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years.' This is about the competitive side of it. You strike while you can, and you be consistent with your strikes."

If last season wasn't an aberration, if Ryan really is that good and everybody around him gets better, the Falcons are closer to contending for a title than most teams in the NFL and certainly any pro team in Atlanta.

The Falcons have flaws. The defense will be painfully young. The players are faster — but they may just run in the wrong direction. On some Sundays, they'll need one last-gasp score to pull out a 35-31 win.

But when Gonzalez continually referenced the Super Bowl in his news conference, it wasn't merely to pump up the masses. It's what he believes. Perceptions have changed, and so have plans.

And suddenly, there's a window.



**Falcons' Dimitroff only makes exceptions for the exceptional****By: Albert Breer**

How about you ask Falcons G.M. Thomas Dimitroff if his roster is Super Bowl-ready?

Might want to duck.

"(Coach) Mike Smith and I always talk about it — setting goals internally and sequentially — and not saying, 'OK, this is how many wins and losses we should have,' " said Dimitroff, 42. "I know you get sick of hearing it, but we feel like to be successful, we have to have internal goals we accomplish sequentially."

Dimitroff's bottom line: His roster moves would've been the same had the club gone 5-11 last season, rather than 11-5.

There's proof, too. Gone are five players — defensive tackle Grady Jackson, linebackers Michael Boley and Keith Brooking and defensive backs Domonique Foxworth and Lawyer Milloy — who started a combined 67 games last year.

Conversely, linebacker Mike Peterson, who played for Smith in Jacksonville, was the only veteran on defense acquired.

Hardly sounds like a team vaulting itself over the top.

Staying the course could get the Falcons to Miami for Super Bowl 44. But it also could get them to Dallas for Super Bowl 45 or Indianapolis for Super Bowl 46 or ... you get the idea. Here's the logic to Atlanta's offseason as minicamp kicks off Friday:

Revamping the defense. Atlanta ranked 24th in total defense last year. And look at the departed. Boley was benched in favor of Coy Wire by year's end. Foxworth was good but pricey, getting \$16.5 million guaranteed in Baltimore. Jackson, Brooking and Milloy are all 33 or older.

This, in essence, was Phase 2 of the overhaul that began last year.

As Dimitroff says, "It's really about knowing last year that we couldn't do everything in one fell swoop."

Developing their own. Of course, suitable replacements are needed to make such moves. Dimitroff and Smith say young players such as Chauncey Davis, Jonathan Babineaux, Curtis Lofton and Thomas DeCoud will fill the void in leadership, and veterans such as Erik Coleman and Peterson buy wholeheartedly into Smith's passionate ethos.

Drafting defensive tackle Peria Jerry — the team's target at No. 24 — and safety William Moore adds to it. The idea is the defense will grow around young leaders, like the offense did around QB Matt Ryan last year.

"I don't perceive what we've done as gambling," Dimitroff said. "There will be growing pains, like last year, but I have the utmost confidence in our defensive staff. I know Mike Smith and (coordinator) Brian VanGorder will work guys into the scheme and help players mature quickly."

The big catch. The offense already was loaded with cornerstones Ryan, Michael Turner, Roddy White and Sam Baker. The trade for All-Pro tight end Tony Gonzalez — the one break from Atlanta's youthful offseason — makes the unit elite.

The Falcons moved quickly on Gonzalez. Negotiations started with Chiefs G.M. Scott Pioli on the Thursday before the draft and finished Friday afternoon. Dimitroff's and Pioli's familiarity — Dimitroff knew Pioli would be interested in a 2010 pick — from having worked together in New England expedited the process. And with the free-agent losses, Atlanta figures to get enough compensatory picks to make up for the lost second-round pick next year.

"(Gonzalez) will help Matt in the red zone, create opportunities for Roddy White and Mike Jenkins, keep teams guessing in play-action and take pressure over Michael Turner," Dimitroff said.

"He's 33, but he looks 25 and plans to keep playing. ... We stress getting younger and growing as a young team, but it's very important to sprinkle in choice veterans who are proven leaders."

## ATLANTA FALCONS NEWS CLIPS

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A head start. On the surface, it looks like Atlanta simply allowed its free agents to walk. Easy to forget that Jenkins and Babineaux, potential '09 free agents, quietly signed long-term deals last summer. And Davis re-upped in March.

In doing so, the process continued as it does today, which means building a roster for now and later.

# ATLANTA FALCONS NEWS CLIPS

Publication: ESPN.com

Section/# of Pages: Sports/1 of 2

Date: 5/9/09

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## **Why there won't be a 'sophomore slump' for Ryan** **Posted by ESPN.com's Pat Yasinskas**

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. -- Prepare yourself for the least-glowing review you'll ever hear about perhaps the best rookie season ever by an NFL quarterback.

"It was a good start, that's all," Matt Ryan said Friday afternoon as he sat on a porch overlooking the Atlanta Falcons' practice fields.

While the rest of the world uses the word "great" or something more elaborate to describe last year, Ryan almost shreds it. He came to a team that was supposed to be the worst in the league, threw for a touchdown on his first pass and kept growing all the way to the playoffs.

An encore of that 11-5 season probably would be good enough for Atlanta fans every year. But that's not nearly good enough for Ryan. He truly believes last year was just a start.

"I learned a lot about a lot of different things and I think that will serve me well heading into this season," Ryan said.

That attitude and a whole bunch of other things are the reasons why there will be no "sophomore slump" for Ryan. He's only going to keep getting better. Here are five reasons why:

1. He's stronger. If you haven't seen Ryan for a while -- and the last time I saw him in person before today was after the playoff loss to Arizona in January -- he appears leaner.

"I've noticed that, too," Ryan said with a laugh.

He went on to explain that he's still carrying 220 pounds, but he's carrying it a little differently.

Ryan's spent the bulk of the past two months working very hard with the team's strength and conditioning staff. He's added muscle and said he's in much better physical condition than he was a year ago.

"My goal was to get a little stronger physically, a little tighter and just in better shape overall," Ryan said.

There were suggestions late last season that Ryan was hitting the traditional "rookie wall." He still disputes that, but admits he feels better now than he did at any point last year. But that might not be all about physical strength.

2. He's been through it before. While Ryan's been working his body, he's been resting his mind. That's a good thing because no matter what happens the rest of his career, Ryan's never going to face a more difficult situation than last year.

Drafted third overall, he instantly was asked to make Atlanta forget about the mess surrounding Michael Vick and the fiasco that was the Bobby Petrino coaching tenure in 2007. From the day he walked into Atlanta to the day the Falcons lost in the playoffs, Ryan had to be the face of a franchise under intense scrutiny. He seemed to handle it flawlessly, but Ryan admitted Friday he was ready for a break after last season ended.

"I took a little vacation and was down in the Virgin Islands for 10 days and kind of got lost on the beach for a little while, which was nice," Ryan said. "It's been so much more laid back than last year."

Ryan's a bit of a workaholic and is known for spending a lot of time studying film. After his vacation, he's gotten back into that routine, but also has managed to take a few trips back home to the Philadelphia area to visit family and friends.

There's a bit more balance in Ryan's life now. It's not like last season when he was learning a new offense and getting used to a new city. The coaching staff -- notably offensive coordinator Mike Mularkey and quarterbacks coach Bill Musgrave -- has remained largely intact and the playbook hasn't changed. Neither has the roster.

3. The offense is better. Well, there is one significant change to the offensive roster. That's tight end Tony Gonzalez, acquired in trade with the Kansas City Chiefs a few weeks ago.

"Any time you add a first-ballot future Hall of Famer to your team, you've gotten better," Ryan said.

## ATLANTA FALCONS NEWS CLIPS

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Gonzalez has caught more passes than any tight end in history. The Falcons completed fewer passes to their tight ends than any team in the league last season. It's safe to look at what Atlanta's offense did in 2008 and say Gonzalez was the only missing link.

Just about everything else is back on offense and better than it was a year ago at this time. Receivers Roddy White and Michael Jenkins and running back Michael Turner all had breakout seasons. The offensive line, which seemed like it was overachieving early last year, is pretty much intact and should keep improving.

4. The defense will make Ryan better. Let's be real honest here. Despite a playoff run, Atlanta's defense wasn't all that good in 2008. Linebacker Keith Brooking, safety Lawyer Milloy and defensive tackle Grady Jackson were old and coach Mike Smith and coordinator Brian VanGorter squeezed every ounce of talent out of their defense.

The defense didn't always get off the field when it should have and Ryan and the offense had to pull out some games. But there have been huge changes on the defense and Smith and VanGorter now have their kind of players. They didn't have that luxury last year when they spent their early focus on offense, bringing in Ryan, Turner and left tackle Sam Baker. This year's offseason has been all about getting younger -- and better -- on defense with rookies Peria Jerry and William Moore as the top two draft picks.

5. Ryan is still Ryan. A few minutes after finishing my interview with the quarterback, I picked up a Falcons publication and read an interview with team owner Arthur Blank. He was asked about Ryan's future and made a comment about how he thinks it's important for the quarterback to keep his humility.

Blank, who went through hell with Vick, shouldn't have to worry about Ryan's humility. This guy is as grounded as they come and last year's success hasn't changed him a bit. Ryan was remarkably smooth on the field and off it last season. He still is the same guy.

After all, he might be the only guy in Atlanta humble enough not to get carried away with last season.

"You have to understand your role on the team," Ryan said. "As a quarterback, you have to be able to distribute the ball to the guys around you and try to put them in position to make plays. Fortunately, I think I've got some great guys out there who can make some plays. My focus has been on doing my job and not doing anything more or anything less -- just distribute the ball and put those guys in good positions."

Remember, that's only the start.

**Falcons' Lofton tackles new role: team leader****By D. Orlando Ledbetter****Flowery Branch** — For Curtis Lofton, the fog has cleared.

"Last year, I was just kind of learning on the go and just playing," he said.

Still Lofton, who was taken in the second round of the 2008 NFL draft, managed to earn the starting middle linebacker position. He finished with 108 tackles, second most in the league for a rookie behind New England's Jerod Mayo.

At this year's mini-camp, Lofton is feeling more at home.

"Now," he said, "I know what I'm doing. That allows me to play faster so I expect big things of myself."

After the season, Lofton decided to get smaller and, hopefully, faster. He's lost eight pounds and is down to 242, and he reduced his body fat from 15 to 9 percent.

With all of the offseason moves, Lofton is the lone returning starter along the linebacker unit. Longtime Falcon Keith Brooking left to sign with Dallas, and Michael Boley signed with the New York Giants in free agency.

Lining up next Lofton is Mike Peterson at weakside linebacker and Stephen Nicholas at strongside. Peterson played in head coach Mike Smith's defense when he was an assistant in Jacksonville.

"Pete has been in the system for years, and Steve has a few years now," Lofton said. "They are looking to me as a leader, but there are other leaders. ... So it's just a matter of us working together."

Defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder, who coached Peterson when he was the linebackers coach in Jacksonville, is watching the unit closely.

"The chemistry part is always a challenge," VanGorder said. "But certainly when you have a lot of new personnel, to collectively bring them together, the same standards and expectations, I think it's something that you're conscience of every day."

Lofton concurs with VanGorder on the chemistry issue.

"Right now, it's about getting to know each other and bonding," Lofton said.

Last season, Lofton came off the field on third downs when the Falcons went to their nickel package. He's slated to stay on the field and help in pass coverage.

"He's just going to continue to improve," VanGorder said.

In front of Lofton, the Falcons will have a new nose tackle. Last season's starter, Grady Jackson, signed with the Detroit Lions as a free agent.

First round draft pick Peria Jerry, veteran Jason Jefferson and Trey Lewis, who is coming back from two surgeries on his right knee, will compete for that starting spot.

The spot is key for Lofton because the nose tackle can keep guards from attempting to block him.

"Trey is really a big guy," Lofton said. "He moves really well."

Lofton has noticed a change, no matter which tackle has been in front of him, during this mini-camp.

"The big thing that I see in our defensive line is that they are more explosive," Lofton said.

The Falcons are also planning to play some alternating four-man and three-man fronts, depending on the situation. Lofton doesn't expect that to change his role much.

"Whatever they call, we still have to play," Lofton said.

## ATLANTA FALCONS NEWS CLIPS

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In total, VanGorder is looking for five new starters - safety Lawyer Milloy is not back and cornerback Domonique Foxworth signed with Baltimore in free agency — on the defensive unit. With Lofton in place, at least he doesn't have to worry about the middle linebacker spot.

“We always feel that things will sort themselves out,” VanGorder said. “We just have to remind the guys on a daily basis that it's a competitive situation. They are competing for playing time.”

**Playoff-hungry Gonzalez makes Falcons offense scary****By Pete Prisco**

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. -- As Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan talked Saturday about what the addition of tight end Tony Gonzalez would mean to the team, he brought up how important the veteran's work ethic would be in helping Atlanta's young players.

As if on cue, Gonzalez put that on display. But it wasn't scripted for those around. It was genuine. It was who he is.

With most of his new teammates already in the locker room following a minicamp practice, Gonzalez lowered himself in front of a blocking sled and starting banging away.

Thud. Set. Thud. Set. Thud.

"Look at him doing that stuff now," Ryan said pointing to his new tight end. "You don't get to the Hall of Fame for nothing."

Gonzalez will get there because he's the all-time leader in receptions by a tight end, but it's that drive and determination that helped get him all those catches. In 12 seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs, Gonzalez was a defensive coordinator's nightmare, a player they had to double.

Even so, he had 916 catches with 76 of those for touchdowns, which should be enough to force the guys who mold the busts in Canton to get to work on his. That's why the Falcons traded a second-round pick in the 2010 draft to land Gonzalez.

For a young team still building to something, that's a steep price. But when you consider that Gonzalez caught 96 passes for a bad offense last season and the Falcons tight ends caught just 19 -- a league low for the position -- it makes sense.

I don't usually condone trading second-round picks for 33-year-old players, but this one I can understand. Gonzalez is a weapon in the middle of the field, which will help Ryan grow, but he's also going to help show the right way for a young team.

"When you come out here and practice and do what the coaches say, that's a "C" grade," Gonzalez said. "That's average. You have to do more. I tell the young guys all the time, not to be fooled by thinking you can do it without working. That might get you a year or two, but then it catches up to you and you fall off."

"I copy the great ones, guys I played with like Will Shields and Priest Holmes. I read a lot of biographies. I want to know Michel Jordan's practice habits. Tiger Woods. You hear stories about Lance Armstrong going over and riding that course and training before the big race. That's how I feel on the football field."

It was weird seeing Gonzalez catching passes from Ryan, but he did plenty of it in the practices I watched. He was diving for passes, getting behind linebackers in front of safeties and beating double coverage.

He looked like a player five years younger.

"He's a huge pickup for us," Ryan said.

When the Falcons made the trade last month, Ryan was in his Atlanta-area home. He knew something was up when his phone was bombarded with text messages.

The first one came from his father. It read: "You guys picked up Tony G."

"I was pumped," Ryan said. "I had seen him play, but the best part is he's better in person."

The two have already formed a bond on the field. They look like a pass-catching combo that has been around for years, and the admiration comes right back at Ryan from Gonzalez.

"I've never been with a guy like that," Gonzalez said. "Never. The way he throws the ball, his leadership qualities. They're special. I've been around a long time played with some good quarterbacks, but he's got it. By the time it's all said and done, he's going to establish himself as one of the top quarterbacks in this league very soon, if not already."



## ATLANTA FALCONS NEWS CLIPS

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The transition hasn't been all rosy for Gonzalez. How could it be when you leave behind the only NFL team you've ever known? Wanting out was a tough decision for him. The Chiefs were special to him, but they were also coming off a losing season and they're in rebuilding mode with a new coach and a new general manager. Sure Gonzalez could have been back in a Chiefs uniform catching 95 passes again to add to his impressive resume, but he wanted more. Losing does that to a player.

"When you have two or three years left, I want to go out on top," Gonzalez said. "I want to win a Super Bowl. I've never won a playoff game. Everybody knows that. I don't want to be one of those guys who goes down in history as a great player who didn't win a playoff game." Despite his excitement, Gonzalez was cautious when I asked if he felt set free because he still has a soft spot for the Chiefs.

"It wasn't an easy thing to get out of Kansas City," Gonzalez said. "Not at all."

Yet he asked for a trade last season. When it didn't happen, he played out the season and was prepared to go back to Kansas City for the 2009 season. But the Falcons jumped in and made a pre-draft deal that really makes their offense scary.

With receivers Roddy White and Michael Jenkins outside, Harry Douglas in the slot and running backs Michael Turner and Jerious Norwood playing behind Ryan, the Falcons offense is downright scary with the addition of Gonzalez.

"He's going to take a lot of doubles off Roddy because he commands them," Ryan said. "He's going to make Roddy better. He's going to make Mike better. He's going to make me better. But better yet, he's going to make us better in the Red Zone. He's caught a ton of touchdown passes in the Red Zone."

During Saturday's afternoon practice, Gonzalez noticed a fan wearing his old Kansas City jersey No. 88. He still wears No. 88, and the Falcons wear red, but he said it's weird pulling on a different uniform in practice and will be even tougher when the first game rolls around.

He does have one thing left over from his Chiefs days: A yellow mouthpiece that went with the uniform colors.

"The guys told me I need to get rid of that," Gonzalez said. "But it's going to be weird to put that real uniform on. But at the same time I welcome it. I want to make sure the second-round pick they gave up was worth it. I don't want anyone saying it wasn't."

With his work ethic and those skills it's hard to imagine that will be the case. Gonzalez will win his first playoff game with the Falcons, and he just might help them do more than that.

**Coleman becomes Falcons secondary's elder statesman****By CHRIS VIVLAMORE**

At 27 years of age and with just five years in the NFL, Erik Coleman is an elder statesman now. With apologies to Ernest Hemingway, a book about the Falcons safety could be titled "The Old Man and the Secondary."

Lawyer Milloy, with his 13 years of experience, was not re-signed. He was one of five starters from last season's team that will be replaced in 2009. That makes Coleman the oldest and most experienced player among the Falcons defensive backs. Of the 15 defensive backs currently on the Falcons' roster, 12 have three or less seasons in the NFL. Nine of those 12 have two or fewer years in the league.

"It feels different," Coleman said last week after an Organized Training Activities [OTA] workout. "Having guys look up to me and ask me for advice. It's a great thing to know they respect my work that much."

While his teammates can tease him about being the old man, they can call him two other things — leader and social director.

"He's a veteran back there that's played a lot of football in the NFL, so our expectations are that he'll provide that leadership, and he's done a good job of it so far," Falcons defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder said. "I think that some guys grab on to the leadership characteristic when they are young. Other guys develop into it. It comes from where your confidence is in your athletic ability. The more confidence you get, the more leadership you can take on."

Age and experience are not what made Coleman a leader for the Falcons. It's not that simple, he says.

"I think [leadership] is something that you have to earn," Coleman said. "Everyone can't be a leader. Your teammates see your work ethic, how you carry yourself on and off the field. It's a tremendous honor to be considered a leader of this team and of this secondary. I've been doing it the right way. I've been doing what the coaches ask me to do. That's what I'm going to continue to do."

Many within the organization describe Coleman as a "positive" leader. That's in comparison to Milloy's often in-your-face style.

"I think it's my personality and the way that I am," Coleman said. "I'm a guy that leads by example, by going out and working hard on the field. I'm a guy that can push guys, but usually in a positive way. Pat them on the butt and say 'Let's get it done' instead of dogging out someone. I'm not saying that anyone necessarily did that; it's just how I approach the game."

"I'm not saying I won't get in someone's face, but I would rather just pat somebody on the butt and help them out in ways for us to be constructive and for us to get better as a defense."

The defense is an area the Falcons need to improve. They must replace five defensive starters from a team that was 24th out of 32 teams in the NFL last season in total defense, allowing 348.2 yards a game. The secondary was one major issue. They were 21st against the pass, allowing 220.4 yards a game.

Coleman considers his leadership a way to change the defense. That's where the role of social director comes into play. Coleman has organized dinners and ventures to the mall. Next will be bowling.

"It's important for us to jell as a group," Coleman said. "We have a lot of young guys on the team. ... We have to go out and bond with each other because we are going to spend most of our time together. You might have a wife or girlfriend at home, but you spend more hours with us. So we have to have a great chemistry, and that will translate into how we play on the field. If you have trust within each other, then you'll play much better as a unit."

Coleman had 95 tackles (80 solo, 15 assists) last season. It's never good when a safety is your leading tackler. He led the Falcons in solo tackles and was second in total tackles behind Keith Brooking, another veteran that won't be back this season.

The Falcons offense got all the attention last offseason — and most of the publicity during an 11-5 season and a playoff berth. The defense was the center of attention this offseason with seven of eight draft picks — including the first five — being defensive players.

"The offense deserves all the credit they got last year," Coleman said. "They worked really hard. We use that as motivation. We'd like to raise our level to where people are talking about the Falcons defense."

**Good and nasty: Dahl tops list of NFL's meanest players****By Pete Prisco**

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. -- As if on cue, the NFL's meanest player, and some might say the league's dirtiest, livened up a ho-hum May practice a few weeks back by doing something he does a lot, which is to brawl.

Atlanta Falcons guard Harvey Dahl is a nasty player who pushes the whistle on almost every play, so it wasn't surprising to see him in the middle of a violent practice fight that ended with Dahl getting eight stitches across his nose, courtesy of a helmet to the face.

The helmet to the face came when defensive end Kroy Bierman, Dahl's combatant, lunged at Dahl after his helmet came off. It was an accident, not a head-butt you would see in some fake wrestling ring, but it didn't stop Dahl.

Face cut, helmet off, blood rushing down his nose, Dahl kept swinging. And swinging. And swinging.

"You roll with the punches," Dahl said the next day, a bandage covering his stitches, his forehead purple with bruises. "No big deal. Just a practice fight."

Dahl has his share of them, so many that when the fight started, those on the sidelines without a clear view of the number of the offensive player pretty much knew who it was right away.

The chorus was easy to hear: "Harvey."

Dahl is the modern-day Conrad Dobler. Back in the 1970s, Dobler was a mean offensive guard who was considered dirty by many of those who played against him.

Dahl has the same characteristics. Players don't like playing against him. In discussing him with some league personnel, all mentioned that he pushes the limits -- sometimes too far.

Dahl sheepishly admitted it, and thanked me for the comparison to Dobler.

"I push the whistle," he said. "Yeah, definitely. It frustrates guys. But I'm going to go hard all the time. It gets under guy's skin. But I just try and stay focused."

It's how Dahl earned his job in the league. He's not going to change now. He's the classic self-made player. He played at the University of Nevada, but he wasn't drafted. The Dallas Cowboys signed him as a free agent, but he got cut on June 3, 2005 -- several weeks before training camp.

The San Francisco 49ers signed him and he spent most of the next three seasons on their practice squad, although he was activated for a few games. It was there that his brutish style got him noticed.

"I remember I fought [49ers linebacker] Derek Smith in practice one day," Dahl said. "He had just signed a new contract and I was a practice-squad guy, so that was kind of a big deal."

The Falcons signed him to their active roster off the 49ers practice squad in October 2007 and he won a starting job last season. His play last season helped put running back Michael Turner into the Pro Bowl.

Who's the meanest NFL player? Cast your votes now!

"That's my man," Turner said. "He's one of the nasty boys. He's tough, hard-nosed and plays hard. He came from the bottom, so he plays hard all the time. Don't make him mad. That elevates his game even more."

Dahl's teammates say you can see the rage in his face in the huddle when he gets set off. It makes him play better, they say.

"I wouldn't want to line up against him," Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan said. "He's nasty. He's relentless. He plays through the whistle. That's what you want from those guys. He keeps making blocks late in the play."

## ATLANTA FALCONS NEWS CLIPS

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Is he dirty? The Falcons players all backed their teammate and said no. Opponents might differ.

It was Dahl's tactics in a preseason game last summer against the Tennessee Titans that led to some nasty, chippy stuff that had Titans coach Jeff Fisher screaming across the field at Atlanta coach Mike Smith. Several players from another team agreed that Dahl pushes the limits, and might cross the line. The league office thought he did so three times last season and fined him all three times for it.

"Most of the time I don't go over the line," Dahl said. "Those times, I guess I did."

Dahl isn't just a nasty player -- he's also a good one. His ability to drive block in the run game makes him one of the best guards in the league. His pass protection needs improvement in part because he is so aggressive. The Atlanta coaching staff is trying to get him to improve his footwork in pass protection and keep him from merely attacking on every play. If he does that, this self-made player just might be on his way to the Pro Bowl.

For now, he seems to accept being one of the league's nastiest players as a badge of honor, even if it brings up questions about going too far.

"That's OK by me," he said.

As he said that, Falcons line coach Paul Boudreau walked by to ask what was going on.

"Just doing on a column on the league's nastiest player," I said.

"Glad we got something," Boudreau said. "We'll take it."

Memo to anybody lining up against the Falcons this year: Keep an eye out for No. 73, even if the play is over.

You might hate him, but the Falcons love their brutish guard.

**Very special Father's Day for Falcons' Nicholas**  
**Posted by ESPN.com's Pat Yasinkas**

FLOWERY BRANCH, GA. -- Stephen Nicholas' arms were wrapped around his infant son, somewhat loosely because he didn't want to bump the tubes that had kept the child alive the past four months.

Wife Irene sat nearby and the doctor began talking. The doctor said the tubes were going to come out that afternoon. Stephen and Irene looked at each other and started crying as both minds registered the same two thoughts.

Stephen Nicholas Jr. had been in Children's Hospital Boston since last summer, waiting for a heart suitable to transplant into his little body.

"That was the doctor's way of saying there was a heart coming in," Stephen said.

Stephen Jr. was going to get a shot at life with a new heart. Tears of joy for a few seconds. Then, tears of sadness.

"The most bittersweet moment you can imagine," Irene said. "Our baby was going to get a new heart. But then you realize the heart had to come from someone his age and his size."

Somewhere, someone else had lost a baby.

The date was Oct. 17, 2008. The surgery took hours upon hours and finally ended sometime around 4 the next morning. When the father saw the son at around noon, the baby had better color and was looking more alert than ever.

In another few weeks, Stephen Jr. would be given a clean bill of health and sent home to Atlanta. The doctors all have said Stephen Jr. should have a normal and healthy life.

If you looked over at the bleachers where the families sat during the Atlanta Falcons' minicamp practices last month, you never would have guessed life had been far from normal for the Nicholas family. When practice was over, the father went over to where the son sat with his mother. Within a few seconds, the two were running around and rolling in the grass.

Teammates walked by and smiled at the scene. Their wives and girlfriends watched the two Stephens and there might have been a few tears. This was the happiest ending to the best-kept secret of the 2008 season for the Falcons.

While rookie quarterback Matt Ryan was lighting up the NFL and the Falcons were making a run to the playoffs as the NFL's most surprising team, there was a little family secret that wasn't public because it was a very private matter.

Now Stephen, Irene and the Falcons are ready to tell the story that everyone else helped keep quiet last year.

Stephen and Irene were going through hell, but they had 52 other Falcons, a coaching staff, an owner and an entire building of employees quietly helping them along.

After all the craziness (the Michael Vick saga, Jim Mora melting down and Bobby Petrino walking out on his team) that had surrounded the Falcons in recent years, this story -- even more than the playoff run -- demonstrates a franchise with sanity, compassion and priorities that are very much in order.

It all started soon after Jan. 6, 2008, when Stephen Jr. was born. He was the first child for Stephen and Irene, but the new parents quickly could tell something wasn't right.

"He was sleeping all the time and he barely would eat," Irene said.

There was a flurry of visits to pediatricians in Jacksonville, Fla., where the Nicholas family makes its offseason home. Nothing was really clear and doctors eventually sent the baby to a hospital in nearby Gainesville for more evaluation. That's when it first became apparent that something was wrong with Stephen Jr.'s heart.

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More tests only enhanced that idea and, with help from Stephanie Blank, wife of Falcons owner Arthur Blank, Stephen Jr. was airlifted to Atlanta. Stephanie Blank is a board member at Children's Hospital of Atlanta. There, doctors determined the baby had cardiomyopathy, a condition where the heart isn't able to properly pump blood throughout the body.

At first, Stephen Jr. was given medication and sent home. There was some mild improvement, but it didn't last long.

"I can't even begin to tell you how many trips we made back to the emergency room," Irene said.

A few weeks before Stephen, 26, and the Falcons were scheduled to begin training camp last July, doctors sat him and Irene down.

"They basically said it wasn't getting any better and that just treating it with medication wasn't going to work," Stephen said. "He had to have a heart transplant and it would have to come soon. There was no other choice at that point."

Irene and the baby went to Boston. Stephen went to training camp, where he went through the motions, but his heart was in Boston. For the next four months, Stephen Jr., wired with tubes of medication to help keep his heart functioning, waited for a donor they weren't sure would come in time.

As all this was going on, there was a development that makes you realize the NFL isn't always the cold, hard business we always hear about. First-year coach Mike Smith, a gentle man with a family of his own, sat down Nicholas and told him not to worry about his job security.

"We were very cognizant of what was going on and wanted to make sure he was able to get to Boston as often as possible," Smith said. "We wanted him to be with his wife and baby because that was a very trying situation."

Smith offered a deal. Each Sunday night during the season, Nicholas could fly to Boston from wherever the Falcons were playing. He could take Monday and Tuesday off and fly back to Atlanta in time for Wednesday's practice.

The show of support went even deeper than that. As a second-year backup, Nicholas wasn't making a lot of money. Two veteran teammates, who don't want to be named, helped take care of his travel expenses and the costs of Irene staying in Boston.

Then there was Kevin Winston. Officially, he's the Falcons' director of player programs. Unofficially, he's the team's social worker and a big brother to the players. Winston looks like he could play linebacker, but has a soft spot for anyone who's going through a tough time.

"Kevin was on the phone with me all the time," Irene said. "He was always checking to see if there was anything I needed or anything the Falcons could do."

Back in Atlanta, Stephen was able to focus on football for a few hours each day. He was a fixture on special teams and a backup at outside linebacker.

"It says a lot about Stephen's character that he was able to still play football while he was going through all that," Smith said. "It also says a lot about our football team and how the guys rallied around him."

The situation also revealed an awful lot about Irene. She might have been the strongest of all. She was on the front line, sitting with Stephen Jr. every day, not knowing how long his heart would last or if a new one was coming.

"She's a rock," Stephen said. "She held down the fort and told me to keep plugging with football because we had to keep going on. I thank God for giving her to me. Every day when I go home now, I kiss my wife and I kiss my baby. I've been blessed with both of them."

As Father's Day approaches this weekend, things are back to normal around the Nicholas' house -- as normal as can be expected when you're the proud parents of a rambunctious 18-month-old.

"He's more than normal now and really has been since just a few days after the surgery," Irene said. "He's into everything and he never really stops, but that's fine with us."

Without knowing what was going on behind the scenes last season, some Falcons fans were wondering why Stephen was having a quiet year, after a promising rookie season, and not getting on the field much even though starting linebackers Michael Boley and Keith Brooking weren't having great seasons.

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Now, fans know. The Falcons learned plenty about Nicholas last season and that's part of the reason they let Boley and Brooking go.

Nicholas has been working as the starter on the strong side throughout the offseason. Part of that is because the Falcons believe his physical skills are ready to blossom. And part of it may be because Nicholas already has shown he's the strongest player on the roster as a person.

"Stephen and his wife are incredibly strong," Smith said. "And they've gotten even stronger because of what they've been through."

This year, Nicholas is looking forward to training camp and a shot at a starting job. Irene and Stephen Jr. won't be so far away this time. In fact, Nicholas already is looking forward to taking some glances at the bleachers between plays to see his son, safe, sound and healthy.

"It's going to be nice to be out there with a clear mind," Nicholas said.



**Gonzalez eager for new start with Falcons****By CHRIS VIVLAMORE**

Flowery Branch — Think Tony Gonzalez knows it all? Think there is nothing for the 10-time Pro Bowl player and almost-certain future Hall of Famer to learn.

Think again.

“Anything in life you have to keep working on,” Gonzalez said Saturday after his first training-camp practice with the Falcons. “I don’t care how good you are, there is always more to learn and always things to know. I want to make sure I know that playbook back and forward and side to side.”

Gonzalez, who played 13 seasons with Kansas City before joining the Falcons in the offseason, doesn’t sound like the player who holds the NFL records for tight ends in career touchdowns (76), career receptions (916), career receiving yards (10,940) and single-season receptions (102).

With those credentials, he feels no pressure coming to a new team.

“I just have to go out there and do what I’ve been doing for 10 years, and things will take care of themselves,” Gonzalez said. “I can’t control a lot of things. I know I can control myself and what I do. I’m going to keep preparing the way I always do. That’s always trying to get better, always constantly studying, trying to improve myself and my game. If I do that, this team will improve. We just have to get on the same page, and it starts today and every day forward.”

Don’t look for Gonzalez to be a savior. He joins a team that went 11-5 last season and reached the playoffs, but there is work to be done. Gonzalez said he has seen — and been on — teams that looked good on paper.

“Like I’ve said since I got here, I’m not trying to catch 100 balls or save the day,” Gonzalez said. “I’m just coming in here and do what I always do. When they call my play, I’m going to try to produce, and things will take care of themselves.”

**Abraham sacks his reputation  
by Jeff Schultz**

FLOWERY BRANCH --- In their never-ending quest to spin a negative into a positive, Football coaches often punctuate their pep talks with the word "opportunity."

"Our left guard broke his leg. But you have an opportunity to be a starter for the first time since you left the Arena League."  
"We're cutting you. But it's only because this gives you the best opportunity for another team to pick you up."

"We're 2-11. But we have a great opportunity to win these last three games so I can save my job and convince my wife to not run off with the pool boy." So I submit this to John Abraham: You have an opportunity.

Abraham has long been known as one of the NFL's top pass rushers. When he hasn't been injured, his sack totals are consistently in double digits, and he has reaffirmed that in his first three seasons as a Falcon. First year: seven starts, four sacks. Second and third years: 32 starts, 26 1/2 sacks (a career-high 16 1/2 last season).

The opportunity? Abraham acknowledges he never really has been known as a leader. It might be overstating things to suggest he has been known as selfish. But neither has he held a doctorate in nurturing.

But have you seen the Falcons' defensive depth chart? Abraham (31) and Mike Peterson (33) are the only starters in their 30s. Seven starters are 26 or younger and will be entering their first, second or third NFL season.

Abraham needs to be there to lead them. Or maybe sit with them on the bench while the grown-ups get to go on the big roller coasters. He is nearly as important on the defensive side of the ball as Matt Ryan is on the offensive side. (Noteworthy: In the Falcons' media guide, the section divider before the player biographies pictures only two players: Abraham and Ryan.)

Mike Smith has approached Abraham in the past about being a leader on defense, Abraham said. "He's always asked me to help the younger guys. But it seems that [role] will be a little bigger now. You'll definitely see me on the sideline, talking to players. I'll definitely be more vocal, telling people certain things, small things."

This hasn't been his reputation. He hasn't been a teaching, inspiring, locker-room-speech, scream-to-wake-up-the-guys-in-the-huddle kind of teammate.

"People look at me and see that I do things a little more nonchalant," he said. "It's not like I don't want to be around people or I don't want them to get better. I want everybody around me to get better so we'll be better. But I guess when I was younger I was a little more self-motivated. When you're like that, I guess some people look at you like [you're selfish]. But I'm looking forward to being more of a leader this year."

"I'm not a Ray Lewis type. I'm not going to scream --- not unless somebody does something really stupid."

May want to save his voice right now. Expectations are fairly low. "But that's how it was last year, and we kept getting better," he said. "We have a lot of players willing to learn. Let's show people how good we can be."

Wow. Right out of the "opportunity" handbook.

It was a difficult offseason. Abraham admits he "wasn't happy" when the Falcons failed to re-sign several of their veterans, particularly friend Lawyer Milloy. But he said he got over it relatively quickly. "I'm older now and I know it's a business," he said.

There was speculation that he might try to leverage the situation for more money. He missed some organized team workouts (which aren't mandatory). Rumors circulated he would hold out of training camp. But Abraham denies that and said he missed some OTAs "just to rest my body."

He has stayed relatively healthy the past two seasons, starting every game. When that was mentioned to him, he knocked on something. Core exercises have helped him avoid past hernia and groin injuries. He knows he had been tagged as being injury prone (missing half of his first season with the Falcons ). But he said, "People never look at how I've always come back."

One label dispelled. Here's an opportunity to dispel another.

**Falcons QB Ryan seeks perfection****2008 Rookie of the Year out to prove last season was not a fluke****By STEVE HUMMER**

If only for a moment, Matt Ryan was caught unprepared. Then the moment was gone.

The subject was stardom. The setting was the dining room at the Falcons' Flowery Branch headquarters, just after an ascendant quarterback and one very sick teenager had shared a little baked ziti.

What did it mean to him, Ryan was asked, to be the one person that a 16-year-old boy with stage IV cancer wanted to meet more than anyone else in this world?

"I don't know how to respond to it," he said, struggling to put this Make-A-Wish event into words.

(Long pause.)

"I don't know. It's an unbelievable feeling to positively impact somebody's life," he sputtered.

"I'm speechless."

Not often that Ryan is thrown for a loss.

In one short NFL season, Ryan seemingly had grasped all the many elements of his sudden celebrity. He had earned a Rookie of the Year award without blushing, walked the red carpet at the ESPYs without tripping and made headlines without ever once posing for a police mug shot.

And, oh, yeah, he won 11 games during a season that was supposed to be a post-Apocalyptic wasteland of strangers bumping into each other in the huddle and animal rights activists circling the perimeter.

The quiet man from the Quaker high school in Pennsylvania and the Catholic college in Boston was the most ecumenical player in football – unifying a team and a community behind a suitable arm and a better eye for the fine points of football.

He's a man a lot of people want to meet now. How the two-year veteran accepts being the face of the franchise is one of the big questions going into the season.

Because whether he says it out loud or not, he craves stardom.

"He wants to be the best," said his center, Todd McClure. "I haven't heard him say that, but you can tell it by the way he prepares and the way he approaches the game."

**Nice opening act**

For all his touch, Ryan had an imprecise feel for what football's Fates had in mind for him a year ago.

Or else, why would he have told offensive coordinator Mike Mularkey in their brainstorm session before the season-opening game against Detroit to call the simplest sort of pattern for his first NFL pass. "I'm a slow starter," he told Mularkey, proving that precognition was not among his gifts.

So, the first option of that first pass was a short curl pattern, something Ryan could complete with his helmet on backward.

The quarterback picks up the story:

"But if we got a certain look (from the Lions' defense), there'd be a 'skinny post' on the backside. That's not an easy pass to complete. Our expectation was to not get that look. Sure enough, soon as I get under center, that's exactly the look we had.

"It's a five-step drop, plant, throw. It has to be completely on time so the ball is out and, as soon as (wide receiver Michael Jenkins) leaves his break, it finds him. There is a little window between 19 and 21 yards down the field.

“We find it (and Jenkins sprints clear for a 62-yard touchdown). So much for starting out slow.”

OK, hotshot, what about your first pass today, in the season-opener against Miami?

“I might have set the bar too high last year,” he laughed. “Hopefully it’s a completion.”

Ryan’s template for success was there for all to see with that first pro pass. There is a grounded realism, a dash of humility, that doesn’t come easily when you’re a No. 3 overall draft pick. There is a nimble mind that isn’t bothered by the prospect of working overtime to absorb a gameplan. And he has the goods when it is time to deliver. He has a script for this star quarterback thing, much of it unglamorous detail, written in fine print. Ryan relies on his routine to get him to game day, drawing strength from the weekday chores of football.

On game week, that means having the game-plan transmitted to his home on Tuesday night for an early once-over. Wednesday and Thursday are dedicated to getting lost in the permutations of the plan. As Mularkey always tells him: “It’s what you do when nobody’s watching that makes a difference.”

“Some guys watch film because they think they’re supposed to,” Mularkey said. “We got a bunch of guys who understand you need to, and (Ryan) leads the pack.”

Last season, he was a slave to his routine right to the end. Why else would he come into the Flowery Branch film room the day after losing at Arizona in the playoffs, when there wasn’t another meaningful game for eight months?

What was Ryan looking for in the ghost images of a loss in which most everyone – himself included, with a pair of picks – underperformed?

“Peace of mind, really,” he said.

“I don’t like things left undone. It’s my routine to come in after we’ve played, take a look at what we’ve done, kind of assess the game. Just because it was the last week of the season didn’t really change for me. I wanted to take a look at it and know going into the offseason what my focuses would be.”

As the Cardinals game underscored, Ryan was not perfect his first year.

However, in the hunt for flaws, only a nit-picker working on a microscopic level finds anything.

And often the effort yields only silliness.

He can get a little greedy once in awhile, like the time this offseason when he tried to cut the corner at No. 13 at Augusta National. Ended up in the flora, and took an eight.

In a recent study of the facial features of NFL quarterbacks, as reported by The Wall Street Journal, Ryan’s face was judged the most aesthetically pleasing because it was 99.8 percent symmetrical. Yeah, well, that leaves a whole .2 percent out of alignment.

And what’s with that immune system? Here it is the week of a highly hyped opener with Miami and Ryan is dealing with some kind of bug? Didn’t he take his vitamins before the start of the season?

As for his work on the field, Ryan and Mularkey have emphasized improving the quarterback’s judgment, taking more of what the defense gives. Mularkey said that he actually has reduced the playbook by 30 pages in order to narrow Ryan’s preparation to what he does best.

Off the field, of course, Ryan has a plan. You would not expect him to go into the whole stardom thing without one.

“It’s no different with how I try to prepare each week to play a game,” he said without offering detail.

“It’s tough when you’re young to know where you want to be. I want to play for a long time, that’s the No. 1 thing. As far as off-the-field stuff, I like to keep my stuff private for the most part.”

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That he has done. As Michael Vick was before him, Ryan is available to the local media one day a week during the season. From behind a growing protective wall, he can be very selective about what he chooses to reveal.

The secrets of today's game plan are on par with information about his love life.

As Ryan said in a recent Sports Illustrated story: "My offensive coordinator at Boston College told me before my first start, 'Listen, the less you say, the less you have to take back.' It remains true."

But when Ryan comes out and shows himself, he still is the unassuming quarterback, demonstrating that the last year hasn't changed his basic character.

Ask the Van Ettens, the family that traveled from South Carolina to Flowery Branch two weeks ago to meet with Ryan. The youngest son, 16-year-old Alex, bald and weakened from his cancer treatments, was a Vick fan. He had made the transformation to a Ryan man, and was given the chance to spend a morning with his idol at Falcons camp.

As difficult as it was for Ryan to put into words what the Make-A-Wish meeting – his first – meant, he was as at complete ease with young Alex.

The quarterback turned receiver for a few minutes, going out for lobs thrown by his visitor, whooping it up after each completion. They talked video games and football, Ryan liberally sprinkling his speech with the catch-all, "Dude." They exchanged numbers in order to keep the text messages flowing during the season.

"(Ryan) was amazing," said Alex's mother, Beth Van Etten. "To sit down with Alex, who was so obviously overwhelmed by everything, and to talk with him until he felt completely comfortable ... it was perfect."

What amazes Ryan to this day is the fact that anyone would be starstruck and made uncomfortable by just meeting him. "It's a strange thing to have happen, because I'm a fairly easy-going person," he said.

On the other end of it, though, Ryan admitted he was a little awed meeting Kobe Bryant at the ESPYs this year.

There it is, Matt Ryan's secret to becoming a star: Just don't let on that you are one.