



MONDAY NIGHT NOTES

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NFL-94 10/20/05

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
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JETS TOUCH DOWN IN FALCONS' NEST FOR MONDAY MATCHUP

Atlanta Falcons head coach **JIM MORA** doesn't need to rent DVDs – he already has a favorite that he can watch this Monday night.

The Falcons' "DVD Backfield" of running back **WARRICK DUNN** (577 rushing yards), quarterback **MICHAEL VICK** (284) and running back **T.J. DUCKETT** (183; ankle sprain) is the top-rated ground-gaining show in the NFL.

It will be up to the New York Jets to hit the "STOP" button Monday in the Georgia Dome.

Atlanta led the league in rushing last season by averaging 167.0 yards per game and is atop the NFL again with a 185.3 average. The Falcons and Carolina are tied for second place in the NFC South (4-2) behind Tampa Bay (5-1).

"This is a very, very explosive team on offense," says Jets head coach **HERMAN EDWARDS**. "It starts with the quarterback – Michael Vick. He can make a lot of things happen with the ball in his hands – throwing or running. And they can run the ball – they can pound it at you."

New York counters with a formidable front seven. The defensive line is layered with the talent of **DE SHAUN ELLIS**, **DT DEWAYNE ROBERTSON**, **NT JAMES REED** and the versatile **DE-LB JOHN ABRAHAM**. This unit makes plays and slows down offenses to help enable ball-hawking linebackers **JONATHAN VILMA**, **ERIC BARTON** and **VICTOR HOBSON** to bring a play to a halt. Four members of the Jets' front seven – Abraham ('00), Ellis ('00), Robertson ('03), and Vilma ('04) – were Jets first-round draft choices. Hobson was a second-round selection in 2003.

Vick, the Falcons' "Mr. Excitement," has won nine consecutive starts indoors and owns a career mark of 18-4 (.818 in Georgia Dome starts). Last week in Atlanta's thrilling road victory over New Orleans, the five-year pro led his team 44 yards in 31 seconds to the Saints' 23-yard line with the score tied 31-31. Vick completed all four of his passes and rushed for a first down to set up a 36-yard field goal by **TODD PETERSON** on the game's last play for a 34-31 final.

New York, buoyed by the ageless **VINNY TESTAVERDE** – 16 years Vick's senior -- defeated previously unbeaten Tampa Bay (14-12) in Week 5, but was upended last week by Buffalo (27-17). Despite the loss, Jets running back **CURTIS MARTIN** posted his first 100-yard performance (148) of the season.

Martin (433 rushing yards), who has not lost a fumble in 767 touches since November 2, 2003, scored his 98th career touchdown last week. The 11-year veteran and reigning NFL rushing champ needs two touchdowns to become the 10th running back in history to score 100.

The top 10 NFL running backs in career touchdowns:

PLAYER	SEASONS	CAREER TDs	PLAYER	SEASONS	CAREER TDs
Emmitt Smith	1990-04	175	John Riggins	1971-85	116
Marcus Allen	1982-97	145	Lenny Moore	1956-67	113
Marshall Faulk	1994-present	136	Barry Sanders	1989-98	109
Jim Brown	1957-65	126	Franco Harris	1972-84	100
Walter Payton	1975-87	125	Curtis Martin	1995-present	98

SACK-MEISTERS: The Atlanta tandem of **DT ROD COLEMAN** (6.0) and **DE PATRICK KERNEY** (3.5) own the league's second highest sack total by teammates with 9.5 (**ROBERT MATHIS**, 7.0 and **DWIGHT FREENEY**, 5.0; Indianapolis). Since 2002, Coleman has corralled more sacks than any NFL interior lineman with 34.0.

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MONDAY NIGHT MINUTIA: Jets head coach Edwards played the final three games of his 10-year NFL career with the Falcons in 1986. Since taking the Jets' reins in 2001, Atlanta is the only team that he has not faced as a head coach.

MONDAY NIGHT MUSINGS – N. Y. JETS AT ATLANTA FALCONS

“THE MONDAY NIGHT MIRACLE”

- This Monday night will mark the five-year-and-one day anniversary of the Jets’ 40-37 overtime victory over Miami on October 23, 2000 in which **QB VINNY TESTAVERDE** orchestrated a 30-point fourth-quarter comeback in a game voted the “Greatest Monday Night Football Game Ever Played.”

With the Dolphins leading 30-7 entering the final stanza, Testaverde threw four touchdown passes, including a game-tying three-yard tackle-eligible score to **JUMBO ELLIOTT**.

In overtime, Testaverde completed a 28-yard pass to **WR WAYNE CHREBET** on third-and-three to set up current Redskins **K JOHN HALL**’s 40-yard game-winner with 6:47 left in overtime.

“There are so many things about that game that stick out to me, from **LAVERANUES COLES**’ great over-the-shoulder touchdown catch (early in the fourth quarter), to Jumbo’s touchdown reception,” says Testaverde. “It was the feeling that we had accomplished something pretty unique when the game was over.

“It was an incredible thing to be a part of,” he continues. “It’s pretty amazing that it was on Monday Night Football, as well. I’m sure there were a lot of people that thought the game was over and turned it off and went to bed. I can only image how stunned they must have been when they got in their cars the next morning and, when the sports segment came on, must have been shocked at what they heard.”

Testaverde finished the game completing 36 of 59 passes for 378 yards and five touchdowns.

Currently, there are 10 Jets players on New York’s roster who were on the field that memorable night: **DE-LB JOHN ABRAHAM**, **WR WAYNE CHREBET**, **WR LAVERANUES COLES**, **DE SHAUN ELLIS**, **T JASON FABINI**, **RB CURTIS MARTIN**, **C KEVIN MAWAE**, **QB CHAD PENNINGTON**, **RB JERALD SOWELL** and **QB VINNY TESTAVERDE**.

FALCON IN STRIPES

- Falcons **RB FRED MC CRARY** never likes to see a flag on the field when he’s pass-protecting for quarterbacks or opening lanes for running backs. But fans should not be surprised if they see McCrary himself throwing flags sometime in the future. The 11-year veteran was one of five NFL players to participate in the NFL Europe Officiating Clinic held during training camp this spring in Tampa, Florida for the 2005 NFL Europe season.

McCrary and the other players participated in training sessions with NFL Europe officials and had the chance to test their skills as officials during team scrimmages conducted by the NFL Europe teams. It was McCrary’s second stint in the program after participating in 2004 as well.

“I really enjoyed doing it,” says McCrary. “It’s something that would probably be a good profession after football. It makes you have a newfound respect for the officials because it’s so tough. Many people think it is simple, but it is tough as heck.”

CHEF HEARD

- Falcons **S RONNIE HEARD**’s passion is not only a burning desire to intercept passes, but also to hold a frying pan over a burning fire.

A career in football is helping Heard gain funds that will allow him to someday open a restaurant.

Heard already has a head start on the competition after cooking stints with star San Francisco chefs **TRACI DES JARDINS** and **VICTOR SCARGLE**.

“There are so many things I think about,” says Heard. “Will it be an open kitchen? Will there be an outdoor patio? Will it be near water? Will it be a place warm enough to eat outside?”

One thing for certain is the menu. A native of Texas, Heard says he will be sure to include deep-fried foods that “stick to the ribs,” along with some California sauté influences that he learned while apprenticing in San Francisco.

