



# FALCONS CHEATSHEET

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## ATL-NO 101

- Falcons offensive line coach Paul Boudreau spent seven seasons on the New Orleans Saints coaching staff, from 1887-1993.
- Saints sixth-year veteran cornerback Leigh Torrence spent the 2005 season with the Falcons.
- Falcons linebacker Sean Weatherspoon and safety William Moore played with Saints backup quarterback Chase Daniel at the University of Missouri.
- Atlanta head coach Mike Smith is 1-3 against the Saints as a member of the Falcons.
- Since 2008 as the head coach, Smith is 6-6 in NFC South play.

## ATL-NO 201

- Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan and Saints quarterback Drew Brees are both 15-4 when playing indoors.
- The Falcons hold the all-time lead in regular season games between the two franchises with a 44-37 record.
- Atlanta's regular season record at the New Orleans' stadium, the Superdome, is 16-17.
- The last regular season meeting between the two teams was in December 2009, a 26-23 Saints victory. New Orleans' kicker Garrett Hartley converted a 38-yard field goal with just over four minutes remaining in the game to break the tie.
- Brees is 7-1 against Atlanta while with the Saints, completing 66.2 percent of his passes for 2,343 yards, 16 touchdowns and five interceptions. In those eight games, his QB rating is 101.2.

## ATL-NO 301

- Following a 2007 season that saw the Falcons average 300.8 yards per game, Atlanta has shown improvement in many key offensive statistics since it began under Coach Smith in 2008. So far through two games, Atlanta is off to its best start, exceeding marks the prior three years for yards per game, first downs, points per game and third-down percentage.
- Running back Michael Turner on Sunday will aim for his fourth game in a row against New Orleans with a rushing touchdown. Last season, Turner did not play in the final matchup between the two teams. In Week 8, he rushed for 151 yards and a touchdown. That loss was only the second for Atlanta when Turner rushed for over 100 yards. When the back scores one or more touchdowns in a game, the Falcons are 12-5.
- Saints running back Pierre Thomas will be a key figure to stop for the Falcons' defense. Thomas will attempt to make it three consecutive home games vs. Atlanta that he's had a rushing and receiving touchdown. In his past two games against the Falcons, he's compiled 209 yards from scrimmage and four touchdowns, two on the ground and two in the air.
- The Falcons face an opportunistic defense, one that finished third in the NFL last year with 26 interceptions. The Saints are currently second in the NFL in turnover margin, taking the ball away five times on defense and turning it over none on offense so far this season. Atlanta ranks sixth in the league with a plus-2 margin. Under Smith, when the Falcons win the turnover battle, they are 11-1.
- The defense faces a tough task slowing down New Orleans' powerful offense. But if they can limit them, Atlanta will have a good chance to win the game. When the Atlanta defense under Smith holds an opponent under 300 yards, they are 7-0. In Week 1 vs. the Vikings, the Saints totaled 308 yards and 287 in Week 2 against the 49ers. The Falcons allowed 354 yards to the Steelers in their Week 1 loss, but limited Arizona to 267 in Week 2.

