



FALCONS CHEATSHEET

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ATL-BAL 101

- Falcons head coach Mike Smith got his NFL coaching start with the Baltimore Ravens, serving as an assistant from 1999-2002 and winning a Super Bowl with the team in 2000.
- Smith and Ravens head coach John Harbaugh both coached at Morehead State University in Kentucky. Smith coached the defensive line in 1986 and Harbaugh coached the defensive backs and special teams in 1988.
- Smith and Harbaugh both became rookie head coaches in 2008, taking over franchises with rookie quarterbacks. Both coaches have the same 26-14 regular season record in their three years.
- Atlanta offensive coordinator Mike Mularkey was the head coach of the Buffalo Bills when Falcons linebacker Coy Wire and Ravens running back Willis McGahee were with the team.
- Falcons defensive tackle Peria Jerry and Ravens offensive tackle Michael Oher were teammates in college at Mississippi.



ATL-BAL 201

- Thursday's matchup between the Falcons and Ravens is the NFL Network's first primetime Thursday night game of the season. Under Smith, Atlanta is 1-1 in games played at 8 p.m.
- The Ravens hold the all-time edge between the two franchises with a 2-1 record and the last meeting between the two was a 24-10 Baltimore victory in 2006.
- Both team's quarterbacks were drafted in the first round of the 2008 draft. Atlanta QB Matt Ryan and Ravens QB Joe Flacco were the first rookie quarterbacks in NFL history to start all 16 regular season games and lead their teams to the playoffs.
- In last week's 26-10 win over the Dolphins, the Ravens neither punted nor turned the ball over once and became just the third team to accomplish this in the past 10 seasons.
- With 1,949 yards passing so far this Ryan is on pace for the second 4,000-yard passing season in Falcons history, joining Jeff George who accumulated 4,143 in 1995.



ATL-BAL 301

- Against the Ravens, points for the Falcons will be at a premium. Baltimore is ranked sixth in the NFL, allowing 17.4 points per game. The Falcons have shown an ability once inside the red zone to come away with points. This season they've scored on 27 of their 29 red zone drives and their 150 red zone points is sixth in the league.
- Baltimore's pass defense ranks 16th in the league with eight interceptions, but the Falcons will have to watch All-Pro safety Ed Reed. In his two games since returning from the Physically Unable to Perform list, Reed has three interceptions, the team leader.
- Traditionally in 3-4 defenses like Baltimore's, the front three defensive linemen are designed to be run-stoppers. The Ravens' defensive end Haloti Ngata excels in this, but is also an exceptional pass rusher. His five sacks this season leads all 3-4 defensive ends and he will be a challenge for Atlanta's fourth-ranked offensive line.
- The Ravens' run defense is ranked 13th, allowing 104.8 yards per game. Falcons running back Michael Turner will be a key component in an Atlanta win. Turner is seeking his third straight game of 100-plus rushing yards and two-plus touchdowns. Since joining Atlanta in 2008, Turner is averaging 5.5 points per game, the league leader among running backs with 20-or-more games played.
- A dangerous dual-threat running back, Ray Rice will be one of Baltimore's primary weapons against the Falcons defense. Last week Rice had 180 yards from scrimmage (97 receiving, 83 rushing), the sixth time in the running back's three-year career that he's had 50-plus rushing and 50-plus receiving yards in one game. His 105.2 all-purpose yards per game ranks 10th among all running backs in the NFL.