Falcons Say Radloff Had a Game To Remember, If Only He Could

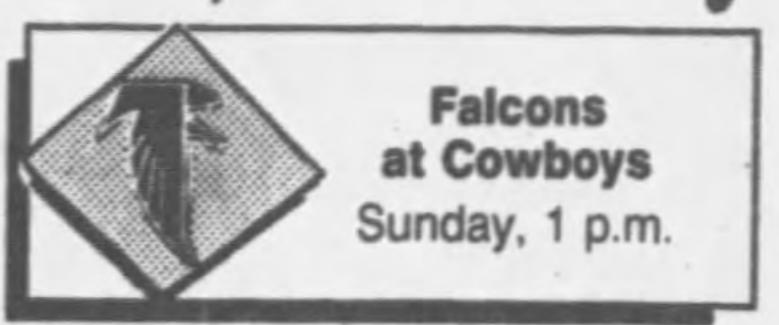
By Glenn Sheeley Staff Writer

Had last Saturday afternoon been an indicator, the point spread that showed the Atlanta Falcons as two-touchdown underdogs to San Francisco might have exploded off the board.

preparing to fly West to meet the undefeated 49ers. There was Wayne Radloff, the starting center, too sick to sit up and eat lunch on the way to the airport and sacked out across the seat of his truck.

As tackle Mike Kenn and tight end Ken Whisenhunt dined inside a Roswell restaurant, they could only hope that somewhere in the San Francisco area All-Pro nose tackle Michael Carter had a stomach virus of a similar nature.

"Wayne was so sick, I had to drive the truck for him," Kenn said. "When we got to the airport, we were kidding about getting him a wheelchair."



for two days. He was encouraged. The knee felt pretty good.

Unfortunately, things turned There were the winless Falcons, downhill again in a hurry. Yes, the Falcons went on to upset the 49ers, but before the day would end, Radloff was to a) bruise his hip in the third quarter and b) take a knee to the side of his head, lose consciousness for three minutes and suffer a memory lapse that would cover the entire fourth quarter. Radloff barely remembered leaving the game then and being replaced by backup George Yarno.

"When I woke up, I didn't know if we were winning or losing," Radloff said Wednesday. "Later; I knew we'd won, but didn't remember how. I didn't know that Bill (Fralic) had been kicked out (for fighting with Carter). I had no idea that would have hurt a little more."

The noteworthy aspect is that Radloff, a fourth-year player from Georgia, not only played, but played impressively as the Falcons controlled the line of scrimmage sufficiently to rush for 196 yards.

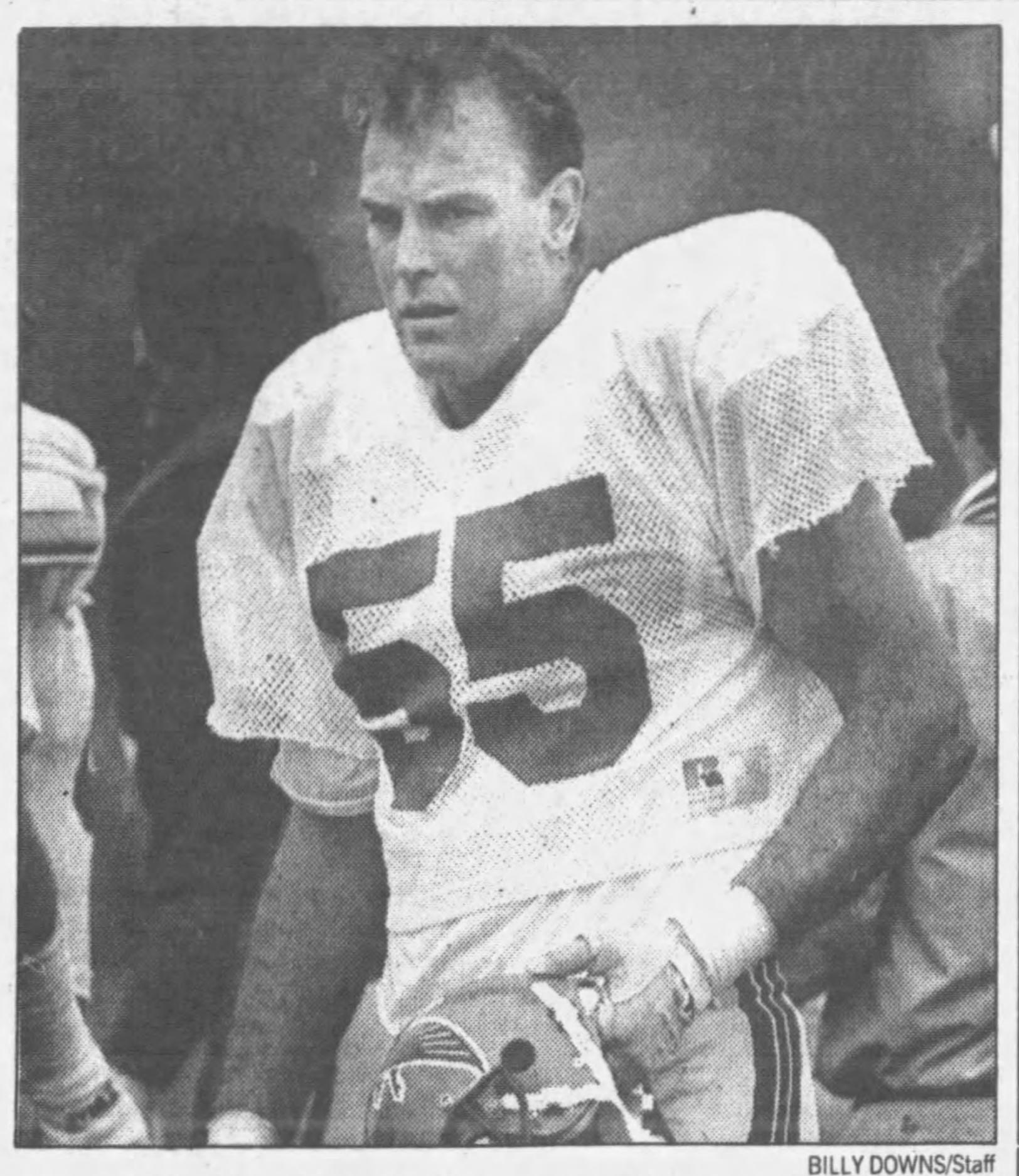
"He played inspired football," said Kenn.

"He played a very fine football game," said Hanifan. "He came out there Sunday weak as all get-out, but played great football. I knew that if he could go, he would. He's always been a tough guy for me."

Radloff was held out of practice again Wednesday to allow his laundry list of injuries to improve. The big problem right now is the head injury. Although it was a concussion as initially announced, a huge lump remains above his right ear.

"I can't even get my helmet over my head," he said.

Radloff plans to be playing Sunday against the Cowboys at Dallas. If there's anything for which to be



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1988

Wayne Radloff went into the 49ers game with a stomach virus and an aching knee and came out with a concussion.

Buckeyes' Workman Ineligible

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The Atlanta Journal AND CONSTITUTION

Back Accepted Money, Signed Agent Contract

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

Ohio State University on Wednesday declared starting tailback Vince Workman ineligible for the remainder of his senior season because he accepted money from and signed a contract with indicted sports agent David Lueddeke of Los Angeles.

Of a more serious consequence, Workman faces possible federal charges of mail fraud, obstruction of justice and income tax evasion for concealing his transaction with Lueddeke for almost two years, sources said.

Workman disclosed his relationship with Mr. Lueddeke to **Ohio State officials Wednesday** morning after being subpoenaed to appear Tuesday before a federal grand jury in Chicago that is continuing its investigation into sports agents. Workman last week denied to the FBI that he had taken money from or signed a contract with Mr. Lueddeke. Mr. Lueddeke, 37, was indicted Aug. 24 on two counts of perjury and obstruction of justice for attempting to cover up his dealings with former Ohio State wide .-receiver Cris Carter during the 1986 season. Mr. Lueddeke is not associated with sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, who also were involved with Carter and who were indicted Aug. 24 by the same grand jury on charges of racketeering, extortion, mail fraud and wire fraud. For his involvement with Workman, Mr. Lueddeke faces new potential charges of mail fraud as well as additional counts of obstruction of justice and perjury. Mr. Lueddeke is scheduled to be arraigned Friday in Chicago on the Aug. 24 indictment. Carter last Friday pleaded guilty to mail ... fraud (for dealing with Walters and Bloom) and obstruction of justice (for concealing his dealing with Lueddeke), and will be sentenced next March.

Falcons offensive line coach Jim Hanifan could only think, "Geez, we're really going to have to suck it up now."

After a flight that seemed to the nauseated Radloff to be headed for Australia, the news improved. He awoke Sunday morning with his stomach once again settled.

After two intravenous treatments Sunday morning, Radloff could now devote all concern to his left knee, which had been drained and kept him off the practice field

(safety) Robert Moore had scored touchdown that (on an interception)."

It wasn't until a bus ride to the airport Sunday night that Radloff really comprehended what had transpired. Reading the play-byplay sheet of the 34-17 Atlanta win, he began to remember distinct moments of the game.

"It wasn't one of my more enjoyable games," Radloff said. "But it would have been a lot harder to take it we'd lost. I think everything

thankful, it's that possibly he's received his ailments for the season all in one cluster.

"I hope," Radloff said, "that I got it all out of the way."

NOTES: Coach Marion Campbell decided he needed an extra defensive back for nickel coverages more than a third tight end and re-signed cornerback Leander Knight, a former replacement player who had been waived Aug. 29. Knight (6-foot-1, 193 pounds) took the spot cleared when tight end Alex Higdon (knee

surgery) was placed on injured reserve. ... Campbell said there's a (ankle). ... Linebacker Tim Green "very slim" chance that rookie line- (elbow) and rookie offensive tackle backer Marcus Cotton (ankle) will play Sunday at Dallas. ... Likely to play but not practicing Wednesday were cornerback Scott Case (virus). cornerback Bobby Butler (groin), guard Bill Fralic (elbow) and Radloff (concussion). Returning to practice were quarterback Chris Miller (shin), running back James Primus

(knee) and tight end Whisenhunt Stan Clayton (knee) returned to Falcons were favored Sunday his team was a 6½-point underdog. Campbell said, "The guys from Las Vegas don't fly in and watch us too often."

practice for the first time since their placement on the injured reserve list. ... Asked whether the against the Cowboys and told that

Ellis 'Grohs' Into Leadership Role as South Carolina Quarterback

By Tony Barnhart Staff Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Last season when Al Groh was special teams coach for the Atlanta Falcons, he would spend his free moments in practice listening as offensive coordinator Rod Dowhower instructed rookie quarterback Chris Miller on the nuances of the pro-style offense. "It just seemed like a smart thing to do," said Groh.

Today Groh is the offensive coordinator at South Carolina, and his willingness to listen a year ago may translate into Gamecocks quarter-

17.5.1

back Todd Ellis having his best season. In Ellis's first two seasons, in the Gamecocks' run-and-shoot of- with Dowhower and Jimmy Raye, fense, he threw for more than 6,000 the Falcons' receivers coach. yards and 30 touchdowns.

But Ellis also was intercepted 46 times in 23 games, and by last spring head coach Joe Morrison had seen enough. Offensive coordinator Frank Sadler was dismissed and replaced by Groh, a former head coach at Wake Forest.

Groh brought with him a complex pro-style attack that he began developing in 1981 as an assistant at Wake Forest to John Mackovic.

Groh said the system was further refined after his contact in Atlanta

"I had a strong belief in the quality of the system because of the people who had an input into it," said Groh. "It's a geometric thing. learned from Rod Dowhower and he is deeply steeped in the [Don] Coryell and [Bill] Walsh systems."

After three games under the new system, Ellis has completed almost 62 percent of his attempts for 712 yards and five touchdowns and has yet to throw an interception. At

this time last year, Ellis already had been intercepted eight times.

South Carolina hopes the Ellis-Groh combination will solve two problems that has plagued its offense.

The first problem was Ellis's tendency to throw interceptions. The run-and-shoot is a reading offense in which Ellis essentially was told to find an open receiver and throw to him. In the pro-style, however, if one receiver isn't open, Ellis will have a working knowledge of where the next opening should be.

Secondly, South Carolina hopes

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to improve its production inside the opposing 20-yard line. Against Georgia last year, for example, South Carolina could muster only two field goals after getting inside the Georgia 15-yard line five times.

"This style offense is really like playing a round of golf," said Groh. "You have to have a lot of clubs in your bag because even though you might not hit every one of them each round, sooner or later you're going to need them all. You need a play for every situation and hopefully this offense gives us that."

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