

by Laurie Entrekin

Third and long and the opposing running back has just made it past your line. He cuts left, slips one tackle, then the next. Now it's up to you. Either stop him or the game is over. As the defensive safety, you are a trained expert at tracking his every move across those 20 yards, anticipating his next reverse and calculating just how long you need to get there to *pull him down*. Your eyes locked, nothing can break your concentration...

Then, suddenly, a drop of sweat rolls into your eye, dislodging your contact. Refusing to let yourself become distracted, you squint—with the offending eye closed—and try to gauge your opponent's position with the other eye. A poor solution, but it's your only option at the moment, on the field; you are your team's last line of defense. Your game depends upon your vision.

Atlanta Falcon **BRYAN SCOTT** Elevates His Game With **LASIK**

PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY THOMAS VANDERBILT COMMUNICATIONS



Atlanta Falcon Bryan Scott #24 is a tough, physical hitter who ranked third on the team in 2004, with 85 tackles and 2.5 sacks, both career-highs.

This is the plight Atlanta Falcon Bryan Scott #24 found himself in at the end of the 2004 football season, when the use of corrective lenses became more than an unpleasant daily routine, threatening to sack his career. "Too many times my lenses would come out on contact, or dirt would get in my eyes. It was frustrating to come off the field because of it, and a hassle to have to go get a trainer to put the contact back in, because my hands were too dirty to do it myself," says Scott, whose poor vision dates back to high school. "I came to the point in my career where I knew I had to make a change if I wanted to elevate my game."

With a measure of trepidation yet tons of resolve, Scott met with the Falcons' team physician, who recommended that Scott consider Custom LASIK surgery. Then, early this year, Scott was referred to Dr. Jonathan Woolfson of Woolfson Eye Institute, a highly trained ophthalmic surgeon and one of the most experienced LASIK surgeons in North America. Scott says, "Dr. Woolfson was down-to-earth, very relaxed, and made me feel comfortable. He explained that my treatment would be customized to my eyes and my eyes only."

As with all patients, Woolfson gave Scott a thorough exam and established both his professional needs and his personal concerns. Woolfson says, "Professionally, Bryan had a specific need to get out of corrective lenses and improve his peripheral vision. Personally, he needed some reassurance that he was making a safe and wise decision." Scott remembers telling himself, "Either it will work or I'll go blind and give up football."

Woolfson, who is all too familiar with the pressure of eye doctors, professional athletes and celebrities entrusting their multi-million dollar careers to his skilled hands, put Scott's apprehension to rest, explaining that the laser used in LASIK has been around for more than 20 years. "LASIK has been proven to be safe, effective and long lasting. While the complication rate is extremely low, the success rate is very high." Woolfson Eye Institute leads the industry in the number of patients who undergo the procedure and open their eyes after surgery to clearer vision, and the institute's patient satisfaction rate is a stunning 99.8 percent.

February 22 was the date set for Scott's LASIK surgery. He had decided, as Woolfson recommended, to have both eyes operated on at once. He describes the surgery as happening very quickly, lasting fewer than 10 minutes. When it was completed, Scott was asked to sit up and read the clock on the far wall. "It was instantaneous," Scott says of his improved vision. "I could see the hands on the clock as clear as day."

"Professionally, Bryan had a specific need to get out of corrective lenses and improve his peripheral vision. Personally, he needed some reassurance that he was making a safe and wise decision."

—Jonathan Woolfson, M.D.

Scott's vision before LASIK was 20/400; now it's 20/15, better than "perfect." No longer faced with the hassle of wearing contacts, Bryan Scott should have no trouble this season looking into the opposing quarterback's eyes and knowing instantly where the ball's going. As the summer days lengthen and the start of training camp approaches, this sure tackler for the Atlanta Falcons is anxious to put his new eyes to work. It's going to be a good year.

For more information about LASIK or other refractive procedures, or to schedule a free consultation with Jonathan Woolfson, M.D., call Woolfson Eye Institute at 866-527-3722 or visit www.woolfsoneye.com.

SHOPPING FOR LASIK? WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY

Recommendations from Jonathan Woolfson, M.D., Woolfson Eye Institute

- 1. What specific training has the ophthalmologist received?** Make sure you choose a surgeon who has been fellowship trained in refractive surgery.
- 2. Is the clinic doing a high volume of LASIK?** Ask how many surgeries the clinic performs in a month—the number should be in the hundreds. A surgeon who has performed several thousand procedures has a good level of experience.
- 3. How many eye doctors have had LASIK performed on their own eyes at the clinic?** The answer to this question will indicate the clinic's credibility within the ophthalmic profession.
- 4. What is the clinic's complication rate, and how many of the clinic's patients come back later for a LASIK enhancement?** Avoid clinics with a high complication rate. Industry statistics show that five percent, or one in 20 patients, will need a "touch up" laser treatment. However, Woolfson points out, an eye surgeon should be able to tell you up front if you are likely to need an enhancement. Be sure to find out if there will be an additional charge, or if the clinic provides patients free enhancements for life.



Dr. Jonathan Woolfson has performed LASIK on more than 300 eye doctors and comes highly recommended to professional athletes, Olympic gold medalists and celebrities.