

**Thomas Dimitroff**  
NFL General Manager

Atlanta Falcons General Manager Thomas Dimitroff was named NFL Executive of the Year by *The Sporting News* for the second time in three seasons in 2010 after capping off a 13-3 season with a win over Carolina. For long-time Falcons fans, this was quite a monumental feat.

Although an impressive accomplishment in just his first three years on the job, for the architect behind the transformation of the new look Falcons, it was not enough. Dimitroff strives for so much more, and has found success, leading the Falcons to thirty-three wins and two playoff berths since the 2008 season. The Falcons continue to be a threat in the NFL today thanks to Dimitroff's leadership and shrewd drafting.

That inherent, tireless drive is one of the main reasons why the Falcons General Manager has been so successful throughout his 20-plus years in the NFL. A product of the championship producing ways in New England, Dimitroff is all about building a winner who is able to compete at the highest level each and every season. Every move Dimitroff makes is calculated and forward-thinking with one goal in mind, assembling the best football team he can. In each season since ascending to the General Manager post in Atlanta, Dimitroff has astutely engineered key moves and deftly drafted a solid nucleus of players to augment the Falcons roster.

In 2008, Dimitroff's first move was signing talented free agent running back Michael Turner from San Diego. Turner fittingly exploded onto the scene as a full-time starter for the first time in his career, finishing with 1,699 rushing yards and a club record 17 touchdowns on his way to his first Pro Bowl in 2008, and has continued to be a cornerstone of the Falcons' offense since.

Dimitroff's initial '08 draft was a windfall, delivering franchise quarterback Matt Ryan, the consensus NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, starting left tackle Sam Baker, starting middle linebacker and All-NFL rookie selection, Curtis Lofton, and eventual starting free safety Thomas DeCoud. His adept choices also included solid contributors in wide receiver Harry Douglas, defensive end Kroy Biermann and nickel corner Chevis Jackson.

Dimitroff's belief that the NFL draft is a major building block to establish a team's foundation for years to come has been the impetus for the Falcons' winning turnaround since 2008. As further evidence that Dimitroff and his hard working personnel staff are continuously selecting quality NFL talent with each draft, an impressive 27 rookies who have competed at Falcons training camps from 2008-09 have ended up on NFL rosters over the last two seasons.

Part of Dimitroff's master plan also includes adding other veterans when needed to shore up his units. For example in 2009, he signed savvy pros like linebacker Mike Peterson and cornerback Brian Williams. Peterson finished second on the team with 140 tackles, starting all 16 games, while Williams supplied punch to the secondary for the first five starts to the season before being lost with a knee injury.

When he feels he needs to make a move to bolster the roster or retain core players, the decisive Dimitroff doesn't stand idle very long. He extended the contract of veteran wide receiver Roddy

White prior to the start of the '09 regular season. White responded phenomenally in 2009 and 2010, with an outstanding 115 catches for nearly 1,400 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2010.

Dimitroff directs all aspects of football operations with the Falcons and working with Head Coach Mike Smith has final authority over all personnel decisions related to the signing of free agents, the selection of players in the draft, trades, and related decisions. He also handles coordinating other football-related activities with Coach Smith. Dimitroff earned his ascension to General Manager by working through the scouting trails as a combine/BLESTO Scout, an Area Scout, National Scout, and College Director of Scouting.

His father was a big influence on his life. Tom Dimitroff Sr. was a high school, college, and pro coach turned NFL scout, and a former NFL quarterback for the former Boston Patriots. Other key influences that have helped shape Dimitroff's philosophy today and aided in his rise to General Manager include Kansas City Chiefs General Manager Scott Pioli and New England Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick.

The younger Dimitroff took a genuine desire for scouting players to the ultimate level early in his life. He became the Canadian Scouting Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the CFL in 1990 as his first taste into the world of scouting. In 1992, he moved on to World League of American Football, where he scouted all NFL, CFL and World League rosters while tracking player transactions for the NFL's developmental league.

Dimitroff's career aspirations brought him to the NFL and the Detroit Lions where he became a College Scout in 1994. It was in his years as Scout for the Lions that he was introduced to Atlanta for the first time (living in the Virginia Highlands area) while evaluating the Southeastern part of the country. From there, Dimitroff made his way to Cleveland in 1998 as a College Scout for the Browns for four years before landing in New England in 2002.

Raised in Barberton, Ohio, Dimitroff captained his college team as a defensive back at the University of Guelph (Canada) from 1987–1989. Dimitroff and his wife, Angeline, have one son, Mason, and live in Atlanta.