

ball, I want to play more offense. I think I'd be a hell of an offensive player.

SPORT: Hold it. Did you say—

SANDERS: Yep. I wouldn't mind playing offense—if I come back. I'd like to be involved in the game plan. I'm not talking about catching 30, 40 passes a year. I'd enjoy just taking the pressure off the other guys. If you line me up on the same side as Andre Rison, you can't double him, and it'll free him to do his thing. When I enter a game, the defense would be yelling, "Watch out for Prime, he's gonna run this, he's gonna run that."

SPORT: What'd you think about Bobby Hebert's first season in Atlanta?

SANDERS: I've always hated playing against Bobby because he's a gutsy, heady quarterback. So I was thrilled when he signed with us. He's not blessed with speed or great arm strength, but he compensates by being smart, crafty. He had a great season. Twenty-four TDs. He exceeded expectations.

SPORT: Does it tick you off that you're 0-for-2 in the World Series and haven't played in a Super Bowl?

SANDERS: It's killing me. Losing the World Series to the Twins [in 1991] was hard to take because every game was so close, so intense. Not getting to the World Series last year was a huge disappointment, especially after fighting the Giants to the last day of the season. As far as a Super Bowl goes, if I ever play in one, it's lights out. I'll give those people their \$175 worth, that's for sure. I'll give them a show they'll never forget.

SPORT: What would you do?

SANDERS: Everything. Pick off a few passes. Run one back. Catch a pass. Be involved in the offense. Run back a punt. I'll light it up. No one will ever be able to stop talking about it.

SPORT: Last question, Deion. Is this the year the Braves finally win a World Series?

SANDERS: We're planning on it....No one's got a better starting rotation. We've got great depth in the bullpen. We've got power, speed, pitching, defense. Losing Ronnie Gant will hurt—we'll lack that big right-handed bat in the middle of the order—but we've got a great bench. There's some great teams out there—Toronto, San Francisco. But I feel we're the best team in baseball. Hopefully, we'll prove it in October. ★

If Sanders holds true to his word, the NFL will be losing arguably its best corner to the diamond.

let the defensive coordinator do his thing. That's a start in the right direction. Jerry wanted to do everything.

SPORT: How can the Falcons get rid of their losing image?

SANDERS: They're only a couple players away from being a very good team. First, they need a great pass rusher, a guy like Rickey Jackson, who's available [through free agency]. We were [27th] against the pass—not because of the [defensive backs] but because we had no pass rush. We had only 20-something sacks [27]. If you give the quarterback all day to throw, I don't care who you are, how good a corner man you are, sooner or later they're gonna beat you.

SPORT: What about the Falcons' offense?

SANDERS: It's devastating. Weapons galore. Andre [Rison], Michael Haynes, Michael Pritchard. They're awesome. Best set of receivers in the league.

SPORT: If that's true, why do we keep hearing about San Francisco's Jerry Rice and John Taylor or Dallas' Michael Irvin and Alvin Harper?

SANDERS: Because [the Falcons] use the run-and-shoot and it isn't respected. It's not traditional. I love it, though. It generates points. It's like running a fast break [in basketball] all day. If I come back to foot-

