



## Falcons RT Weiner agrees to five-year extension

By John Clayton  
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The Atlanta Falcons quietly resolved one of their biggest offseason issues during the regular season by reaching a five-year, \$22 million contract extension with right tackle Todd Weiner.



Included in the deal is \$7.5 million in signing and option bonuses.

Weiner was scheduled to be the team's top unsigned player this offseason. As Weiner a right tackle for left-handed quarterback Michael Vick, Weiner's job is to protect Vick's blindside. After less than a month of negotiations, the Falcons reached an agreement that will keep Weiner with the team through the 2011 season.

Weiner, 31, joined the Falcons in 2002 as a free agent from the Seattle Seahawks. He signed a five-year, \$17.5 million contract with the Falcons and has been a steady leader along the offensive line since.

During his career, which began as a second-round draft choice of the Seahawks in 1998, Weiner has started 88 of 118 games. He's an athletic right tackle. At 6-foot-4, 297 pounds, he's a little lighter than some of the massive right tackles, but he fits perfectly in the Falcons' scheme.

His signing comes at a positive time for the Falcons. The team is 4-2, and Vick is coming off his best game this season as a passing quarterback.

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