

# Ex-teammate helps out Small

The ties that bind

By Adam Folk | Staff Writer

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It has been 36 years since former Atlanta Falcons John Small and Joe Profit shared the field.



Joe Profit (left) checks out the electric scooter he presented to former Falcons teammate John Small during a news conference at Richmond Academy. Small lost one of his legs because of diabetes.

But the bonds they formed during that time were never stronger than Wednesday, when Profit stepped in to aid his friend, who lost his leg to diabetes, by giving him an electric scooter.

"John has done so much for so many people for so long, it's just good to be able to give something back," said Profit, who is a board member for the Atlanta Chapter of NFL Alumni.

Small and Profit were the Falcons' No. 1 draft picks in 1970 and 1971, respectively.

Both men have since pledged their time to helping at-risk youth.

Speaking to the crowd of friends and admirers at Richmond Academy's auditorium, Small thanked Profit for the gift and pledged to continue his work in helping children through his nonprofit group, The Destiny Freedom Foundation Inc.

"I'm not planning on rusting out," he said. "I'm planning on burning out."

Small, who played at Richmond Academy before starring at The Citadel, said his work is driven by a faith in a higher power.

He recalled a dark night on a football field in Tennessee when he said he came to know Jesus.

And he said that particular night inspired the name of his foundation.

"I call it that (The Destiny Freedom Foundation) because my destiny would have been in a bag going straight to hell if I did not come to know Christ as lord and savior," he said.

Profit pledged that the scooter was just the first gift in a series of three.

They include a wheelchair lift and specially equipped van, that he has purchased for his friend.

"I'm happy and blessed that I'm able to do it," Profit said. "John Small would do the same for Joe Profit."

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