

Live vs. Televised

Your closest "fix" for live football is the Jacksonville Jaguars. Professional football is not for the faint-of-wallet. Jaguar game tickets range from \$20-\$210 each, not including food and beverages, along with a few souvenirs.

If you're up for tailgating, but don't want to haul your spread across state lines, the Jaguars have introduced cabana rentals this year. You and 20 friends can have your very own tent with catered food and beverages and game tickets, thus taking the traditional tailgate party to a whole new level.

Alltel Stadium in Jacksonville is also the home of Super Bowl XXXIX in 2005 (for the Roman-numeral-impaired that's 39). Jacksonville has come up with a creative way to increase the number of much-needed hotel rooms for the ultimate sporting event by bringing in cruise ships to serve as floating hotels and entertainment centers.

And if you thought your only options for football were limited to live games vs. the televised version, think again. Fantasy Football is hot and millions have caught the fever. The Internet abounds with sites dedicated to it and there are local fantasy football leagues throughout the Lowcountry. Everyday fans get to play coach and choose their own fantasy team based on real players they've "drafted" to make their very own ultimate "fantasy" team. Various players form a league and your computer can do all the work of compiling the results and tracking your progress.

Who knows - this may be the year you become a football fan vs. warming the bench. So sit back, relax and enjoy not only the game, but also an excuse to have another hot dog. □

Inside the Huddle

If you're wondering what teams are hot this season there's not shortage of football analysts and fans ready to tell you.

Check out these websites for up-to-the-kick-off insight into what's happening on the Gridiron:

ESPN.com - you can hardly go wrong with an entire network dedicated to sports.

NFL.com - the "official source" for all things football.

Football.com - great for basic information.

Jaguars.com - and other well-known team sites list stats, schedules and pages for all players.

ABC.com - home of Monday Night Football and famed commentator John Madden, just click on "Sports."

Fantasyfootball.com - just one of many sites designated for fantasy football. Also check out other sites such as CBS.com and USA Today.com.

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