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Georgia Southern University

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Blue Ribbon Basketball Picks Eagles Third in Sun Belt

Brown named all-conference, Carter Newcomer of the Year.

Marc Gignac
Men's Basketball

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STATESBORO – College basketball season is rapidly approaching, demonstrated by the releasing of preview specials from numerous publications. The 2018-19 Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook is out and picked Georgia Southern third in the Sun Belt behind Georgia State and Louisiana.

The periodical has named Tookie Brown to its all-conference team and Simeon Carter its Newcomer of the Year.

With 1,718 points, Brown is seventh among returning active career scoring leaders in the NCAA and 153 shy of becoming Georgia Southern's all-time leader in the Division I era. One of 17 players to earn first-team All-Sun Belt honors in three seasons, he is seeking to become the first to accomplish the feat all four years.

Brown averaged 18.9 points, 4.3 assists and 4.1 in rebounds while shooting .532 percent from the field and .471 percent from long distance. He ranked third in the Sun Belt in scoring, second in field goal percentage, fifth in assists, fifth in assist/turnover ratio (1.7) and second in steals (1.8).

Carter spent two seasons at Iowa State before transferring to Georgia Southern. The redshirt junior sat out last season in accordance with NCAA transfer rules and is eligible this year.

Georgia Southern reached 20 wins for the second time in four years in 2017-18, posting a 21-12 mark, and joined Louisiana and UTA as the only three Sun Belt schools to notch double-digit conference wins in each of the last four seasons. The Eagles return three starters and five lettermen to the 2018-19 team and open the campaign with a home exhibition contest against Charleston Southern in Hanner Fieldhouse Oct. 30.

Season ticket renewals and pre-orders are on sale and start at just $100. Georgia Southern annually offers one of the best values in the Sun Belt for men's basketball season tickets and this year is no different. Season tickets in the lower reserved sections (F-I) are $175 and sell out quickly while season tickets in the upper reserved sections (7-12) are $140. General admission season tickets are $100 and courtside seats are $450 each (minimum $1,200 Eagle Fund donation required to purchase courtside seats).

Fans who purchase a men's season tickets will have a women's season ticket included for no additional charge.

FORECAST
1. Georgia State
2. Louisiana
3. Georgia Southern
4. South Alabama
5. Troy
6. Appalachian State
7. Arkansas State
8. Texas State
9. ULM
10. Coastal Carolina
11. Little Rock
ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM
F-JaKeenan Gant, SR, Louisiana
F-Jordon Varnado, SR, Troy
G-Tookie Brown, SR, Georgia Southern
G-Ronshad Shabazz, SR, Appalachian State
G-D'Marcus Simonds, JR, Georgia State

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
D'Marcus Simonds, JR, Georgia State

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Simeon Carter, JR, Georgia Southern