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Georgia Southern University



Storylines To Watch Saturday As Spring Ball Wraps Up
Information for Saturday's Spring Game at Paulson Stadium
Football
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STATESBORO – After taking over the Georgia Southern football program for the back-half of the 2017 regular season and having the interim title removed for the final game, new GS head coach [Chad Lunsford](#) has spent the winter establishing a new foundation for the Eagles' program as the 2018 season approaches.

Lunsford hired an energetic staff, added several former Eagle players to auxiliary roles within the program and signed the top recruiting class in the Sun Belt. He tasked new strength coach [Matt Greenhalgh](#) with setting a higher standard in the weight room. The fun is back in the Ted Smith Family Football Center and Lunsford is hoping that translates over to the field this season with positive results.

On Saturday, the Eagles wrap up the first spring session of the Lunsford Era with the 2018 Blue-White Spring Game, an intra-squad scrimmage at Allen E. Paulson Stadium.

Saturday's start time is set for just after 1 p.m. at Paulson Stadium and admission is free. Stadium gates open at noon and the team will take the field at 12:40 p.m. Fans can enter through Gate 12 at the west end of the stadium near the main parking lot behind Bishop Field House, or through Gate 5 by the Cowart Building. The lower portion of the north side of the stadium will be the only area open for seating in the stadium to the general public. Concessions will be open throughout the game plus a Georgia Southern Merchandise tent will be open for fans to purchase the latest gear. The Southern Pride Marching Band, cheerleaders and GUS will be also be in attendance adding to excitement of the day.

Saturday's game will consist of a controlled offense vs. defense scrimmage with some limited special teams situations. Coach Lunsford will dress the defense in blue and the offense in white. Quarterbacks will wear red and will not be live.

Rules and protocol (subject to change):

Game will consist of a 60-play scrimmage with a 20-minute halftime

Two two-minute drills will end both halves

Quarterbacks will be in red uniforms with no contact

Scoring

OFFENSE (WHITE)

Touchdown: 5 pts

PAT: 1 pt

2-pt conversion: 2 pts

Made FG: 3 pts

Explosive Play: 1 pt (run of 15 or pass of 20 yards)

3rd/4th conversion: 1 pt

2 minute drill win: 5 pts (4 opportunities)

* - Explosive play and conversion CAN be combined (2 pts for a 16-yard run on 4th down) BUT a touchdown trumps both of them (ex.: a 27-yard touchdown pass on 3rd down results in just the 5 points for a touchdown).

DEFENSE (BLUE)

Turnover: 5 pts (2 pts for returning it for TD)

3 and out: 3 pts

Hold in RZ to FG: 2 pts

3rd/4th down stop: 1 pt (one or other, no pts for both)

blocked FG/PAT: 3 pts

missed FG of 43 : 1 pt

TFL/Sack: 1 pt

2 minute drill win: 5 pts (4 opportunities)

* - Red zone defined as 25-yard line and in; offense has to run at least 1 play in red zone to qualify for red zone hold

Storylines

With spring coming to an end, here are the storylines at each position group to look for now that spring is all but over and the program heads into the summer workouts before returning on Aug. 2 for preseason camp.

Quarterback: [Shai Werts](#), who started all 11 games he was healthy for last season, is just a sophomore but is the incumbent after a steady 2017 campaign. He's been pushed all spring by senior [LaBaron Anthony](#) but has held onto the No. 1 spot exiting spring. Expect Anthony, along with [Kado Brown](#) and [Jaalon Frazier](#), to continue to push him until the starting quarterback is announced for Sept. 1's opener.

Running Back: With [Wesley Fields](#) and [Monteo Garrett](#) missing either all or most of spring ball with injuries, it's given a chance for the young bucks to take a ton of reps in spring. Players like [Matt LaRoche](#), [Grant Walker](#), [Logan Wright](#), [Brian Wright](#) and [Jared Daniels](#) have all shown flashes of brilliance this spring. Fields and Garrett will be back soon, but now running backs coach [Chris Foster](#) has built some depth for the fall.

Receivers/Tight End: Offensive coordinator [Bob DeBesse](#) is waiting for that No. 1 guy to emerge, but that hasn't happened yet. [Malik Henry](#) and tight end [Ellis Richardson](#) have had nice springs, but after that it's been a little inconsistent. [Obe Fortune](#) has been injured, which has opened the door for players like [Darion Anderson](#), [Dexter Carter Jr.](#), [Mark Michaud](#) and [D'Ondre Glenn](#) to get more reps. [Malik Murray](#) and [Wesley Kennedy III](#) have both had good springs at the slot position and will continue to battle for playing time come August.

Offensive Line: New line coach [Ron Hudson](#) has done a nice job with this group despite several starters from last year out with injury. [Brian Miller](#) has been a nice addition at tackle after coming in as a defensive lineman last year and [Jawaski Webb](#) has stepped right in after enrolling at GS in January. [Caleb Kelly](#) continues to improve and when the group gets back to full speed - with the addition of a few signees who could step right in and play - this group could be much improved.

Defensive Line: The new 3-4 scheme brought in by new defensive coordinator [Scot Sloan](#) has instantly given the Eagles more depth along the line because there are more bodies in less positions. [Ian Bush](#) and [Ty Phillips](#) have had good springs at the nose tackle positions with [Raymond Johnson III](#), [Deshon Cooper](#), [Logan Hunt](#) and [Quan Griffin](#) all stepping up at the end positions. This group will definitely be a strength of the defense this season.

Outside Linebackers: With the 3-4, the Eagles will have two new positions on the depth chart: Anchor and Dog. The Anchor is a hybrid strong safety/linebacker that is in coverage more while the Dog is a hybrid defensive end/linebacker position that has to cover some, but also can rush the quarterback. At the Anchor, [Jay Bowdry](#) and [Lane Ecton](#) have stepped up and had good springs while [Randy Wade Jr.](#), [Alvin Ward Jr.](#) and [Demetrice Lofton](#) taking control of the Dog spot.

Inside Linebackers: The Eagles have some good depth at these spots as three players with starting experience return in [Tomarcio Reese](#), [Todd Bradley](#) and [Rashad Byrd](#). [Chris Harris Jr.](#) has had a good spring and the group will head into the offseason with some momentum. A strong group of signees will push these guys for playing time in August.

Secondary: Projected as one of the strongest groups heading into the spring, this group hasn't disappointed. [Monquavion Brinson](#) and [Kindle Vildor](#) have continued to hold down the corner spots with [Christian Matthew](#), [Jaden Garrett](#) and [Darrell Baker Jr.](#) providing excellent depth. [Joshua Moon](#) is the heartbeat of the defense at safety and brings excellent senior leadership to the group. [Jessie Liptrot](#) made a smooth transition to safety and provides depth at the spot with [Sean Freeman](#). The loss of [RJ Murray](#) to a spring knee injury hurts, but [Martial Washington](#) and [Kenderick Duncan Jr.](#) have both had strong springs at the free safety spot.

Special Teams: [Tyler Bass](#) will continue to be one of the best kickers not only in the Sun Belt, but in the country. His strong leg and accuracy will be a weapon for the Eagles, knowing that a trip to the 30-yard line is almost assuredly at least three points. The punter spot remains an unknown as [Magill Bauerle](#) and [August Bowers](#) have split reps this spring. This position will be won in camp when several invited walk-ons join the team and everyone has a fair shot at the job.

Final Thoughts: The defense is ahead of the offense at this point, but almost every team in the country is like that in the spring. The offense progressed nicely from scrimmage 1 to scrimmage 2 and both groups look to finish on a high note Saturday in Paulson Stadium. The team will now transition to summer workouts and returns on Aug. 2 for camp with the first practice on Aug. 3.

The Eagles open the season on Sept. 1 at home against South Carolina State and host five other games in Paulson Stadium this fall. Season tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at [GSEagles.com/tickets](#). Remember, only season ticket holders are guaranteed the right to purchase their seat for the inaugural Sun Belt Football Championship, should the Eagles get to host that game.