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Georgia Southern University



Tookie Brown Declares for NBA Draft

The junior will maintain eligibility by not hiring an agent.

Marc Gignac

Men's Basketball

Posted: 3/28/2018 4:46:00 PM

STATESBORO – Georgia Southern guard [Tookie Brown](#) declared for the 2018 NBA draft today but will maintain his college eligibility by not hiring an agent, giving him the option to return to school for his senior season.

Brown can begin working out with NBA teams as early as April 24, and is also eligible to be invited to the NBA Draft combine in Chicago May 16-20. The deadline to withdraw from the NBA Draft while maintaining NCAA eligibility is May 30.

"Without Coach Byington and my teammates, none of this would be possible so I want to thank them and the coaching staff for helping me get here," said Brown. "I think from my sophomore year to my junior year, I improved on a lot of things, and my family and I had that talk and decided it was time to make that decision. Both options are a win for me. I can come back here and play again and get my degree or I can go pro. Either one is good for me, so I'm just enjoying the process."

Brown earned All-Sun Belt and NABC All-District honors for the third straight season after posting 18.9 points, 4.3 assists and 1.8 steals per game. He ranked third in the Sun Belt in scoring, second in field goal percentage (.532), fifth in assists, third in assist to turnover ratio and second in steals. He ranks in the top-25 nationally and led the conference in free throws attempted and free throws made and is one of only two players listed under 6-feet tall ranked in the top-100 nationally in field goal percentage.

Brown is the 17th player in the 42-year history of the Sun Belt to earn first-team all-conference accolades in three seasons and became the first Eagle to accomplish the feat in Georgia Southern history. No player in Sun Belt history has earned the honor four times.

Brown was named SBC Player of the Week Dec. 12 and March 4, and earned a spot on the Gulf Coast Showcase all-tournament team after leading the Eagles to the championship game. He scored 20-plus points in 16 games this season, led the Eagles in scoring in 21 contests and led the team in assists 24 times. The first Eagle to record 500 or more points in three straight seasons, Brown ranks sixth in the modern era in career scoring at Georgia Southern with 1,718 points.

"Tookie wants to test the process, and he has my 100 percent backing," said Byington. "It's a chance for him to get evaluated by the NBA and see where he is. For him, it's two great opportunities - he's either going to play in the NBA or he's going to come back to Georgia Southern, where he will have a chance to be if not the best, one of the best basketball players to ever play here and have a chance to compete for a championship."

Georgia Southern reached 20 wins for the second time in four years and joined Louisiana and UTA as the only three Sun Belt schools to reach double-digit conference wins in each of the last four seasons.

2018 NBA Draft Timeline

April 22: Early Entry Declaration Deadline (11:59 p.m. ET)

May 16-20: NBA Combine (Chicago)

May 30: Withdrawal Deadline to maintain NCAA eligibility

June 11: Early Entry Withdrawal Deadline to maintain eligibility for future NBA drafts (5 p.m. ET)

June 21: NBA Draft

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