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Troy Runs Past GS Women's Basketball, 95-80, On Senior Day Saturday
Trojans clinch first-round bye in Sun Belt tournament; Eagles head to New Orleans as No. 11 Seed
Women's Basketball
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STATESBORO, Ga. - The Troy women's basketball team ran past Georgia Southern, 95-80, in Sun Belt Conference action Saturday on Senior Day at Hanner Fieldhouse in Statesboro.

The Trojans (17-12, 12-6 SBC) clinched a first-round bye in the upcoming 2018 Sun Belt Conference Tournament with the victory, while Georgia Southern (5-24, 2-16 SBC) will face either South Alabama or Louisiana in its first-round matchup on Tuesday, March 6, at 8:30 p.m. ET at Lakefront Arena in New Orleans. The full tournament bracket will be released on Saturday evening after the conclusion of the final regular season game. The Eagles head into the tournament on a six-game losing streak.

Prior to the game on Saturday, Georgia Southern head coach [Kip Drown](#) and the Eagle administration and coaching staff honored its three senior student-athletes - [Alexis Foulks](#), [Trellanie English-Lurry](#) and [Jakyvea Akins](#) - along with student manager Trauna Williams in a pre-game ceremony. Foulks graduated in May of last year with her bachelor's degree in exercise science, is currently taking post-baccalaureate classes at Georgia Southern and plans to become a physical therapist. English-Lurry will graduate this May with her bachelor's degree in exercise science and aspires to go into the coaching profession. Akins will graduate in May with her bachelor's degree in psychology and plans to enter the military.

When the game got underway, Troy ended the first quarter on a 9-3 run to take a 19-15 lead heading into the second. A layup from the Eagles' [Tatum Barber](#) tied the game up at 35-all, but the Trojans scored the next six points over a minute stretch and parlayed that into a 44-40 halftime lead. [Nakol Franks](#) led all scorers at the break with 14 points, including four three-pointers, which puts her in the Top 10 single-season three-point list at Georgia Southern with 51.

In the second half, the Eagles cut the lead to just three points on two occasions, but Troy maintained its advantage to the end of the third period, leading 70-64. The Trojans then used an 11-0 run midway through the fourth quarter to build an 88-73 lead with 4:13 left and pull away for the double-digit victory.

Franks led three Eagles in double digits on the day with 18 points, while [Alexis Brown](#) chipped in 16 points off the bench. [Amira Atwater](#) added nine assists. Of the seniors, Foulks scored a career-high 17 points with four steals while Akins had eight and English-Lurry had five with a pair of steals.

"I'm really pleased all three of them played well," Head Coach [Kip Drown](#) said of his three seniors. "Coach Rigby of Troy told me after the game - we played them the first game of the Sun Belt, and the last, and she said 'you guys are by far the most improved team in the Sun Belt.' I credit our seniors with that, and I'm glad they got that from someone else, from someone on the outside who has seen that. Our seniors made sure we came every day and practiced hard, and we did. We kept getting better and better.

"It's good to see Nakol come into her own as well, she's such a great shooter," Drown said. "The last two games, she's been feeling it. This is a good time of year to get hot. Everybody, we're just starting to loosen up offensively. We're a very good basketball team when we're making shots."

Troy placed six players in double figures, led by Jasmine Sanders' 28 points. Harriet Winchester had 14, with Jasmine Robinson notching 13 points and eight assists. Kayla Robinson chipped in 12 points, Amber Rivers 11 and Dajia Williams 10.

Georgia Southern shot 41.4 percent from the floor (29-of-70) while hitting 10-of-26 three-pointers (38.5%), tying a season-high for threes. The Eagles made 12-of-15 free throws as well for 80 percent. Troy shot 43.1 percent (31-of-72), while drilling 13-of-25 three-pointers (52 percent) and going 20-of-23 from the free throw line (87 percent). The nation's top rebounding team, Troy held a 59-27 edge on the glass and had a 25-6 advantage in second-chance points.

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