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Georgia Southern University

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Eagles host tournament at the GSU Golf Course.
Marc Gignac
Women's Golf
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STATESBORO – The program's first home tournament, a trip to Hawaii and the Sun Belt Championship at LPGA International in Daytona, Fla., highlight the Georgia Southern women's golf schedule, announced by coach Emily Kuhfeld today.

Georgia Southern will play four events in Florida, three in South Carolina and one in Statesboro for the first time in the young program's history. The slate contains a good mix of challenging courses and difficult fields, which mirrors the scheduling philosophies of Kuhfeld.

"We look for golf courses that separate the teams and give the girls experience playing difficult courses," said Kuhfeld. "All the events we are going to are good tests, so I'm excited about that. With the strengths of the fields, we want a good mix, and I think we'll have that, playing some of the top teams in the country and then playing against some teams that we're ranked ahead of."

Georgia Southern hosts its first tournament, The Strutter Gus Invitational, March 31-April 1, at Georgia Southern University Golf Course in the final tune-up before the Sun Belt Championship.

"We are so excited to host the first ever Strutter Gus Invitational," said Kuhfeld. "The Schenkel has been a staple for the community as well as the men's team for years, and our goal is for the Strutter to develop similarly. Our golf course is beautiful, challenging and kept in amazing shape, and we want to show it off to the college golf world! We will have many opportunities for our community to be involved, and will post those as we get closer to April."

The Eagles open the campaign at the Lady Paladin Intercollegiate, which they have played in two of the program's three seasons, Sept. 21-23. Kuhfeld likes the event because it is a great barometer of where the team is.

"We're excited to lead off at Furman again," she said. "It's a good golf course and a good field, and it will be a good start for us to see where we fall against some nationally-dominant teams."

The eyebrow raiser for the Eagle student-athletes will be a trip to Hawaii for the Anuenue Spring Break Classic March 21-23. Only five of the nine student-athletes on the roster will be selected to go, which will aid the level of competition with the Eagles peaking at the right time.

"It's a great opportunity for them," said Kuhfeld. "They will be fighting tooth and nail to go on that one, and it's also right before conference. I think it will be really good that time of year when they are playing their best golf of the year to be fighting it out to go to Hawaii."

The season culminates at the Sun Belt Championship April 15-17. The tournament will be at LPGA National in Daytona Beach, Fla., for the first time, and the Eagles make three trips to Jacksonville throughout the season to help get the team ready.

"A lot of Florida courses are very similar, and we're going to Jacksonville three times so that should be able to help," said Kuhfeld. "You have to be able to see courses with water on each side and feel comfortable pounding your drive down the middle so I think we'll be ready for Florida golf. It will be good - it's a championship venue and we get to play where the LPGA has their Q school so that's pretty cool for them."