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Ukeme Eligwe Declares For NFL Draft

Georgia Southern linebacker led Eagles with 104 tackles in 2016



Football | 1/6/2017 2:52:00 PM

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STATESBORO - Georgia Southern linebacker [Ukeme Eligwe](#) has applied for early eligibility to enter the 2017 NFL Draft, as announced Friday by head coach [Tyson Summers](#). Eligwe, who was granted a sixth year of eligibility in 2015, will not use that year and will instead begin preparations for the Draft.

"Thank you, Georgia Southern, for giving me some of the best years of my life," Eligwe said. "My college career had its ups and downs but nevertheless I am thankful to have finished strong at an institution filled with tradition and winning ways. The Eagle Walk, The Valley Song on the yellow buses and the hard work grinding it out with my brothers will never be forgotten and I am forever thankful for the opportunity I was given to play in Statesboro. GATA."

A native of Stone Mountain, Georgia, Eligwe (6-2, 239) earned a spot on the Sun Belt's

All-Newcomer and honorable mention teams, leading the Eagles in stops with 104. His 18 tackles in the finale against Troy pushed him to the top of the list. The Florida State transfer also had 9.5 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks to go along with three forced fumbles and a fumble recovery, which he returned 90 yards for a touchdown.

"I'm really excited for Ukeme and the opportunity he has with the NFL," Summers said. "He has been a tremendous young man and student-athlete who represented Georgia Southern well. Although he only played one year for us, his athleticism and ability to make plays gave our defense a chance to be successful every time it took the field. I wish him the best of luck as he takes this step to the next level."

Georgia Southern has had four players drafted since 2013 and four players started at least three games in the NFL this season: LB Edwin Jackson (Colts), RB Jerick McKinnon (Vikings), S J.J. Wilcox (Cowboys) and LB Antwione Williams (Lions).

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In order to expedite entry and provide a safe environment for all patrons and participants, Georgia Southern Athletics has implemented a Clear Bag Policy for all ticketed sporting events, effective Aug. 1, 2017. Fans can find the complete policy as well as an FAQ section at GSEagles.com/ClearBag.