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Milledge Austin

Game Recap: Women's Basketball | 2/2/2017 9:26:00 PM

## Sams Leads Women's Basketball Past Louisiana

*The*

**STATESBORO, Ga. –** [Alexis Sams](#) scored a season-high 14 points, including the last eight of the game for Georgia Southern, to lift the Eagles to a 63-60 Sun Belt Conference women's basketball victory over Louisiana Thursday night in Hanner Fieldhouse.

[Patrice Butler](#) collected 15 points and 11 rebounds for Georgia Southern (9-12, 5-5), and [Angel McGowan](#) scored 17.

Malachi Seraphin-Williams scored 15 points to lead Louisiana (11-8, 5-5), and Simone Fields contributed nine points, six rebounds, three steals and two assists. Nekia Jones posted nine points and seven rebounds.

## THE STORY

Sams put the Eagles ahead 61-59 with a runner with 1:27 to go. Gabby Alexander converted a free throw at the other end for Louisiana, but Georgia Southern finished the contest with three straight defensive stops. Butler added two big free throws with 7.4 seconds left to push the margin to 63-60, and Jaylyn Gordon missed a 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded. The fourth quarter featured three ties and four lead changes, and the lead changed hands three times in the last three minutes.

Georgia Southern trailed 25-19 midway through the second quarter but ended the period with a 19-3 run, keyed by four 3-pointers in a row from McGowan, Sams and [Jessica Marcus](#). Butler scored the last five for the Eagles, who went into the locker room with a 38-28 advantage.

Louisiana opened the second half with a 12-2 run and tied the score 40-40 on a transition layup by Gordon. Georgia Southern went 3 for 14 from the floor in the third quarter but hung onto a 42-40 lead headed into the fourth.

## QUOTABLES

*Senior guard [Alexis Sams](#)*

"I just felt relaxed. My teammates gave me confidence to keep shooting and with their encouragement, I just let it fly."

*Head coach [Kip Drown](#)*

"We told our kids yesterday, if you want to be a top-5 team, you have to beat some of these guys. So I'm excited and proud of our kids that we were able to step up and get it done tonight. It was a really big win for our program to get a win over one of what I call the Big-5 programs in our conference."

*On moving Sams back to point guard*

"We probably tried to get a little cute with her at the beginning of the season by moving her off the ball. As the year went on, we felt like we really needed her leadership back at the point guard position. To be honest, I probably should have had her out there earlier in year, but we moved her after the Troy game and I don't think it's a coincidence that we're 5-2 since we made that change."

## NEXT UP

Georgia Southern takes on ULM Saturday at 2 p.m. in a doubleheader with the men's programs. Saturday Promotions: Pack the House in Pink - Join us in the fight against Breast Cancer. Make sure you wear pink to the game to show your support! Rocket Stars Show at Halftime - The tumbling and jumping gymnastics group, the Rocket Stars, will be performing at halftime of both games! Junior Eagle Club Day - All members of the Junior Eagle Club are invited to the games for a fun appreciation party and Junior Eagle Members will receive free popcorn from the concessions stand when they present their membership badge at both basketball games.

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