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Georgia Southern University

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Big First Half Run Sends Men’s Basketball Past Augusta

The Eagles open the regular season Nov. 10 at Wake Forest.

Marc Gignac
Men's Basketball
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AUGUSTA, Ga. – Tookie Brown tallied 27 points and four assists, and Georgia Southern scored 25 points off turnovers to pull away from Augusta 88-67 in the "Storm the Berry" hurricane relief men’s basketball exhibition game Friday night at Christenberry Fieldhouse.

Brown shot 9-of-13 from the floor and 7-of-8 from the free-throw line as the Eagles went 17-of-18 from the charity stripe as a team. Ike Smith netted 19 points, and Jared Hamilton chipped in 13. Jake Allsmiller scored 10.

Tamyrik Fields posted 24 points, five rebounds and two blocked shots for Augusta, which was playing for the second straight night after leading Clemson 33-31 at halftime in Littlejohn Coliseum last night.

Deane Williams posted 10 points and seven rebounds for the Jaguars, and Mikkel Kolstad posted 12 points and three assists.

All proceeds from the game were donated to the American Red Cross to assist victims of the recent hurricanes that have occurred recently in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The story

Georgia Southern scored 20 straight points in a monstrous 31-6 run that ended the first half and gave the Eagles a 42-28 cushion at the break.

Augusta came out hot and led 22-11 after a Fields dunk with 8:21 left in the period. Hamilton sparked the run with a layup for the Eagles and scored seven points during the stretch, and Brown chipped in nine.

The Jags cut the lead to 10 twice in the second half but would get no closer. After a 3-pointer by Dereck Oliver made the score 60-50, GS went on an 18-6 run and opened a 22-point lead on an Allsmiller triple with 5:57 to go.

Quotable from head coach Mark Byington

On playing the game for hurricane victims

"This is one of those games that is not about the result. We were able to raise some money, we were able to give back and we were able to play another game. Playing a game in Augusta was great too because I know we have some fans here. When all those things are happening, it was a win-win no matter what the score was going to be."
On the run
"Early on, I felt that our defense was good but that they made some tough shots. We got into our press, and it gave us energy and energy on defense led to energy on offense. Some of the first shots we had in the game were good shots, we were just a little out of it. I want guys to keep learning, and we got into a situation where we got down and things weren't going great and we were able to fight back and get ourselves going again."

On the week of exhibition games
"We have some depth, and with the addition of Jared Hamilton and Quan Jackson, we have some long, athletic guys. Mike Hughes has done a good job of handling the ball. I wanted to get through this healthy, I wanted to face some adversity and I wanted to see some different looks. I'm excited about what I saw this week."

Next up
Georgia Southern opens the regular season at Wake Forest Friday, Nov. 10, at 7:30 p.m. The game will be broadcast live on ACC Extra and can be seen at WatchESPN.com and on the Watch ESPN App.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides current information on all its sports through its official website, GSEagles.com, which is fully responsive across all mobile devices. Information on Eagle athletics can also be found through social media channels facebook.com/GSAthletics, twitter.com/GSAthletics and Instagram.com/GSAthletics. To purchase tickets to Georgia Southern athletics events, visit GSEagles.com/tickets.

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.

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