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PREVIEW: GS Women's Basketball Hosts Thomas, Savannah State This Week

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STATESBORO, Ga. - The Georgia Southern women's basketball team will host a pair of home contests this week at Hanner Fieldhouse to close out the month of November. The Eagles welcome in Thomas (Ga.) on Monday and Savannah State on Wednesday in 6:30 p.m. starts.

Georgia Southern (2-3) won a 61-58 decision at South Carolina State in its last action on Tuesday, November 21st, before breaking for Thanksgiving. It was the Eagles' first road win of the season and came in dramatic fashion - freshman Tatum Barber hit three free throws with 0.4 seconds left to break a 58-all tie and give Georgia Southern the win.

Head Coach Kip Drown talked about his team having balance at the beginning of the season, and the win against the Bulldogs was certainly that - three players led the Eagles in scoring on the night with 11 points apiece - Alexis Foulks, Nakol Franks and Rhein Beamon. Amira Atwater added five assists, Hailey Dias-Allen blocked three shots and freshman Aliyah Belcher had eight points off the bench.
After a pair of days off for the Thanksgiving holidays, the Eagles returned to practice this weekend to prepare for two opponents that Georgia Southern faced last season.

**MONDAY'S OPPONENT**
Thomas (Ga.) University  
Location: Thomasville, Ga.  
Affiliation: NAIA  
2017-18 Record: 3-1 (Sun Conference)  
Last Time Out: Defeated Voorhees 71-57  
Series Record: GS leads 1-0  
Live Coverage: Watch | Listen | Live Stats

The Night Hawks are the second NAIA opponent the Eagles will face this season. Thomas is 3-1, but has played seven games so far this season, including exhibition contests at Kennesaw State (L 68-40) and at Stetson (L 92-41). Head coach Myron Brown is in his first season at the helm of the Night Hawks program and the team is led offensively by Kriza Allen (15.7 ppg).

Last year, the Eagles and the Night Hawks met for the first time in school history, and Georgia Southern notched a 106-43 win, the first time that the team eclipsed 100 points since a 102-76 win over Houston on November 20th, 1998. Five Eagles reached double figures in that contest, including three current players - Alexis Foulks (12), Alexis Brown (14) and Nakol Franks (10). Samantha Gilbert had nine points for the Night Hawks, the leading returning scorer from the contest.

**WEDNESDAY'S OPPONENT**
Savannah State University  
Location: Savannah, Ga.  
Affiliation: NCAA Division I (MEAC)  
2017-18 Record: 1-4  
Last Time Out: Lost to Florida 90-40  
Series Record: GS leads 16-5  
Live Coverage: Watch | Listen | Live Stats

Savannah State makes the trip up I-16 to take on the Eagles after the two teams faced off in Savannah last season. Georgia Southern won that matchup, 50-45, and the Eagles have won the last two meetings. The Tigers, under head coach Cedric Baker, have dropped four straight this season after opening the year with an 86-44 win over LaGrange. The last three contests were during the Savannah Invitational, where the Tigers faced Providence (L 78-48), Richmond (L 100-63) and Florida (L 90-40).

Kaylee Allen leads a trio of Tigers offensively this season averaging double figures, as she is scoring 15 points per contest. Donasia Scott (13.0 ppg) and Heniaya Moton (10.6 ppg) are also averaging in double figures, while Alexxus Sowell is grabbing 9.8 rebounds per game. In last season's meeting, the Eagles were led by Sierra Butler's career-high 20 points. No player currently on the Savannah State roster scored in last year's meeting.

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