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# Women's Basketball Preview: Eagle Women Return Home Thursday Against Mavericks

*Georgia Southern and UT Arlington will tip off at 5:00 p.m.*



Women's Basketball | 2/2/2016 4:41:00 PM

## Story Links

**Georgia Southern (6-13, 3-7) vs. UT Arlington (8-11, 3-6)**

*Thursday, Feb. 4 – Hanner Fieldhouse (4,325) – 5:00 p.m.*

**Radio:** 91.9 FM the Buzz

**Promotions:** **Military Appreciation Night** – All military personnel will receive free general admission and their families can receive discount \$5 general admission tickets; **Scholar Student-Athlete Recognition** - over 220 student-athletes will be honored for their achievements in the classroom; **Throwback Thursday (both games)** – Fans can submit their favorite oldies songs to be played at the game

**Series:** GSU trails 3-0, L3

**In Statesboro:** UTA leads, 1-0

**Last Meeting:** 1/2/16 - L, 70-31 (Arlington, Texas)

**Probable Starters for Georgia Southern (Based on previous games):**

#2 Trellanie English-Lurry, G

#11 Angel McGowan, G

#23 Alexis Sams, G

#25 Sierra Butler, F

#35 Patrice Butler, C

**Georgia Southern Information:**

[\[Roster\]](#) [\[Schedule\]](#) [\[Season Stats\]](#) [\[@GSAthletics WBB\]](#) [\[Game Notes \(PDF\)\]](#)

**UT Arlington Information:**

[\[Roster\]](#) [\[Schedule\]](#) [\[Season Stats\]](#) [\[@UTAMavs\]](#)

**HOME GAME PROMOTIONS**

- Thursday's doubleheader with UT Arlington will serve as the Eagles' annual Military Appreciation Night. All military personnel will receive free general admission and their family can receive discount \$5 general admission tickets.
- During Thursday's men's game 220 student-athletes will be honored for their achievements in the calssroom during the fall semester.
- As usual, Thursday's game is also Throwback Thursday where fans can submit their favorite oldies songs to be played at the games.
- Saturday's games against Texas State will serve as Georgia Southern's annual Pack the House in Pink night. Fans are asked to wear pink in support of breast cancer awareness and education.
- At halftime of both Saturday's games the Rocket Stars will perform. They are a group that performs tumbling, jumping and high-intense gymnastics.

**INSIDE THE CONFERENCE STANDINGS**

- Entering the week, Georgia Southern is in a four-way tie for eighth in the Sun Belt Conference standings. UL Monroe, Southern, Georgia State and Appalachian State are all 3-7 in league action. UL Monroe boasts the best overall winning percentage of the four (9-10, .474) and has wins over Southern, Troy and Texas State to its name while the Eagles have wins over Georgia State and App State, but the Panthers boast a better overall winning percentage (8-11, .421). The Eagles and Mountaineers currently have the same winning percentage (6-13, .316).
- The eighth spot in the standings is important because only the top eight teams in the final conference standings go to the conference tournament held in New Orleans, La. in March.
  - UT Arlington sits in seventh with a 3-3 conference mark, South Alabama and Troy are currently tied for fifth (5-5) and Texas State sits fourth with a 5-4 conference record.

### ***WITHIN THE SUN BELT CONFERENCE***

- As a team, Georgia Southern entered the week in the top-six of the Sun Belt Conference in six different statistical categories.
- The Eagle women are currently third in three-point field goals made per game (6.1) and they are fifth in the league in free throw percentage (.694), three-point field goal percentage defense (.307) and defensive rebounds per game (24.5).
- Southern is sixth in the conference in field goal percentage defense (.394) and rebounding defense (37.6 per game).
- Juniors [Angel McGowan](#) (15.1 points per game) and [Patrice Butler](#) (12.0) are both in the top-15 of the conference in scoring. They are two of only four juniors in the top-11 of the conference in scoring as the other seven players are all seniors.
- McGowan is also in the top-15 in three-pointers made per game (4th, 2.0) free throw percentage (6th, .754), steals (8th, 2.1 per game), three-point field goal percentage (9th, .346) and field goal percentage (15th, .430).
- Along with being 11th in scoring, Butler is also 13th in the SBC in rebounding (5.6) per game and defensive rebounds per game (3.9).
- Sophomore [Sierra Butler](#) is just behind Patrice with 5.1 boards per game, good enough for 18th in the conference but she is 13th in the league with 2.1 offensive rebounds per contest.
- Junior guard [Alexis Sams](#) is second in minutes played (35.6 per game), 13th for three-point field goals made per game (1.4) and is 15th in the Sun Belt with a .321 three-point field goal percentage.
- Senior [Briana Jones](#) is 12th in the league with 0.7 rebounds per game.

### ***QUICK HITTERS***

- Thursday's game against UT Arlington marks the beginning of the second go-around in conference play. The Eagles have now played all 10 other teams in the league once.
- The next two games will be strength against strength for the Eagles and their opponents. Texas State and UT Arlington are the best three-point shooting teams in the conference while Southern is a top-five team against the three-ball. The Bobcats lead the conference with a .355 shooting percentage from beyond the arc and average a Sun Belt-best 7.7 treys per game while the Mavericks shoot 34.0%. The Eagles have held opponents to just .307 from three-point range so far this season.

### ***THE HISTORY WITH UT ARLINGTON***

- Georgia Southern and UT Arlington have played three times, including earlier this season when the Mavericks claimed a 70-31 victory over the Eagles in Arlington.
- UT Arlington is 3-0 all-time against the Eagles.
- Last season in Statesboro the Mavs won 66-41 with Rebekah VanDijk leading a trio of Mavericks with double-digit points. The now sophomore recorded a double-double with 16 points and 14 rebounds, eight off the offensive glass, inside Hanner Fieldhouse.
- *Patrice Butler* led the way for Georgia Southern, coming off the bench to score 13 points in 20 minutes of work.
- Earlier this season, VanDijk scored 10 points for the Mavs which had four players end the game in double-figures led by Cierra Johnson's 17.
- For the Eagles, it was Butler again leading the way with nine total points, this time in a starting role.

### ***SCOUTING THE MAVERICKS***

- The Mavericks (8-11, 3-6 SBC) have lost four of their last five and five of their last six with their most recent win coming last Thursday on the road at UL Monroe.
- After defeating the Eagles on Jan. 2, the Mavericks defeated App State on the road but then lost their next four-in-a-row.
- Despite the recent struggles, UT Arlington boasts the Sun Belt Conference's second-best scoring defense, allowing opponents to score 57.6 points per game while holding opponents to 38.7% shooting percentage.
- The Mavs are also second in the conference in three-point field goal percentage (.340) and lead the conference in rebounding defense as opponents bring down an average of 31.9 boards per game.
- UTA averages 60.2 points per game and shoot .397 from the field, good enough for fifth-best in the conference.
- UTA has three players averaging double-digit points including Rebekah VanDijk's 11.1 points per outing - 15th-best in the league. Behind VanDijk are Cierra Johnson with 10.5 points per game and Amara Wainwright with 10.1, good enough for 20th and 21st-best in the Sun Belt.
- VanDijk leads the conference with 3.6 offensive boards per game and is also tied for sixth in the league with 5.1 defensive rebounds per outing. She is also seventh in the Sun Belt with a .488 shooting percentage and third in the league in rebounding as she corrals 8.7 rebounds per outing. She is fourth in the conference with 1.5 blocked shots per game as she has 28 total.
- Johnson leads the SBC with 3.2 steals per game and is tied for 10th in the conference with 2.7 assists while Wainwright is 14th with a .435 field goal percentage and seventh in assists (2.9). Wainwright is also third in the league for three-pointers per game with an average of 2.1 per outing and is the league's second-best three-point shooter with a .443 shooting percentage from beyond the arc.

### ***NEXT UP***

- Georgia Southern will close out the week against Texas State. The Eagles and Bobcats will face off on the hardwood on Saturday, Feb. 6 in the Eagles' annual Pink Game. Tipoff is slated for 4:30 p.m.

### ***SEASON TICKETS***

- Season tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at [GSEagles.com/tickets](http://GSEagles.com/tickets). Season ticket options are available for both general admission and reserved seating. Fans can enjoy chair-back seats in the reserved sections for \$90 a season ticket for either men's or women's basketball. Alternatively, general admission season tickets are \$65 and are located behind the baskets on bleachers. A combo package is also available for \$120 and includes both men's and women's basketball contests.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, [GSEagles.com](http://GSEagles.com), through social media channels [facebook.com/GSATHletics](https://facebook.com/GSATHletics), [twitter.com/GSATHletics](https://twitter.com/GSATHletics), iOS app Georgia Southern Eagles and Android app Eagles GATA. For tickets to Georgia Southern athletics events, visit [GSEagles.com/tickets](http://GSEagles.com/tickets).

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