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Bats Come Alive in 10-2 Sunday Win over Radford

Brian Eichhorn goes six and fans four to earn first collegiate win

STATESBORO, GA. – Georgia Southern Baseball scored early and often en route to a 10-2 win over Radford to close the weekend's four-game set. The Eagles (4-4) took three of four in the weekend series win over the Highlanders (1-6) to set-up a midweek showdown with former SoCon foe College of Charleston. The game on Tuesday night starts at 6 p.m. and can be seen on ESPN3.

QUOTEABLES
HEAD COACH RODNEY HENNON
"Eichhorn did a really nice job out of the gate – we got a strong effort from him. We were
able to get some lead off men on base today and when we did, the guys did a nice job of executing. It was good to see some guys step up. Cal Baker had a big triple today and we played solid defense the last three games. It was overall a good effort.

PLAYER OF THE GAME
After taking a no-decision in his first outing at Georgia, Brian Eichhorn responded with six innings of four-hit ball on Sunday to claim his first collegiate win. The freshman from Richmond Hill fanned four and walked two while allowing just one run on the afternoon. After an inauspicious leadoff walk to start the game, Eichhorn settled down and picked off a runner while striking out two to work a clean first frame.

SCORING RECAPS
BOT 1ST – The Eagles looked to play small ball in the first, but had the inning blown open with back-to-back singles by Ryan Cleveland and Jordan Wren. The first run scored on Wren's RBI single while a second crossed on Logan Baldwin's sacrifice fly.

BOT 2ND – Georgia Southern got two more runs in the second thanks to an RBI triple by Cal Baker. A single through the left side by CJ Ballard later in the inning made it 4-0.

BOT 5TH – The lead grew to 6-0 thanks to two more runs in the fifth. A double by CJ Brazil opened the inning. He reached third by stealing third on a ball that got away from the catcher. He rounded third and steamed for home, but looked a likely out, but an error by the Radford pitcher allowed Brazil to score. More ball handling issues ensued when Jordan Wren scored on a passed ball later in the frame.

TOP 6TH – The Highlanders cashed in a Johnsonbaugh double for a run in the sixth for their first run of the game with a fielder's choice to the left side of the infield as the visitors ruined Eichhorn's shutout bid.

TOP 7TH – Radford scored again an inning later, this time touching relief pitcher Anthony Paesano for a run on a flared bunt into no-man's land on the right side. The attempt found the grass over the pitcher's head, but between the first and second basemen to cut the lead to 6-2.

BOT 7TH – Ryan Cleveland's leadoff walk came back to haunt the Highlanders in the seventh as Kent Rollins laced a single through the left side to plate Cleveland from third and make the lead 7-2 entering the home stretch.

BOT 8TH – Georgia Southern tacked on three more unearned insurance runs in the eighth inning when a throwing error opened the door to start the frame. Cleveland doubled to right and reached third as two runs scored. Another run came across when Jordan Wren's ground ball to second was booted, allowing Cleveland to scamper home and make the final score 10-2.

NOTES
- The Eagles went 3-2 over five games this week which spanned a total of 50 innings. Georgia Southern’s starting pitching went 26.1 innings and allowed a 2.73 ERA. The bullpen posted a microscopic 0.38 ERA in 23.2 innings.
- Cal Baker made his first start of the season at shortstop, replacing Evan McDonald who was a medical scratch and was not at the park on Sunday.
- CJ Brazil made his case for the All-Pain team this weekend when he was hit by three
pitches. He now leads the team standings over Kent Rollins and Will Hudgins with two each.
- Sunday's game clocked in at 2:48 which made it the longest regulation game of the year for the Eagles. Each of the other four nine-inning games finished in less than two and a half hours. The weekend finale was well under the 4:45 played in Wednesday's marathon 16-inning loss to Georgia Tech.
- After an 0-for-10 start, Jordan Wren has become one of the Eagles' most productive hitters. He has eight hits over the last six games including a triple and two RBIs. He has scored four runs of his own in that span and stolen a couple of bases.

NEXT GAME
Georgia Southern is back home on Tuesday night as a familiar foe comes to town. The Eagles will face former SoCon foe College of Charleston in a midweek game on ESPN3. First pitch is set for 6 p.m. at J.I. Clements Stadium with tickets available at the gate.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, GSEagles.com, through social media channels facebook.com/GSAthletics, twitter.com/GSAthletics, iOS app Georgia Southern Eagles and Android app Eagles GATA. Fans can purchase tickets to Georgia Southern Athletics events by visiting GSEagles.com/Tickets.