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Georgia Southern Women Fall 59-49 to UL Monroe on the Road

The Eagles will close out the 2015-16 season on Saturday at UL Lafayette

MONROE, La. – Junior Angel McGowan used a conventional three-point play with 7:25 left in the game to tie things up with the University of Louisiana-Monroe and the Georgia Southern women’s basketball team appeared to be on the verge of mounting a comeback with plenty of time left, but poor shooting down the stretch doomed the Eagles as they fell 59-49 to the Warhawks on the road in a Sun Belt Conference contest.

ULM (11-17, 5-14) out-scored GS (7-21, 4-15) 18-8 over the final 7:25 to register the 10-point victory as the Eagles struggled offensively, especially in the second half where they hit on just 6 of their 24 attempts from the field (.250). The Eagles shot 29.8% (17-
57) from the field for the entire game, but converted only four of their 25 attempts from three-point range (.160). On defense, the Eagles were able to force 14 turnovers, compared to committing just nine of their own, and only allowed eight offensive rebounds to the Warhawks.

McGowan led a trio of Eagles in double-figures with a 19-point performance, shooting 6-for-16 from the field, to go along with eight rebounds. Behind her, Patrice Butler finished the game with 12 points while Alexis Sams chipped in 10 off 4-of-6 shooting.

On the other side, ULM shot nearly 36% from the field (19-53) and missed just one of their free throw attempts, going 15-for-16 from the charity stripe. The Warhawks outrebounded the Eagles 41-32 and hit on 35.3% (6-17) of their attempts from beyond the three-point arc.

For UL Monroe, Chelsea Tieuel led the way with 18 points, including four three-pointers, and was a perfect 6-for-6 at the charity stripe. She also corralled in eight rebounds and had four assists while Alayshia Hunter chipped in 15 points. Daja Hunter just missed out on a double-double with 10 points and a game-high nine rebounds.

**THE STORY**

The Eagles soared out to an early 12-4 lead off a McGowan three, but the Warhawks found their offense in the form of Tieuel as she answered with her first three-pointer of the game just before the first media timeout. The 'Hawks took their first lead of the game, 15-14, when Jackson banked a three-ball in from the left side with 2:18 to go in the quarter and then Hunter stretched the lead out to 17-14 with 1:25 left in the period.

In the second quarter, Sams attempted to get the offense going by hitting a running layup to pull the Eagles to within one, 19-18. A little while later, Butler tied the game at 21-all with a three-pointer, one of two for the junior from Norcross, Ga. Trellanie English-Lurry then gave the Eagles back the lead with two points followed by Sierra Kirkland capping a 7-0 GS run with a layup to put the Eagles up 25-21 with just under six minutes to play. Ashley Aune put the brakes on the Eagles running away with things when she hit a three-pointer to cut the lead to one, 25-24, just a few minutes later and the Warhawks were able to ultimately take a 30-29 lead into the locker room after the first half despite a last-second three-point attempt for the Eagles from Sams.

Out of the intermission, Butler scored the Eagles' first five points to put the Eagles up 34-32 as she had a layup off a feed from McGowan and then hit a three-pointer from just to the right of straightaway. Despite the early offensive production from Butler and Georgia Southern, ULM came right back and retook the lead with 50 seconds left in the third quarter when Stephanie Ratliff hit a jumper from just outside the paint.

With time running short, Angel McGowan was able to tie things up with just over seven minutes to play in regulation when she hit a fast break layup and then converted the three-point play the hard way after being fouled. However, the Warhawks took control of the game from there and ultimately ran away with the game to register the 10-point
victory.

**QUOTABLES FROM COACH DROWN**

"The first thing I look at is our shooting percentage, we just didn't shoot the ball very well from the field, shot really bad from three-point range and shot poorly from the free throw line," said head coach Kip Drown. "We were able to get to the line more than they did and turned the ball over less than they did, but it was just one of those nights where I thought we got some pretty good looks but just didn't shoot very well."

"The more people we can get who can score, the more difficult it makes it for opposing defenses because it really opens things up and we continue to look for more people who can score and make some shots for us. Alexis (Sams) in the last couple weeks has really become more aggressive in taking the ball to the rim and is a great shooter. She's drawing charges and fouls which sends her to the line and that's important because she's a very good free throw shooter. She's really given us that third scorer we have needed all year, but we would love to have a fourth and fifth scorer in double-figures to just round us out more."

*Looking forward to Saturday's season finale at UL Lafayette*

"I told our team that I expect them to play hard through the very last second of the final game of the season. Anything else, I will be very disappointed in. We are going to go out there and represent Georgia Southern to the very best of our ability Saturday night and we're going to play hard and hopefully make some more shots than we did tonight. They are very athletic and create a lot of pressure defensively, but I expect us to go out there and get after them and really play hard.

**NEXT UP**

Georgia Southern will close out the 2015-16 season at UL Lafayette on Saturday, Mar. 5. The Eagles will take on the Ragin’ Cajuns inside the Cajun Dome in Lafayette at 6 p.m. Eastern standard time.

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