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Spring '16 - Behind the Numbers

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Spring '16 - Behind the Numbers" (2016). *Athletics News*. 1843.
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Spring '16 - Behind the Numbers

It's been a record-breaking two seasons in the FBS for the Eagles

Play Video



Jeremy Wilburn

Football | 4/4/2016 9:43:00 AM

Georgia Southern has had quite a run in its two seasons as an FBS member. As the Eagles are nearing the halfway point of spring practice, GSEagles.com wanted to take this Monday morning to look back at some of the numbers the Eagles have put up in those two seasons, plus look ahead to what the future holds under new head coach [Tyson Summers](#).

- Georgia Southern posted nine wins in its second consecutive year and finished its second year as an FBS member with a combined 18-7 record. That's the best two-year start for a new FBS program since Marshall posted a 22-4 mark in 1997 and 1998.
- The Eagles, playing in their first bowl game ever, scored the most points of any team in the FBS postseason with 58 in their win over Bowling Green in the GoDaddy Bowl.

That bested LSU's 56 against Texas Tech in the Texas Bowl, Virginia Tech's 55 against Tulsa in the Independence Bowl, Cal's 55 against Air Force in the Armed Forces Bowl and Boise State's 55 against Northern Illinois in the Poinsettia Bowl.

- Over the past two seasons, the Eagles have recorded 109 rushing touchdowns and 9,292 rushing yards, the most in the FBS over the past two seasons ahead of Navy's 8,642 yards and 98 touchdowns.
- This past season, an FBS-high four Eagle players rushed for 600 net yards or more. Four other schools - Arkansas State, Cincinnati, New Mexico and Tennessee - had three different players rush for 600 or more yards in 2015. [Matt Breida](#) led the way for the Eagles with 1,604 net yards, the 10th-most in the FBS. His average of 7.92 yards per carry led the nation.
- The Eagles have led the nation in rushing yards per game each of the past two seasons and led the FBS in rushing touchdowns in 2015 with 54, one more than Navy's 53. In 2015, GS averaged 363.0 yards per game rushing, over 36 rushing yards per game more than co-No. 2 Baylor and Navy (326.7).
- Georgia Southern was one of three teams to play in an NCAA postseason bowl games for the first time in 2015. The three FBS programs that appeared in their first bowl game this year - Georgia Southern, Appalachian State and Georgia State - all hail from the Sun Belt Conference. Georgia Southern, Appalachian State, Western Michigan and Akron all won bowl games for the first time.
- All three of the Eagle's FBS non-conference opponents in 2015 - West Virginia (Cactus Bowl), Western Michigan (Bahamas Bowl) and Georgia (TaxSlayer Bowl) - played in, and won, their respective bowl this postseason. The fourth non-conference team, The Citadel, advanced to the second round of the FCS Playoffs. In all, six of the 12 teams on Georgia Southern's 2015 schedule played in some form of NCAA postseason.
- Georgia Southern, which led the nation with an average of 363.0 yards rushing per game, averaged 441.1 yards rushing in its nine wins. The Eagles have averaged 188.0 yards in their four losses.
- The Eagles did a good job of controlling the ball in 2015, finishing fourth in the nation in average time of possession with a mark of 33:59 per game.
- Georgia Southern had three of the top eight - and seven of the top 18 - single-game rushing totals in the FBS in the 2015 season: 507 vs. New Mexico State (fourth), 503 vs. Texas State (fifth) and 489 vs. South Alabama (eighth). Baylor's 645 yards rushing against North Carolina in the Champs Sports Bowl was the top FBS total in 2015.
- Georgia Southern announced the hiring of [Tyson Summers](#) in December, 2015 as its head coach moving forward. The former defensive coordinator at Colorado State and

UCF hired a staff of nine on-field assistants who have been a part of four NCAA national championships, 19 NCAA conference championships, 55 NCAA postseason teams and 51 NCAA postseason victories.

- The Eagles have all but 23 of their 4,719 net rushing yards from 2015, a whopping 99.5 percent, on the team for Spring Practice.

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