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Eagles Begin Important Week of Practice

Players getting their chances to impress in final week of camp

Michael Chastain



Football | 8/8/2016 2:48:00 PM

Story Links

STATESBORO, Ga. - Monday's practice signaled the beginning of the last week of preseason camp and the first day of an extremely important week for Georgia Southern football and its development as a unit during year one of the [Tyson Summers](#) Era.

This is the final opportunity for coaches to receive the full and undivided attention of their student-athletes as classes will begin a week from today. Two scrimmages will be held this week, helping the coaches solidify the two-deep roster and determine who will

be ready to take the bulk of the snaps for the season opener at home against Savannah State on Sept. 3.

Saturday marked the first opportunity for the players to strap on full gear and the increased practice intensity continued to show throughout Monday. The individual drills are breeding fierce competition between players of the same position corps with this being the first full day that the players are allowed to tackle to the ground.

"I think we have had a really good camp," Summers said. "It's because of the senior leadership that we do, they have done an outstanding job throughout this camp of leading by example and leading with their words when needed; that is really what you are looking for. I think the senior class is a special group and surely think this football team is in store for a special season."

The infamous Statesboro heat did not make an appearance today as a blanket of clouds covered the sky for the entire practice with the occasional drizzle of rain.

"It's always great weather down here in Statesboro, hot or cool," said GoDaddy Bowl Defensive MVP [Nardo Govan](#). "Either way it goes, you have to be ready to work. On a cool day like this, you have to take advantage and do extra because you don't have the sun beating down on you."

The last hour of practice was spent with first and second teams on both sides of the ball squaring off. Coach Summers's voice was heard ringing across the turf pushing the offense to keep the frenetic pace that has become synonymous with the Eagles over the years. Junior running back [L.A. Ramsby](#) was one of the many vocal players during the this period and could be heard multiple times challenging both the offense and defense.

"I like seeing guys that are competitive, because a lot of the best players I've been around are like that on game days," Summers said, approving of the vocalness among his players. "I like it and don't think it needs to be silent. This is an emotional game and when you are playing at your best and at a high speed, it is with a lot of emotion and sometimes that comes with a little extracurricular communication."

Practice No. 9 is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday at Eagle Creek and. Dates, times and locations of football practices are subject to change and may be impacted by weather conditions. Practices are open to the public, but any filming, recording or photography is limited to members of the media only. The full schedule is below.

Georgia Southern won the 2015 GoDaddy Bowl in its first bowl-eligible season, finishing 6-2 in the conference and 8-4 overall. The Eagles, who return 37 lettermen and 12 starters to the 2016 squad, were picked to finished third the Sun Belt in the league's preseason coaches' poll.

Fans can purchase 2016 season tickets and select their seats online, by calling 1-800-

GSU-WINS or by visiting the ticket office in the Cowart Building adjacent to Paulson Stadium (203 Lanier Drive). Ticket office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Season tickets prices start as low as \$75 for all five games.

Meet the Eagles Fan Fest

The GS Football Team will hold its annual Meet the Eagles Fan Fest on Saturday, Aug. 13. Gates will open at 8:30 a.m. and the football team will hold an open scrimmage from 9-11:30 a.m. at Paulson Stadium before the event. The Fan Fest will be from noon-2 p.m. The public is invited to the scrimmage and fans will be allowed to come on the field at noon. The North Concourse will be the only side open and fans may enter through Gate 12 near Bishop Field House.

Between the end of the scrimmage and the start of Fan Fest, fans can expect to hear a few words from head football coach [Tyson Summers](#) after he dismisses the team to their locker room. The event will be the last preseason scrimmage and the athletics department will have activities on the field after the scrimmage, including inflatables for the kids, 2016 football posters and schedule cards, a dunk tank, face painting, ticket information, cheerleaders, and the fall sport teams will be available for autographs. Concessions will be available during the scrimmage and during the Fan Fest. Additionally, the University Store will be open for fans to purchase all of their adidas gear to get ready for the season.

Fans will be allowed to get autographs from their favorite football players and Coach Summers at the festival. In addition, the soccer squads and volleyball team, along with all three respective coaches, will also be in attendance, grouped on the field. Fans can bring in outside items to be signed and posters from each sport will be provided free of charge to those who wish to get one signed. Fans will also be able to mingle with the student-athletes during the autograph session and kids can play catch, kick a ball or pass a volleyball around with the players. Also, the lobby area of the Ted Smith Family Football Center will be open during Fan Fest from 12-2 p.m.

Meet the Eagles Fan Fest is free and open to fans of all ages. Parking is also free.

Season ticket holders may also come and pick up their season ticket packets beginning that day. Additionally, donors may pick up their benefit packets at this event.

Georgia Southern Preseason Practice Schedule

Date (Time, Location)

Tues., Aug. 9 (10 AM- 12 PM, Eagle Creek)
Wed., Aug. 10 (9:30 AM- 12 PM, Eagle Creek)
Thurs., Aug. 11 (9:30 AM- 12 PM, Eagle Creek)
Fri., Aug. 12 (9:30 AM- 12 PM, Eagle Creek)
Sat., Aug. 13 (9:30 AM- 11:30 AM, Paulson); Fan Fest (12-2 PM, Paulson)
Sun., Aug. 14 (TBD)
Mon., Aug. 15 (4:15-6 PM, Eagle Creek); Day 1 (8 PM, Paulson)
Tues., Aug. 16 (7:30-10 AM, Paulson)

Wed., Aug. 17 (4:15-6 PM, Eagle Creek)
Thurs., Aug. 18 (7:30-10 AM, Paulson)
Fri., Aug. 19 (4:15-6 PM, Paulson)
Sat., Aug. 20 (TBD)
Sun., Aug. 21 (TBD)
Mon., Aug. 22 (4:15-6 PM, Eagle Creek)
Tues., Aug. 23 (7:30-10 AM, Paulson)
Wed., Aug. 24 (4:15-6 PM, Eagle Creek)
Thurs., Aug. 25 (7:30-10 AM, Paulson)
Fri., Aug. 26 (4:15-6 PM, Eagle Creek)
Sat., Aug. 27 (TBD)
Sun., Aug. 28 (TBD)
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PLAYERS MENTIONED