9-9-2016

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Volleyball Wins Two at SpringHill Suites Invitational" (2016). Athletics News. 2147.
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Volleyball Wins Two at SpringHill Suites Invitational

The Eagles take on South Carolina for the tourney title Saturday night in Hanner.

STATESBORO, Ga. – Katie Bange recorded a pair of triple-doubles to lead Georgia Southern volleyball to a pair of victories Friday at the SpringHill Suites Invitational in Hanner Fieldhouse.


Bange compiled a match-high 16 kills, 23 assists and 11 digs against the Bulls and notched a match-high 14 kills, 21 assists and 11 digs against the Demon Deacons. It was her third and fourth triple-doubles of the season, which leads the country.

The story vs. Wake Forest
Georgia Southern out-blocked Wake Forest 12-3 and held the Demon Deacons to .115 hitting in the match. Lauren Reichard led the charge with 10 blocks, Bange added four
and Alex Beecher posted a match-high 16 digs.

The Eagles hit .290 and spread the offense around. Reichard and Cathrine Murray each had 10 kills, and Stephanie Spencer added nine.

Leading the match 2-1 but trailing by three points midway through the fourth set, Georgia Southern used a 6-0 run, keyed by two kills and two blocks by Reichard, to open a three-point lead of its own. A block by Wake’s Hannah Lee brought the margin to 19-17, but the Eagles ran the table from there, with Reichard assisting on two more blocks, to win the set 25-17 and the match 3-1.

The story vs. Buffalo
Bange and Spencer each had four kills in the fifth and deciding set as the Eagles erased an early 3-0 deficit in the frame. Reichard notched a kill and was in on a block to key a 3-0 GS run that made the score 12-9. The Bulls got within a point twice, but with Georgia Southern leading 14-13, Bange put down a ball off a Kendra Koetter assist to end the match. It was the third-straight five-set match for the Eagles.

Spencer finished with a season-high 13 kills and 12 digs, and Anna Wenger had 10 kills for the second straight contest. Murray chipped in 13 kills and 10 digs, and Reichard tallied eight kills and five blocks. Koetter had 23 assists, and Beecher notched 16 digs and nine assists.

Quotable from head coach Dustin Wood
"Tonight, we just came out and played – I mean everybody played well, and that's what we've been looking for all season."

"In the match at noon, we started off on fire. I really liked the way we were playing, but we got a little too comfortable. Buffalo did a good job of adjusting, and we didn't make any adjustments. We'll take the win, and the experience of going to another fifth set will help us down the road."

"Katie had a tough weekend the first weekend, but ever since then, she's been lights out. She's doing everything well – digging balls, blocking balls, putting balls away, hitting over .500. Not many people in the country can do that so we're going to go to her if she has the hot hand."

Next up
The Eagles host South Carolina in the championship match of the SpringHill Suites Invitational Saturday at 6 p.m. in Hanner Fieldhouse. The contest will be broadcast live on ESPN3.

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