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## Volleyball Gives Undefeated South Carolina All it Can Handle In Five-Set Thriller

*The Eagles took SC to just their second five-set match of the season*

**STATESBORO** – [Katie Bange](#), [Cathrine Murray](#), [Stephanie Spencer](#) and [Kendra Koetter](#) each recorded a double-double Saturday evening in front of a raucous crowd, leading the Georgia Southern volleyball in a five-set thriller against an undefeated South Carolina team. The Gamecocks were ultimately able to escape Hanner Fieldhouse with a 3-2 win, but the Eagles gave a good showing and kept the Gamecocks on their heels the entire time.

Entering Saturday's match, the Gamecocks (9-0) had given up just three sets all season, including two to Wake Forest on Friday, but the Eagles (6-5) didn't let that intimidate them as they took the second and fourth sets in a wild affair.

Murray led the way for Georgia Southern with 14 kills to go along with 15 digs while Bange and [Lauren Reichard](#) each tallied 12 kills. Bange, who also had a team-best 29

assists, hit a solid .333 for the match while Reichard hit .385 and added eight blocks. Spencer rounded out the quartet of Eagles to have double-digit kills with 11 to go with 11 digs. Reichard and Bange were named to the all-tournament team. Koetter ended the match with 23 assists and 10 digs.

### **The Story**

Trailing 6-2 in the fifth set, Georgia Southern came storming back to a 12-10 lead with the help of two kills and two blocks by Reichard. South Carolina closed the set out on a 5-1 run to claim the match. With the Gamecocks leading 14-13, Koko Atoa-Williams hit the ball into the block of Bange, but the ball was called out of bounds on the SC side of the net.

Down 1-0 in the match, Georgia Southern powered to a 25-16 second-set win by hitting .324 as a team compared to just .083 by the Gamecocks. [Alex Beecher](#), who had a match-high 24 digs, gave the Eagles the lead in the set for good at 8-7 with a service ace and GS never looked back.

Following the intermission, the Gamecocks took the third set 25-18, but GS bounced back in the fourth set, claiming a back-and-forth shootout at 27-25. With the Eagles down 24-23, [Anna Wenger](#) delivered a huge kill to tie the score 24-24, but SC took the next point at 25-24. Not giving up, Spencer hit a line drive down the left line to tie it back up at 25-25 before Bange ricocheted a kill off a pair of Gamecocks to set up a GS set point. A block assist from Bange and Reichard sealed the frame and sent the match to a fifth set.

### **Quotable from head coach [Dustin Wood](#)**

"It was a back and forth night. They made some plays and we made some plays. It was good volleyball; we just came up short in the end. I'm proud of my kids and the way they fought. They played really good ball this weekend."

"You just can't start a fifth set down 6-2. We came out a little bit tentative, but we settled in and made a nice run. Unfortunately, it didn't go our way but it was fun to be part of that match. It's a tough one to swallow, but we'll learn from it."

### **Next up**

Georgia Southern will close out the current homestand by hosting North Florida Tuesday, Sept.13. The match against the Ospreys is slated for a 6 p.m. start.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, [GSEagles.com](http://GSEagles.com), through social media channels [facebook.com/GSATHletics](https://facebook.com/GSATHletics), [twitter.com/GSATHletics](https://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](http://GSEagles.com/Tickets).

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