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VBALL Preview: Eagles Look to Improve Sun Belt Tourney Seed

Georgia Southern clinched a Sun Belt Tournament berth Sunday.

Marc Gignac



Milledge Austin

Alex Beecher plays her final home match Saturday.

Women's Volleyball | 11/7/2016 4:35:00 PM

Story Links

Georgia Southern (13-17, 5-9) vs. Georgia State (10-15, 6-8)

Date: Nov. 10 - 6 p.m. - GSU Sports Arena - [Live Video](#) | [Live Stats](#)

Date: Nov. 12 - 2 p.m. - Hanner Fieldhouse - [Live Video](#) | [Live Stats](#)

Georgia Southern team information

[Roster](#) | [Stats \(PDF\)](#) | [Schedule](#)

Georgia State team information

[Roster](#) | [Stats](#) | [Schedule](#)

Probable GS Lineup:

#6 [Lauren Reichard](#)

#8 [Alex Beecher](#)

#10 [Cathrine Murray](#)

#13 [Katie Bange](#)

#14 [Kendra Koetter](#)

#17 [Anna Wenger](#)

#21 [Reilly Bosworth](#)

Georgia Southern faces Georgia State in a home-and-home series in its final two matches of the regular season. The Eagles clinched a berth in the Sun Belt Tournament with a 3-2 win at Appalachian Sunday and as it stands today, would be the eighth seed in the eight-team tourney. The Eagles will look to improve their seed this week and can still finish as high as sixth. Georgia Southern is fourth in the East Division, and Georgia State is third. The top four teams in each division make the tournament but after the division champs are determined, the seeding is done as a group, 3-8. The tournament is Nov. 18-20 in Arlington, Texas.

A full point in the Southern vs. State Rivalry Series is on the line this week. A sweep of the Panthers gives the Eagles a point and a split would be a half point for each team. Georgia State leads this year's competition 2-1.

The home-and-home will be the third straight back-to-back series for the Eagles as Hurricane Matthew caused some changes in the schedule. The Eagles played Coastal Carolina and Appalachian State in back-to-back series last week.

Georgia Southern is 1-4 in its last five, while Georgia State is 2-3 in its last five. The Panthers own a 17-9 edge in the all-time series, but the Eagles won both meetings last season and have won nine of the last 12 overall.

[Alex Beecher](#) aeraged 5.21 digs and 1.07 assists last week and collected 33 digs in Sunday's win over App State, her seventh career match with 30-plus digs and 46th with 20-plus digs. Already the school's all-time leader in digs, the redshirt senior now has 2,311 for her career, 91 shy of moving into the top-25 in NCAA history. She ranks seventh in the country and first in the Sun Belt in digs with 564.

Freshman [Reilly Bosworth](#) is coming off a career-best 18-kill, six-block performance Sunday against the Mountaineers.

[Katie Bange](#) ranks fifth in the country and first in the Sun Belt with six triple-doubles. All six have featured kills, assists and digs.

The Eagles rank 37th in the country and second in the Sun Belt in aces.

[Lauren Reichard](#) ranks third in the league in blocks with 123.

Prior to this season, the last time Georgia Southern played the same opponent in back-to-back contests was in 2001, when the Eagles lost 3-2 to Furman at home on the last day of the regular season and topped the Paladins 3-2 in the first round of the Southern Conference Tournament. GS went on to win its first SoCon Championship and advance to the NCAA Tournament.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, GSEagles.com, through social media channels facebook.com/GSATHletics, 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.

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