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Setting the Scene Game Preview

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SETTING THE SCENE

Game Preview

Site: Holmes Center (8,325)

Tipoff: 4 p.m.

Listen: GS Sports Network (pregame show starts a half hour before tipoff)

Watch: ESPN+

Series: GS trails series 26-24, W2

Last meeting: 2/23/19, W 92-69 (Holmes Center)

Probable Starters:

#2 - Elijah McCadden

#3 - Ike Smith

#13 - Quan Jackson

#24 - David-Lee Jones Jr.

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- GS continues a stretch of three road Sun Belt games in five days with a 4 p.m. contest at Appalachian State Jan. 4 on ESPN+.
- The Eagles cap the span at Little Rock Jan. 6.
- It's the first time GS has played three conference road games in five days since January of 1993 (Marshall, VMI, Furman).
- The games are part of a four-game road trip that began at Georgia Dec. 23 and is the Eagles' longest of the season.
- It's the third time the Eagles will have played three games in five days this season. GS had three in five before the Christmas break and played three in three days in the Hilton Garden Inn FGCU Classic in November.
- The Eagles are 3-2 in their last five and coming off a 70-67 win at Coastal Carolina Thursday night. GS made 15 3-pointers in the game, four off their season high against Reinhardt in the home opener.
- The Eagles rank 33rd in the country in steals (9.1/gm), 17th in turnovers forced (18.1/gm) and seventh in turnover margin (+5.7).
- GS ranks second in the Sun Belt in fewest fouls (16.0/gm) and fourth in fewest turnovers (12.4/gm).
- The Eagles are 4-1 in games decided by five points or less.
- Senior Ike Smith received a medical hardship waiver to regain a year of eligibility. Smith scored five points against Reinhardt Nov. 8 to pass 1,500 for his career and had four rebounds vs. Radford Nov. 15 to become the fifth Eagle with 1,500 career points and 500 rebounds, joining Jeff Sanders (1,861 pts, 893 reb), Kevin Anderson (1,843 pts, 986 reb), Matt Simpkins (1,684 pts, 642 reb) and Louis Graham (1,581 pts, 908 reb).
- Smith has been named to the Lou Henson Award Preseason Watch List. The award is given annually to the nation's top Division I Mid-Major player.
- Appalachian State is 3-2 in its last five and coming off a 69-60 home loss to Georgia State Thursday night. It was the Mountaineers' first home loss and dropped their record in the Holmes Center to 4-1.
- Appalachian State was picked ninth in the Sun Belt Coaches Preseason Poll, and Justin Forrest was named preseason second-team All-Sun Belt. The junior ranks third in the league in scoring at 17.7 points a game.
- App leads the Sun Belt in scoring defense and is giving up just 63.2 points a contest and allowing opponents to shoot 39 percent.