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2-20-2020

## Setting the Scene Game Preview

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### Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Setting the Scene Game Preview" (2020). *Athletics News*. 2789.  
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# SETTING THE SCENE

## Game Preview

**Site:** Strahan Arena (10,000)

**Tipoff:** 8 p.m. ET

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

**Watch:** ESPN+

**Series:** GS leads 8-3, W2

**Last meeting:** 12/19/19, W 67-64 (Hanner)

### **Probable Starters:**

#2 - Elijah McCadden

#3 - Ike Smith

#10 - Calvin Wishart

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- The Eagles open a three-game road swing at Texas State Thursday at 8 p.m. ET on ESPN+.
- It's the second of two scheduled meetings against Texas State this season. GS won the first contest 67-64 back on Dec. 19 in the Sun Belt opener for both teams.
- The Eagles and Bobcats enter the game tied for third place in the Sun Belt standings.
- The Eagles are 5-4 in games decided by five points or less, and nine of their 16 Sun Belt games have been decided by six points or less.
- The Eagles are 3-2 in their last five and coming off a 62-57 home loss to Appalachian State Saturday afternoon.
- When scheduled for two league games in a week, GS is 13-1 in its last 14 "first" games and has won 11 in a row. Since the Sun Belt went to travel partners in 2015-16, GS is: 28-13 in first games of the week, including 16-5 at home and 12-8 on the road; 24-17 in second games of the week, including 15-6 at home and 9-11 on the road.
- The Eagles rank 35th in the country and second in the Sun Belt in steals (8.1/gm), 29th nationally in turnovers forced (16.2/gm) and 20th in turnover margin (+3.6).
- GS ranks third in the Sun Belt in fewest fouls (16.6/gm) and fourth in fewest turnovers (12.6/gm). The Eagles are second in the league in blocked shots per game (4.1); Simeon Carter ranks second (1.6/gm).
- The Eagles rank 31st in the country and second in the Sun Belt in total 3-point field goal attempts (697), and GS is third in the league in 3-pointers made per game (8.4).
- Texas State is in the midst of a four-game homestand and is 12-3 in Strahan Arena this season.
- The Bobcats rank first in the Sun Belt in scoring defense (63.6 ppg) and second in field goal percentage defense (.400).
- Nijal Pearson leads the league in scoring with 19.6 points a game and ranks ninth on the Sun Belt all-time scoring list.