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## Setting the Scene Game Preview

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# SETTING THE SCENE

## Game Preview

**Site:** Hanner Fieldhouse (3,897)

**Tipoff:** 7 p.m.

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

**Watch:** ESPN+

**Series:** GS leads series 12-4, W1

**Last meeting:** 3/2/19, W 81-70 (Hanner)

**Promotions:** Senior Night, presented by the Georgia Army National Guard

### Probable Starters:

#2 - Elijah McCadden

#3 - Ike Smith

#10 - Calvin Wishart

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- The Eagles finish the regular season by playing host to Arkansas State Tuesday in Hanner Fieldhouse. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. on ESPN+.
- It's Senior Night, presented by the Georgia Army National Guard, and Georgia Southern will honor three senior managers along with student-athletes Simeon Carter, Isaiah Crawley, Trey Dawkins, David-Lee Jones Jr., Ike Smith and Jordan Walker prior to the contest.
- The Eagles can be no higher than the third seed and no lower than the fifth seed in the upcoming Sun Belt Tournament, which means GS will host the first conference tourney game in Hanner since the 1992 TAAC Championship game, a 92-82 Eagle win over Georgia State March 11.
- If the No. 3 or 4 seed, Georgia Southern will host a game March 11 in Hanner Fieldhouse, and the tipoff time will be 7:30 p.m. If the No. 5 seed, GS will host a game in Hanner March 9 at 7 p.m. (see below for scenarios).
- The top two seeds get a bye into the semifinals in New Orleans (Little Rock has earned the No. 1 seed), while seeds 3-8 will host tournament games as teams attempt to play their way to New Orleans. The winner of each game will advance to play on the home court of a higher seed until the semifinal round at the Smoothie King Center.
- This is the first and only scheduled meeting between the Eagles and Arkansas State this season.
- The Eagles enter the game tied for third place in the Sun Belt standings with South Alabama, and Arkansas State is tied for ninth.
- The Eagles are 5-4 in games decided by five points or less, and nine of their 19 Sun Belt games have been decided by six points or less.
- The Eagles are 3-2 in their last five and coming off a 79-70 win at Georgia State Friday night.
- The Eagles are 70-25 in Hanner Fieldhouse (10-3 this season) under Mark Byington and 41-15 in Sun Belt contests.
- The Eagles rank 45th in the country and second in the Sun Belt in steals (7.9/gm), 32nd nationally in turnovers forced (15.9/gm) and 24th in turnover margin (+3.3).
- GS ranks third in the Sun Belt in fewest fouls (16.4/gm) and fourth in fewest turnovers (12.6/gm). The Eagles are second in the league in blocked shots per game (4.0); Simeon Carter ranks second (1.5/gm).

- The Eagles rank 39th in the country and second in the Sun Belt in total 3-point field goal attempts (727), and GS is third in the league in 3-pointers made per game (8.2).
- Arkansas State has lost its last eight, but five of those games have been decided by seven points or less and the last two have been one-possession games.
- A-State has five comebacks despite trailing by 10 or more points in the second half.
- The Red Wolves are 5-8 on the road and 3-6 in road league games.

#### **Sun Belt Tournament Scenarios**

- Eagles' path to the third seed: defeat Arkansas State, South Alabama loses to Texas State.
- Eagles' path to the fourth seed: defeat Arkansas State, South Alabama defeats Texas State OR if Georgia State loses to Little Rock.
- The Eagles will be the fifth seed if they lose to Arkansas State and Georgia State defeats Little Rock.