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3-11-2020

## Setting the Scene Game Preview

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# SETTING THE SCENE

## Game Preview

**Site:** GSU Sports Arena (3,854)

**Tipoff:** 7 p.m.

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

**Watch:** ESPN+

**Series:** Southern leads 44-23, W1

**Last meeting:** 2/28/20, W 79-70 (away)

### **Probable Starters:**

#2 - Elijah McCadden

#3 - Ike Smith

#10 - Calvin Wishart

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Fifth-seeded Georgia Southern travels to fourth-seeded Georgia State in a Sun Belt Tournament quarterfinal game. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, in the GSU Sports Arena, and the game will air on ESPN+.
- Georgia Southern tied for fourth with Georgia State in the Sun Belt standings, but State earned the fourth seed by virtue of a tiebreaking home win over Little Rock last Tuesday. Southern lost at Little Rock in January.
- The winner of the contest travels to New Orleans to take on top seed Little Rock Saturday at 12:30 p.m. ET in the Smoothie King Center.
- The Eagles and Panthers split the season series with each team winning on the other's home court.
- The Eagles are 2-0 all-time in conference tournament games on the road. Both wins came against Little Rock in Barton Coliseum (1987 and 1983).
- The top two Sun Belt seeds have earned a bye into the semifinals in New Orleans (No. 1 Little Rock and No. 2 South Alabama), while seeds 3-8 are hosting 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.
- The quarterfinal and semifinal games are set for live coverage on ESPN+ with Sunday's championship game slated for live coverage on ESPN2.
- Georgia Southern has finished in the top-5 in the Sun Belt standings in each of its six seasons in the league. The Eagles are one of just two Sun Belt teams (UTA) and 26 teams in the country that have won 10-plus league games in each of the last six seasons. The Eagles are 70-44 in Sun Belt games in their six seasons, the second-best record in the league during that time span (Georgia State 73-41).
- Georgia Southern is playing in its 40th Division I conference tournament this year. GS is 32-35 all-time in conference tourneys, 4-5 in the Sun Belt Tournament, 10-24 as the lower seed and 5-7 as the fifth seed.
- The Eagles are 7-8 on the road, 6-4 in road league games, and 8-9 away from home (road and neutral site) this season.
- Quan Jackson was named second-team All-Sun Belt, while Ike Smith earned third-team honors. It's the second straight season Jackson has been named All-Sun Belt (third team in 2018-19) and the second time Smith has been recognized (2016-17 first team).
- The Eagles are 6-5 in games decided by five points or less, and their last two contests have been one-point games. Ten of their 20 Sun Belt regular-season games were decided by six points or less.
- The Eagles are 3-2 in their last five and coming off an 82-81 win over Louisiana in the Sun Belt Tournament second round Monday in Hanner Fieldhouse.

- The Eagles rank 37th in the country and first in the Sun Belt in steals (8.0/gm), 32nd nationally in turnovers forced (16.0/gm) and 28th in turnover margin (+2.9).
- GS ranks third in the Sun Belt in fewest fouls (16.4/gm) and fifth in fewest turnovers (13.0/gm). The Eagles are second in the league in blocked shots per game (3.9); Simeon Carter ranks second (1.5/gm).
- The Eagles rank fourth in the Sun Belt in total 3-point field goal attempts (773), and GS is tied for third in the league in 3-pointers made per game (8.0).
- The two-time defending Sun Belt Tournament champion, Georgia State has reached the semifinals in five of last six years.
- GSU has won 26 of its last 29 games in GSU Sports Arena.
- The Panthers have compiled a 90-42 league record since rejoining the league in 2013-14. During that six-year span, State has finished among the top two in the regular season standings five times.