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Georgia Southern University Athletics



Spence's Long Ball Grounds Eagles in Extras
Baseball
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STATESBORO, Ga. - Liam Spence hit a grand slam in the top of the 12th inning on Sunday afternoon at J.I. Clements Stadium to defeat the Eagles 7-3 and complete the sweep. Georgia Southern falls to 0-3 on the season, while the Volunteers improve to 3-0.

[Braden Hays](#) started the ballgame on Sunday and worked three innings on the mound. The Senior allowed three runs, on two hits and two walks. [Noah Ledford](#) crushed his second home run of the season, this time in the form of a two-run shot to tie the ballgame in the fourth.

[Sam Blancato](#) earned his first career start, going 1 for 5 at the plate and making a diving catch in center field in the seventh inning. [Ben Johnson](#) made his Eagles debut on Sunday, as the freshman tossed four innings of two hit baseball. He added four strikeouts to his line and was relieved after facing one batter in the eighth inning.

[Jaylen Paden](#) continued to have a successful weekend for the Eagles, earning the start for the first time just a day removed from his first collegiate hit. He added to that line, pitching for the first time in an Eagle uniform and earned his first strikeout as well.

SCORING MOMENTS

TOP 2nd | GS 0 - TENN 1 | Trey Lipscomb walked to drive in the first run of the ballgame.

BOTTOM 2nd | GS 1 - TENN 1 | [Matt Anderson](#) singled and advanced to second on the throw to score [Jason Swan](#).

TOP 3rd | GS 1 - TENN 3 | Jordan Beck hit a two-run homer to right center.

BOTTOM 4th | GS 3 - TENN 3 | [Noah Ledford](#) hit a two-run homer to right center.

TOP 12th | GS 3 - TENN 7 | Liam Spence hit a grand slam to center field.

GAME NOTES

- [Sam Blancato](#) and [Jaylen Paden](#) made their first career starts on Sunday afternoon for the Eagles. Paden also made his debut pitching for the Eagles in the 11th.
- Georgia Southern pitching tallied 45 strikeouts against the No. 19 team in the country.
- [Ben Johnson](#) made his GS debut pitching four innings, allowing two hits and striking out four batters.
- [Noah Ledford](#) hit his second home run of the season in the fourth inning of Sunday's finale.
- [Christian Avant](#) and [Jason Swan](#) both stole a base in Sunday's loss to Tennessee.

UP NEXT

The Eagles will now hit the road for the first time in 2021, traveling to Charleston, South Carolina for the first of two games against College of Charleston. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m. from Patriots Point.