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## Setting the Scene Game Preview

Georgia Southern University

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# SETTING THE SCENE

## Game Preview

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

**Tipoff:** 6 p.m.

**Watch:** ESPN+

**Listen:** GS Radio Network

**Series:** GS leads 76-40, W2 | [Division I Series History](#)

**Promotions:** Canned food drive

## [Hanner Fieldhouse Gameday Guide](#)

### Probable Starters:

#0 - Kaden Archie

#2 - Elijah McCadden

#3 - Zack Bryant

#4 - Kamari Brown

#24 - Prince Toyambi

- Georgia Southern plays host to Mercer for the second consecutive season Sunday in Hanner Fieldhouse. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m. on ESPN+. The Eagles are in a stretch of playing three games in five days.
- Georgia Southern has played Mercer more than any opponent in the 91-year history of the program (116 times). Before last year's game in Hanner, the Bears had not traveled to Statesboro since 2007.
- Georgia Southern is coming off a 77-45 road setback at Davidson Friday night.
- Junior guard Elijah McCadden was named second-team All-Sun Belt and senior guard Zack Bryant was named third-team All-Sun Belt in the Preseason Coaches Poll. Bryant scored his 1,000th career point with a pair of free throws at Davidson with 12:39 left in the game. He scored 986 points at UAB before transferring to Georgia Southern.
- Georgia Southern was picked fifth in the Sun Belt's East Division.
- Georgia Southern returns five lettermen (two scholarship), which is tied for the fourth least in the country. The Eagles' nine newcomers are tied for the fourth-most in the country. Georgia Southern is replacing 79.1 percent of its scoring from last season, the 11th-most in the country. Georgia Southern has six transfers from Division I schools, and one from a Division II program who are all eligible to compete this season. Seven of the nine newcomers made their Georgia Southern debuts in the season opener Nov. 25.
- Georgia Southern is coming off its third consecutive 20-win season and advanced to the Sun Belt Championship Semifinals for the third straight campaign. The Eagles have won 20-plus games in four of the last six seasons.
- The Eagles are 7-2 in their last nine, dating back to last season.
- GS is 27-3 in its last 30 non-conference games in Hanner Fieldhouse. The Eagles are 73-26 in Hanner Fieldhouse in the last seven seasons and 42-16 in contests against Sun Belt competition.
- Mercer is ranked 11th in this week's CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top-25 Poll, and the Bears are

coming off a 96-85 home win over Southern Wesleyan Sunday, Dec. 6.

- Mercer is 5-0 for the first time since the 1966-67 campaign. That squad started the year with seven consecutive wins.
- The Bears own victories at Georgia Tech (83-73, Nov. 27) and against Georgia State (86-69, Nov. 30).
- Mercer had its game against VMI scheduled for Thursday postponed and will have had six days between games.
- The Bears were picked fourth in the Southern Conference Preseason Poll, while Ross Cummings and Jeff Gary were named preseason all-conference.