Drag in the South
Local drag queen talks about the experience of performing in the south
Page 8-9

Brown after the Boro
What’s next for the stand out point guard?
Page 5

TACTICAL ATHLETE PROGRAM
Rehabilitation science students participate in simulation.
Page 5
**EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS**

**APRIL 25**

**BOULDERING NIGHT OUT**
Each BNO has a different theme and we strongly encourage individuals to dress to the theme (we usually have a best-dressed prize)! This event is open to all ranges of experience, whether you are an experienced climber or a first timer this event is fun for everyone.

Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Jumphot Facility | 158 E Parrish Street

**APRIL 26**

**LEGO MOVIE 2**
Join the University Programming Board for our monthly Friday movie series. This event is free and open to the public.
Friday, April 26 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m
Russell Union Theater

**APRIL 26**

**NATIONAL PRETZEL DAY**
In honor of National Pretzel Day, GUS Mart in the RU will offer a free 24 oz soft drink with the purchase of any pretzel.
Friday, April 26 at 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Russell Union GUS Mart

**APRIL 27**

**WOMEN’S FIREARM FUNDAMENTALS**
Participants will gain a comprehensive knowledge of the anatomy of the different handgun systems, benefits and drawbacks specific to each of the platforms and their operation. In addition, participants will be introduced to the fundamentals of shooting.
Public/Faculty/Staff - $75; Students - $50
Saturday, April 27 at 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Shooting Sports Education Center

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**#PETSBORO**

Want you and your pet to be featured next time? Post your photo on Twitter with the name of your pet and a little bit about you (name, year, and major). Make sure you include #petsboro and tag @GA_Visuals!

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**OUR HOUSE**

**SAM**
Study in intervals.

**DEANDRE**
Go to the library. Drink lots of coffee. Stay awake. Use Quizlet.

**BRENDAN**
Get food. Put study music on.

**JOHANNA**
Go to a quiet area with no distractions.

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"What are your tips to study for finals week?"
Georgia Southern students react to 2.5% tuition increase

BY NATHAN WOODRUFF
The Georgia-Anne staff

“I won’t have too much of an effect on me as it will other people so I wouldn’t say that I am completely against it, but I know some other people are frustrated,” Evan Fletcher, sophomore criminal justice major said. “It’ll be a debate.”

“I just think it makes people that come from lower income homes, it makes it more unfair for them because they keep raising prices,” Graham Cooper, junior public relations major said. “There are kids who can’t get scholarships, whether it be athletically or academically.”

• Georgia Southern University students shared their opinions on the 2.5% increase to all Georgia colleges and universities in the coming fall.
• The University System of Georgia Board of Regents voted Tuesday to increase tuition by 2.5%.
• GS will feel the impacts locally with a $67 increase in in-state tuition and a $245 increase to out-of-state tuition.

“I would probably be happy with that but I am not happy about that because what did you raise the tuition for?” Ebony Butler, sophomore exercise science major said. “If they don’t make improvements on our campus, then I don’t want our tuition to be raised.”

“I think it will divide our culture and put more kids in debt to pursue education and it’s just going to cater to people who can afford to go to college,” Emily Hennessy, junior studio art major, said. “For people who are struggling, 2% is a lot.”

#SeenAtSouthern

Our photographers went out on campus and snapped some photos depicting life at Georgia Southern. Come back every week or follow our Twitter, @GA_Visuals, to see if you have been spotted!

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County.

The newspaper is published once weekly, on Thursdays, during most of the academic year. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the student editor or email: gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.6284 or 912.478.6666. For questions e-mail: adidas@georgiasouthern.edu.

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The countdown to finals week begins. As days pass by, the much-dreaded final exams come to an end, I wish everyone good luck and that they do their best.

Jennifer Dillard, sophomore international studies major

“Finally, getting plenty of sleep is paramount,” Dillard said. “Studying at 1 a.m. can be counterproductive when you are too tired to focus the next day.”

The George-Anne staff

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As the month of April progresses, students tremble at the thought of finals week being just around the corner. With roughly one and a half weeks until Georgia Southern University students begin taking their much-dreaded final exams, time is counting down to prepare.

With this in mind, the best ways to prepare for final exams differ from person to person. That is why I chose to go around campus and ask students how they prepare for final exams, in order to give readers new preparation tactics that could be beneficial for them.

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Georgia Southern student arrested for firearm possession in RAC parking Tuesday

BY ELIZABETH GROSS
The Georgia-Anne Staff

A Georgia Southern University student was arrested for possession of a firearm in a school safety zone on Tuesday at the Recreational Activity Center following an argument at a flag football game.

Quantavious Clover, 19, was found in the RAC parking lot with a loaded Smith & Wesson .38 special revolver and a box containing three bullets in a backpack, according to the police incident report.

The incident report states that Clover was too young to be eligible for a conceal carry permit. Clover was in further violation of the campus carry policy due to possessing a firearm at an area designated for the use of athletics.

Clover was handcuffed and detained after claiming ownership of the weapon and was placed under arrest after processing, according to the police incident report. 

The incident report states that Clover was referring to is also black. 

Clover’s charge of possession of a firearm in a school safety zone is classified as a felony.

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By the field, and the "swole" male that Clover was referring to is also black.

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Georgia Southern student wins Undergrad Award

Georgia Southern student receives Best Undergraduate Student Presentation at the 2019 Benthic Ecology Meeting

BY SARAH SMITH
The Georgia-Anne contributor

Sarah Rogers presented her research on the effects of ocean acidification and was awarded first place and $200 cash for the Best Undergraduate Student Presentation at the 2019 Benthic Ecology meeting in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada.

"It was an honor but a surprise," Rogers said. "I definitely did not expect it."

Rogers’ presentation, titled “The combined effects of ocean acidification and elevated sea temperature on the temperate coral Oculina arbuscula,” covered her research focusing on the effects of ocean acidification and the increasing temperature of coral along the coast of Georgia on marine organisms and the environment.

"Climate is definitely a hot topic and to me, this presentation was important so that I could contribute my part," Rogers said.

Ocean acidification, the PH in the ocean becoming highly acidic, is caused by the oceans absorbing carbon dioxide, leading to global warming and harming animals.

Her research began during her studies for her thesis project for the GS honors program. Rogers was mentored by Daniel Gleason, Ph.D., marine biologist and Director of GS’ Institute of Coastal Plain Science, throughout her research.

"[Rogers] took charge and ran with it. She wasn’t in the lab long until I realized that she was very skilled," Gleason said regarding Rogers’ research. "The presentation was not easy. She was always willing to put in extra work."

Rogers was recently accepted into Georgia Tech’s Ocean Science and Engineering Ph.D. program. She will graduate from GS with a Bachelor’s of Science in biology this May. Rogers plans to continue her research and education as a professor so she can teach the next generation of scientists.
STUDENTS VISIT FORT STEWART
Georgia Southern rehab sciences students participate in interactive soldier experience at Fort Stewart

Georgia Southern University’s Department of Rehabilitation Sciences students visited Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield in an effort to get a taste of the interactive soldier demonstrations, while also providing a glimpse into what soldiers have to endure every day on the fort.

By Tatiana Joseph-Saunders

The George-Anne contributor

DPT, assistant professor of rehabilitation sciences appreciated the opportunity to experience a soldier’s routine. “I think the students and I both gained a greater appreciation of the physical demands that Fort Stewart soldiers experience on a daily basis,” Henderson said.

Henderson has worked with soldiers as their physical therapist for over a decade but credits this trip to helping her truly understand the physical demands her patients are required to meet.

This type of experience-based training would greatly aid students interested in physical therapy, especially those who want to work closely with soldiers. Participants are able to see the taxing daily duties of being a soldier, according to GS' press release.

The trip was made possible thanks to an ongoing partnership GS has with Fort Stewart.

Students opposed

BY KIARA GRIFFIN / A staff

Georgia Southern University sent a survey to spring 2019 graduates about commencement with more than half saying they would not attend a university-wide ceremony.

Graduation survey shows lack of interest for university-wide ceremony

BY BISOLA OKE AND MICHAEL SMITH

The George-Anne staff contributor

A survey conducted by the university registrar office shows that 53.3% of graduates do not plan on attending Georgia Southern University’s university-wide commencement ceremony in May.

Following changes to GS’ graduation ceremonies, the university asked students to fill out a survey to determine how many planned to attend both the university-wide and college-specific graduations.

As of April 8, 74% of 4,467 graduates had offered the registrar’s office a response, according to an email from interim registrar Wallace Brown.

Out of the 3,263 responses, 1,739 said they will not attend the university-wide service.

With over half of the initial responding graduates declaring they would not attend the university’s ceremony, 680 of the same group said they would not attend their individual college commencement.

“We plan to provide an inspiring and memorable commencement experience for all the graduates and their families who will be in attendance,” Brown said.

The university-wide ceremony is set to take place at 9 a.m. on May 11. All individual college graduation ceremonies will be held at different times on May 10 and 11.

New courses offered

BY CHARLES PAGGETT

The George-Anne contributor

Georgia Southern University’s sports management major has added several new courses and concentrations to be implemented beginning fall 2019.

The new concentrations for students are athletic administration, marketing and revenue generation and sports development.

"We’re trying to stay with what the industry needs and what our students need to be competitive," Chris Barnhill, associate professor of sports management, said. "We really reached out to our alumni and to our industry partners, and asked what do they think students need to know.

The roll out of courses planned for the 2019 fall semester will only be available on the Statesboro campus as of now, but future expansions will look to include the Armstrong campus as well.

“We want to make sure that we do something that is very Savannah specific when we go there," Barnhill said. "But we want to make sure that we also have the resources to do it right.”

The additions will mostly impact incoming freshmen, however, current students may also switch to the new degree plan. The department highly encourages current students to speak with their advisor about any potential changes that could delay graduation, Barnhill said.

The new changes look to further spotlight GS’ sports management program, one of the oldest in the nation.

“Don’t wait until you graduate to be a part of the industry," Barnhill said. “You’re a part of the industry from the day you walk on campus.”
The College of Arts and Humanities and the Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies program of Georgia Southern University is hosting Lavender Graduation in the Russell Union Ballroom on May 9 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Lavender Graduation is a ceremony for graduating LGBTQ+ and ally students to be recognized for their accomplishments, Ashley Strickland, GSA president said. The committee is made up of both faculty and students. There will be speakers and a reception following the graduation ceremony, Strickland said. The Lavender Graduation ceremony is an event that happens at numerous universities across the U.S., and the first one began at the University of Michigan in 1995, according to the Human Rights Campaign website. Strickland said that last year marked the first-ever Lavender Graduation ceremony at GS. “Last year’s inaugural Lavender Graduation ceremony meant so much to me as a member of the LGBTQ+ community,” Strickland said. “I love having an event to celebrate the graduates who identify as LGBTQ+ and recognize their accomplishments, and to send them into post-graduate life knowing that there is a community from Georgia Southern University that will always be there to support them.” According to the Human Rights Campaign website, lavender is the color used to signify the event because of its historical significance within the LGBTQ+ community, as it is a combination of pink, a color gay men were forced to wear in concentration camps, and black, the color used to designate lesbians as political prisoners in Nazi Germany.
A Real Queen of the South
Drag show performer shines a light on drag culture

BY SHIANN SIVELL

At first glance, Davis Roberts looks like any other student in the clustered on-campus Starbucks. His eyes are lightly bloodshot from hours upon hours of thesis writing. His clothes are worn and comfortable, fit for any occasion.

There’s his beard. There’s nothing particularly unique about it aside from its well-maintained shaped. However, Roberts’ beard is a major part of his identity, not just as a boy, but as his part of his performance art.

By day, Roberts is a mild-mannered, well-to-do student, but by night he trades in his school books for his best heels and paints his blond beard a feisty red.

For the evening, Davis Roberts takes a back seat so that Jen D’ Queer, the bearded drag queen of the south, can take center stage, and enchant all who see her right beside her sisters of the night.

Pre-show history
From the plays of William Shakespeare to the early inclusive beauty pageants orchestrated by drag queen pioneer Mother Flawless Sabrina, drag has been an evolution from a common theater practice to an award-winning form of entertainment that has gained legitimacy both on a national and international stage.

In the past decade drag has become more recognizable due to the sensational success of RuPaul’s Drag Race.

While RuPaul has a special place in the heart of the Drag community, and has helped society understand the culture, there are some instances where it has putting Drag in a one kind of light that causes people who see local scenes to be looked down upon them.

“It’s not without its problems,” Roberts said. “I think one of those problems is that it’s mainstreet drag, I don’t think drag race will ever have a bearded queen on because bearded queens aren’t ‘fishy drag.’ I don’t think drag race will ever have a drag king on, which is really unfortunate because Drag Kings are such an underrepresented part of drag.”

Local drag races, such as the one held in Statesboro, allows for ‘different types of queens’ who are lower income and less-accessible resources to be seen by the public.

However, Roberts’ said RuPaul’s is important in making drag accessible to the public.

“IT’s essentially the gay superbowl,” Roberts said. “I watch it every year. I’m always at viewing parties. I’m willing to critique it for its few problems.”

A smaller stage
Drag culture is not an uncommon phenomenon on Georgia Southern University’s campus.

For the past 11 years the Gay-Straight Alliance has helped host a shadow cast version of the “Rocky Horror Picture Show,” the sci-fi comedy about a ‘sweet transvestite from transsexual transylvania.’

On top of that, the campus has its own drag race each year, held in the Russel Union Ballroom where students line the walls long after all the seats are filled just for a glimpse at the lip-syncing queens.

Roberts, a Statesboro-born performer, attended one such show during his earlier years of college where his interest in drag was peaked.

“Knowing I was gay, I was getting into things that were part of gay culture,” Roberts said. “Drag was one of of those things I was drawn to as an audience member.”

It wasn’t until Roberts saw his first bearded queen during a pride parade that he decided to transition from an audience member to a performer, and has taken the stage as Jen D’Queer for over a year and a half now.

For inspiration he studied queens who used exaggerated comedy to make their audience laugh and feel comfortable.

“I love to make people laugh,” Roberts said. “There’s nothing more pleasing to me as a drag queen than to make people laugh while I’m performing. That’s what I like. Whenever I get to make people laugh, that’s when I’m happiest.”

Getting ready
Roberts exists “as a boy” and as Jen D’Queer, but they are separated only by a thin layer of makeup and a few personality tweaks.

“During the day, as a boy, I’m generally very quiet and reserved,” Roberts said. “That somewhat changes when I get in drag. I’m definitely more vagaries in drag. Being in drag give you some free passes to be a little crazier, be a little bit more stupid, be a little bit more raunchy.”

As a queen, one of the most important aspects of D’Queer’s look is her makeup and hair.

Her wigs can be found rather...
cheaply off Amazon, and the places he finds his signature makeup varies depending on what he’s looking for.

At home, Roberts' small closet is stuffed to capacity with his denim shirts and shorts and D’Queer’s fur coats, gowns and shoes. Roberts said he is a ‘thrift store shopper’ when it comes to buying performance clothes, and usually has to make adjustments to garments when he can.

“Taking them in isn’t as big of a deal than how you use them,” Roberts said. “How you utilize the things you find is more interesting to me.”

Roberts wears between a women’s 12 to a women’s 13, and sees them more as a utility due to the need to make them last longer. Years of practice made him a confident, blister-free stroller.

Of all his clothes, he spends more money on strong sets of shoes than anything else.

“I don’t buy cheap shoes because they break when you’re not 130 pounds,” Roberts said.

To shape his body, Roberts uses one-piece bathing suits and corsets, which for a man of over 230 pounds can be uncomfortable.

“Drag can be cumbersome, there’s a lot involved,” Roberts said.

Taking the stage

The Russel Union hardly has the space to accompany a group of queens. The two small restrooms in the back are already filled to capacity, so Roberts makes use of the dimly lit but spacious hallway.

At his feet is the camouflage gown he’ll be wearing for the evening, accompanied with a bright orange wig that will set off the red in his painted beard swimmingly.

From behind the curtains he listens in pride as his sisters of the night perform and accept monetary tips from hoards of cheering college students.

As the queens filter in and out, cheers and congrats are given among each other, the stage free of competition and any sort of mean-spiritedness. The majority of them are amateurs who are more focused on the good time than the money or fame.

“A lot of [being a queen] is building a reputation as a good performer, but also as a good person,” Roberts said. “If you’re a nice person in the backroom, you’re going to be much better received.”

“Damn I look good,” Performer D’Queer says as she checks her makeup. Her ‘dressing room’ during the night of Georgia Southern’s Drag Show was a dimly lit hallway, as the backstage restroom were occupied by other queens. D’Queer said she didn’t mind though, and used her wits and hand mirror to make sure she looked her best before she was called up.

Davis Roberts ‘as a boy’. The mild-mannered graduate student from Emory University saw his first drag show on the Georgia Southern Campus during his junior year, but didn’t think at first he’d never be on stage with the very queens he admires.
**SKATING PARTY! Glow Edition**

Tuesday, April 30

Williams Center Multipurpose Room
6:00 - 8:00 pm

There will be 100 skates. Must sign out to sign in. (No sunglasses)

For more information on accommodations related to access or participation, please contact UPB at (912) 478-2603, at least two weeks prior to the event.

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**STUDENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY BUZZ**

**Women’s Firearms Fundamentals**

April 27, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

**BOULDERING NIGHT OUT**

Themed climbing event the last Thursday of every month at the Boulder Cafe
April 25 at 7PM

**FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE SHOWCASE**

Interested in learning more about the fraternity and sorority life scene here at Georgia Southern? Come find out.

Thursday, April 25th
11AM-2PM
Russell Union Rotunda & Commons
80 Georgia Ave, Statesboro, GA 30460

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

For more information on the Division of Student Affairs or its units please visit students.georgiasouthern.edu

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**student organization Renewals**

**LAST 2 CHANCES TO RENEW!**

Every student organization must have their president & 1 additional leader attend

- **Friday**
  - April 20th, 3:30 pm; Russell Union Theater

- **Wednesday**
  - April 25th, 6:00 pm; Russell Union Theater

*Advisors are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop and will receive 2 WINGS points for attending

For more information, please contact the Office of Student Activities at osa@georgiasouthern.edu

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**CRI**

912-764-5489
912-764-2030
The George-Anne 4/25/19 Crossword

Across
1 In the distance
5 Slender
9 Tin foil, e.g.
12 India’s ___ M:
16 Deserted
18 Leaning
19 AOL, e.g. (Abbr.)
20 Unit of energy
21 WW II arena
22 “so fast!”
23 Classic card game
24 Stallone title role
25 “___ boom bah!”
26 Golden Horde
27 Circus sight
30 Strike caller
33 Family members
36 Nautical direction
38 Flub
39 Floor model
40 Kind of truck
41 Pay tribute to
42 Plunder
44 Church recess
46 Actress Polo
47 Pigeon’s home
48 ___ boom bah?”
51 Dry, as wine
52 Manipulator
53 Put in a stake
55 Flamenco cheer
57 ___ boom bah!”
59 Author LeShan
60 Phenom
61 Can opener
64 Clan emblem
66 ___ Street had one
69 Pitchers
70 Splay’s home
71 Operatic solo
72 Olympian Lipinski

Down
1 Court game, Jai ___
2 Little lies
3 Pronto notation
4 Campaigned
5 In-depth
6 Like a jury, at times
7 Quebec’s ___ d’Orleans
8 4-time presidential runner
9 Rainy
10 Thick-skinned beast
11 Singer Guthrie
12 Golf stroke
13 One of the Judds
14 Cozy room
15 Browning work?
16 Colorado Indian
17 Hospital unit
18 Split to unite
19 TV personality
20 Like some points
21 Golden Horde member
22 Many chiliads
23 Many chiliads
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25 Many chiliads
26 Many chiliads
27 Many chiliads
28 Many chiliads
29 Many chiliads
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46 Many chiliads
47 Stage signal
48 Agenda entries
49 Called the shots
50 La vita nuova
51 Near
52 Permit
53 Proofer’s mark
54 Corn Belt state
55 Matares
56 Psi source
57 Seed coat
58 Tuckered out
59 Historic time
60 Alternative
61 Bonkers
62 La vita nuova
63 Pause
64 Pause
65 Pause
66 Pause
67 Pause
68 Pause
69 Pause
70 Pause
71 Pause
72 Pause

Sudoku by Myles Mellor
Easy

3 4 5
5 2 1
1 8

3 7 8
8 5 9
7 1

6 5 2
7 7 8

Sudoku by Myles Mellor
Easy

3 4 9 6
2 1 3 5
9 8

1 2 4 2
3 6 1 3
9 7

To contact the creative editor-in-chief, email prodmgr@georgiasouthern.edu
BY AMANDA ARNOLD
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern standout point guard Tookie Brown officially declared for the NBA draft on April 12 on his Twitter page with a highlight video captioned “#4 OUT!” Since then, the tweet has received hundreds of likes and he has received national recognition.

Leaving GS with four first-team All-Sun Belt honors, an Associated Press All-American Honorable Mention, 2019 Men’s Basketball Sun Belt Player of the Year, and as the all time leader in GS points and assists among other honors, Brown has definitely left his mark in Hanner Fieldhouse and the record books.

Brown was recently invited to play in the Portsmouth Invitational Tournament in Virginia, where he was one of 64 seniors chosen nationwide to showcase their talents in front of NBA team representatives. NBA stars such as Scottie Pippen, Tim Hardaway, and Jimmy Butler have all played in this four-day, 12 game tournament in the past.

With the help of his agent, he is ready to enter the murky waters of the draft process. This is not the first go-around for Brown, though. Last year, he declared for the draft as a junior but eventually changed his mind and withdrew his name around late May. His reasoning was simple; he wanted one more chance to get a Sun Belt Championship. The team was eventually defeated by University of Texas-Arlington in the semifinals of the tournament.

Brown is confident in the team he’s leaving behind, especially with the new class coming in. He mentioned that there will be a few junior college transfers next year. This veteran roster is only adding in two freshman. With GS racking up at least twenty wins in the past two seasons, there are already high expectations.

“‘There’s going to be some games where, I mean, you’re going to struggle,” Brown said. “You’re gonna struggle and have bad games, turnovers, stuff like that. You just have to stick together as a team.”

Besides pursuing a professional basketball career, Brown wants to focus on helping kids and athletes around the community.

Graduating with a sports management degree, there are many pathways he could take. In addition to a plethora of coaching jobs in the field, many universities and pro teams hire sports managers to balance the high number of athletes coming in and out. He could also take the more technical route and become either a sports statistician, agent or a contract negotiator.

While his accomplishments on the court are definitely impressive, Brown is also proud of the relationships he’s built with the coaching staff, students, professors, and other student athletes across the board here on campus.

The NBA Draft takes place on June 20.
A TEAM WITHOUT TOOKIE
Georgia Southern men's basketball working to improve and prepare for next season

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

After just falling short of being the Sun Belt regular season champions, the Georgia Southern men's basketball team is already putting in the work to prepare for next season and achieve their goals. The Eagles found much success in their 2018-19 season, finishing 21-12 overall and 12-6 in the conference. GS also saw two players receive All-Sun Belt honors last season, those being former senior guard Tookie Brown and rising redshirt-junior guard Quan Jackson.

Brown is not an unfamiliar name to anyone who follows Eagle basketball as the former guard broke school records when it came to total collegiate points scored and assists as well as collecting many honors such as being named 2019 Men's Basketball Sun Belt Player of the Year, All-American Honorable Mention and Georgia College Men's Player of the Year.

With the immense impact this senior made, the biggest question on the minds of Eagle Nation is how is this team going to handle themselves without Tookie?

The answer to that question is with ease. While losing an important player in Brown as well as former senior forward Montae Glenn, will hurt the Eagles, GS still has a strong roster heading into next season.

GS can look to players like rising senior forward Isaiah Crawley and rising senior guard David-Lee Jones Jr. to assume leadership positions on the team as they showed an impressive performance last season.

“David-Lee Jones, it’s going to be his third year being here. I think those two in particular, but I’m also excited to kind of see how high Quan Jackson can play. He was all conference this year, I think a lot of it is going to be on him.”

Jackson was a huge contributor on the court for the Eagles, as he averaged 22 minutes of play per game as well as showing for 14.8 points per game, logging 458 points overall. The rising redshirt-junior guard made many show-stopping plays, including his last-second buzzer beater which scored GS their second conference win of the season, as well as helping Byington secure his 100th win as GS head coach.

Jackson has his sights set on a successful season and hopes to make All-Sun Belt again.

“Team goal would be to have a successful season, win a championship, come first in the Sun Belt, things like that,” Jackson said. “Personal goal is just getting better every day, making All-Sun Belt again, and just helping anybody that needs help that I can help out.”

Jackson’s personal goal of getting better mostly concerns his shooting. “Individually, I just want to get better,” Wishart said. “It sounds so broad and so generic but you just have to get better. There’s no individual stat that you want to get, it’s just keep working every day, become the best player you can over the summer, and then translate it to the court–get better.”

To get better, the rising sophomore plans to work on his athleticism-focusing on improving his quickness laterally on the defense. The guard is also looking to work on his mental game, trying to improve his decision making skills on the court as well as recognizing plays he needs to make in the moment.

Byington and the rest of the team are also eager to see players who weren’t eligible for play last season have the opportunity to be an impact next season–those being redshirt-freshmen guard/forward David Viti and guard Will Dillard.

“Will Dillard and David Viti, both redshirted this past year, and both are very talented,” Byington said concerning the two. “I’m excited to see how good they can get for next year. There’s an opportunity for them to play, and what kind of role they can have is going to be up to them, but they’re both very very talented.”

Eagle Nation can also expect to see an impact on the court within returning senior guard Ike Smith, who applied for a medical hardship waiver after being injured early on in what was supposed to be his final season as an Eagle.

“We’ve had all except the one hundred percent assurance he’s going to be back,” Byington said concerning Smith’s status. “But all the paperwork has been turned in and we don’t anticipate any problems.”

As the Eagles have much potential in their returning roster, there’s still work to do in the off-season.

“We were a great offensive team, but we were a poor three-point shooting team,” Byington said. “Hopefully shooting better next year will be a big thing. Our defense was one of our weaknesses up until about the last six or seven games of the year. Hopefully we’re more consistent on defense from the start. It took us a while to kind of understand the importance of it.”

Byington has set three goals for the Eagles this season, those being collecting as many non-conference wins as possible–with the hopes of knocking off a power-five school–being regular season champions and winning the tournament championship.

“The league is going to be wide open next year,” Byington said. “I think we’ll be picked somewhere in the top three of all the teams, but we’ve got to really kind of focus on getting better from now up until November.”

With last season the Eagles found success, but also found a disappointing ending after being knocked out of the conference tournament in the semifinals. While discouraging, the team is looking to use that as motivation to put in the work and come back as strong as ever for next season.

“I think everybody is ready to get back to work,” Byington said. “Our guys were anxious to get back into the gym, work hard in the weight room and get better, which is exciting for a team because we were good last year, but there’s a chance we could be even better.”

Next season’s schedule has yet to be announced, but we can anticipate that non-conference action will start somewhere between late October to early November.
Eagles travel to Alabama for conference series

The Georgia Southern softball team will be finishing off their weekend series at home on Wednesday. For a recap of the weekend series game go to thegeorgeanne.com.

Georgia Southern (19-24, 5-15)

These next few contests will be crucial to the Eagles, as the results will affect whether or not they make it into the conference tournament. GS has fallen short on conference play, only showing for five wins and 15 losses.

As a team, GS is batting an average of .285, while senior infielder Hannah Farrell leads the Eagles with her .403 batting average. Ferrell has logged 19 runs, 52 hits and four home runs off her 129 at-bats on the season.

Pitching-wise we can expect to see sophomore pitcher Rylee Waldrep on the mound at some point over the course of the busy week. The sophomore has logged an ERA of 3.99 off her 94.2 innings pitched. Waldrep has allowed for 114 hits and 68 runs while striking out 37 batters.

The USA Jaguars will be taking place in Mobile, Alabama and will go from Friday through Sunday. First pitch as slated for 7 p.m. Friday.

Eagles take on South Alabama in weekend series at home

The USA Jaguars have been struggling on the season conference wise, only logging five wins as well as coming off a recent conference series loss to ULM.

The Jaguars prior faced McNeese State in Mobile Alabama on Wednesday this week before preparing to take on the Eagles in their three-game weekend series.

While their record may indicate they’ve been struggling, statistically USA has showed to be impressive. The Jaguars log a team batting average of .290 while showing for 48 home runs on the season as well as notching 218 runs and 335 hits. Junior outfielder Bittani Reid leads the Jaguars with her .372 batting average after notching 35 runs, 51 hits and six home runs off her 137 at-bats on the season.

Pitching-wise the Jaguars should prepare to see senior pitcher Alexis Reid on the mound at some during weekend series play. The has senior logged an ERA of 3.78 off her 161.1 innings pitched. Reid has allowed for 125 runs and 189 hits while striking out 77 batters.

The weekend series will be taking place in Mobile, Alabama and will go from Friday through Sunday. First pitch as slated for 7 p.m. Friday.

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne Staff

After a playing two games prior in the week, the Eagles will conclude their busy five-game week with a three-game weekend series against the University of South Alabama.

Georgia Southern (23-17, 10-8)

The Eagles have looked good so far on the season, showing a winning record for both overall and conference play.

GS is coming off a series win over CCU after winning two of the three games played in the weekend series.

As a team the Eagles are batting an average of .279 after notching 259 runs, 395 hits and 31 home runs on the season. Leading GS on the bats is junior infielder Steven Curry, who is averaging .364 behind the plate after logging 35 runs and 56 hits off off his 154 at-bats this season.

Pitching-wise junior pitcher Seth Shuman has shown immense growth this season and has been on fire these past few games. The junior has logged a season ERA of 2.67 after 57.1 innings pitched. Shuman has logged an impressive 79 strikeouts, while only allowing 44 hits and 25 runs while on the mound.

University of South Alabama (19-20, 8-10)

The USA Jaguars will be the next conference opponent the Eagles will face as they will compete in a three-game weekend series.

The Jaguars are currently on a four-game win streak as they’ve claimed their four previous games over Southern Miss as well as a series over Georgia State.

Before facing the Eagles, USA traveled to Montgomery, Alabama to take on Alabama State on Tuesday, giving them a little practice before taking on their conference opponent.

As a team the Jaguars show for a batting average of .253 while tallying 234 runs, 323 hits and 36 home runs. Freshman outfielder Ethan Wilson currently leads the Jaguars behind the bats with his .322 batting average. The freshman has logged 38 runs, 49 hits and 11 home runs off his 132 at-bats.

Pitching wise the Eagles might want to be on the lookout for senior pitcher Zach Greene. While the senior is fourth in innings pitched among the Jaguars, he’s still logged an impressive ERA of 0.53 after 33.2 innings pitched on the season. Greene has tallied 52 strikeouts while only allowing 19 hits and four runs. Greene has also only showed four errors.

The Jaguars will be continuing their travelling stint as they make their way to Statesboro to take on the Eagles. The series will be played in three games over the course of the weekend, beginning Friday and ending Sunday. First pitch is slated for 6:30 p.m. Friday.
Women’s golf finishes third overall in Sun Belt Conference, Ofstedahl takes home Individual Champion title

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern women’s golf team competed in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, April 15-17 where they finished third as a team and junior Ella Ofstedahl took home the Individual Champion title.

The Eagles finished out their final round at the LPGA International- Hills Course in Daytona, Florida at five-over-par, allowing them to pass Troy in the rankings and take the third place title.

The University of South Alabama took the team first place title, finishing out the tournament +13 to par, showing round scores of 295, 290 and 292, totaling out to an overall score of 877. Texas State University finished second at +16 to par. GS was just barely behind TXST, being +18 to par. The Eagles shot an overall total of 882, showing for round scores of 291, 298 and 293. Ofstedahl lead the Eagles as well as landed the title of Individual Champion after an impressive third round which allowed her to move from third place to first. The junior shot three-under-par, logging round scores of 73, 71 and 69- totaling out to an overall score of 213. Siti Shaari of USA was right on Ofstedahl's heels as the sophomore was -2 to par and shot an overall score of 214.

Men's golf wins tournament stroke play, falls in semifinals of match play in Sun Belt Championship

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern men’s golf team traveled to Sandestin, Florida to compete in the Sun Belt Championship Tournament where they won stroke play, but were knocked out in the semifinals after falling to the University of Louisiana-Monroe in match play on Wednesday.

The Eagles shot a school record score of 263 as a team and finished 21-under-par overall. The Eagles found success as a team as well as finding success individually on the links.

After a one-hole playoff with Luka Maglic of Arkansas State University in the third round, senior Steven Fisk was able to claim the individual medalist honor after shooting 75, 61 and 66, respectively. This being Fisk’s ninth career win, the senior broke a GS record formerly held by Jodie Mudd.

All four Eagles which competed in the tournament placed in the top-20. Impressive freshman Ben Carr tied for seventh after shooting 69, 71 and 66 during the three rounds, finishing seven-under-par. Behind Carr was junior Brett Barron who finished in 14th after shooting four-under-par. Freshman Colin Bowles and junior Jake Maples both tied for fifteenth, finishing at three-under-par.

Men's golf wins tournament stroke play, falls in semifinals of match play in Sun Belt Championship

All four Eagles which competed in the tournament placed in the top-20. Impressive freshman Ben Carr tied for seventh after shooting 69, 71 and 66 during the three rounds, finishing seven-under-par. Behind Carr was junior Brett Barron who finished in 14th after shooting four-under-par. Freshman Colin Bowles and junior Jake Maples both tied for fifteenth, finishing at three-under-par.

"The boys played great," Fisk said regarding team play in the third round. "We came out this morning with good attitudes and we knew that we were going to need to stay patient. We got off to a really great start and they hung in there great. They played such a good back nine. Just really proud of them." After the first round on Sunday where GS shot an team score of 279, the Eagles found themselves in third place, but were quick to move up in the rankings. After the second round Tuesday, GS shot another team score of 279, allowing them to move up and tie for second with Coastal Carolina University.

With first place within reach, the Eagles were inspired to finish 21-under-par in the third round, breaking a school record and allowing them to snag the top seed for match play and faced ULM in the semifinals. In the semifinals against ULM, the Eagles fell 2-3-eliminating their chance at the Sun Belt Champion title. Bowles and Maples were able to win the match play points for the Eagles, but Barron, Carr and Fisk fell unsuccessful.
Thursday April 25th
Williams Center Plaza
11am - 1pm