BRING ON THE BAYOU

Eagles head to LSU for season opener

Page 8-9

THREE TREE TROLLEY

Three Tree Coffee launches coffee cart at Georgia Southern

Page 7

Eagles defeat Citadel under new interim coach

Page 10
FALL 2019 PART-TIME JOB FAIR
Get ready to speak to on- and off-campus employers who are looking to hire Georgia Southern students!
Thursday, August 29 at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Russell Union Ballroom

BOULDERING NIGHT OUT
BNO is a monthly event held on the last Thursday each month. Come out and have fun whether you are an experienced climber or not! Prizes and food await!
Thursday, August 29 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m
Recreation Activity Center | Climbing Wall

SOLD SERIES: BYSTANDER INTERVENTION
SOLD workshops are designed for any student who want to develop their leadership capabilities. The cost is free and is open to all students.
Tuesday, September 3 at 5:30 p.m.
Williams Center Multipurpose Room

UPB: DIVE IN MOVIE | DETECTIVE PIKACHU
Join the University Programming Board at the RAC after a long week in the sun and watch Detective Pikachu!
Friday, September 6 at 9 p.m.
Recreation Activity Center | Aquatics Center

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!

### Campus Life

Our House

We asked GS students...

"Which is better Popeyes or Chick-fil-A?"

“Popeyes.”

“Chick-fil-A.”

Have artwork, poems, photography or more that you want to showcase? Submit your work to Miscellany to get your work displayed!

Head to miscellany.reflectorgsu.com to find out more!
#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!

The bookstore is always available for all your textbook needs and more! Freshman, Trent Lunn, was just one of the students browsing the shelves looking for his books today. The bookstore is open Monday through Friday, check out what is there for GS Students!

Start the year off right by visiting Henderson Library to study like Mikala Wynn (junior, top left), or by visiting the Academic Success Center on the first floor for tutoring. The Writing Center is also available to students for one-on-one assistance.

##STAFF LIST

**Editor-in-Chief** McClain Baxley  
**Daily Managing Editor** Kyle Clark  
**News Managing Editor** Nathan Woodruff  
**Sports Managing Editor** Kaitlin Sells  
**Creative Editor-in-Chief** Rebecca Hooper  
**Creative Managing Editor** Morgan Carr  
**George-Anne Design Editor** Jayda Spencer  
**Project Design Editor** Kayla Hill  
**Photo Editor** Isis Mayfield  
**Early Page Designer** Dalis Worrell  
**News Designer** Christaja Roach  
**Sports Designer** Daniel Castro  
**Marketing Manager** Summer Yawn  
**Business Manager** Coy Kirkland  
**The Studio Editor-in-Chief** Lawrence Algee  
**The Reflector Editor-in-Chief** Noelle Walker

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**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 email at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.

**ADVERTISING:** The newspaper accepts advertising inquiries may be made by calling 912-478-6428 or 912-478-6566. For questions e-mail ads@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne receives additional support in part from the Student Activities Budget Committee.

**PUBLICATION INFORMATION:** The newspaper is printed by The Statesboro Herald in Statesboro, GA.

**NOTICE:** One copy per person is free. Multiple copies may be purchased for $1 each. Email ads@georgiasouthern.edu for inquiries.

Unauthorized removal of multiple copies from a distribution site constitutes theft. Under Georgia law, a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine and/or jail time.

**CORRECTIONS:** Contact the editor at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.
The streaming giant loves to profit off of being a champion of diversity, but appears to keep it one shade fits all in house.

TATIANA JOSEPH-SAUNDERS

We all love Netflix. No, like seriously love Netflix. There are 137 million users as of 2018, according to BusinessApps.com. Perhaps, I should say, we all love binging Netflix. It’s easy to appreciate the seemingly never-ending amount of beloved tv shows and compelling movies that Netflix offers. But maybe just maybe there is reason to take a peek behind Netflix's Graphique font, black and red doors.

Netflix loves to market and advertise their accomplishments concerning diverse casting. A few big name examples that come to mind are Always Be My Maybe, Dear White People, On My Block and Atypical. They even have the Twitter account @strongblacklead, where the page showcases up and coming black leads in shows and movies available on the streaming service. This is all fine and dandy. It’s nice to see so many people of color when browsing through your homepage, until you open Twitter and see that your favorite show has just been cancelled.

Netflix is known for cancelling shows with short notice, leaving their fans and supporters shocked and confused. This year, Netflix received a lot of backlash when they released a statement announcing the cancellation of the popular show, One Day At A Time. ODAAT, loved and appreciated by many, follows a Cuban-American family in sitcom format. The family members each make the show memorable, and viewers see how they tackle issues like homophobia, sexism, mental illness and more. Another fan-favorite that Netflix cancelled, Sense 8, was praised due to how diverse the cast was in gender, sexuality, nationality and race. Sense 8 showed how the lives of eight different people, living extremely different lives, end up intertwining after realizing they are all mentally linked to one another.

Praised for being the first of its kind to have a Native American woman as lead, Chambers was cancelled before Season 2. I could go on, trust me, but I digress.

Whenever Netflix cancels a show, their announcement suggests that there were not enough viewers to justify the cost of keeping the show running. Hm, According to the New York Times, Netflix paid $100 million to keep Friends on its’ site, only to have AT&T pull the show for their new streaming service HBO Max. This $100 million seems like it could have been spent elsewhere, perhaps funding one of the many shows that allowed viewers to see reflections of themselves, but Netflix thought it was too expensive to keep? Who’s to say?

Netflix has its viewership numbers under lock and key, you cannot find data on how many viewers watch a certain show, no matter if it was cancelled or still available. This makes it hard to understand what Netflix thinks is “not enough” viewers. It is difficult to empathize with the $15 billion company when you take a peek behind the executive curtain. Yes, Netflix has tons of diverse shows and movies available to stream, but who is making the decisions about these shows? Who decides which shows to create and which producers and directors and actors to hire? Netflix’s executive board, according to its site is predominantly male, all white. There are only two women on its board of directors/management Team. This is surprising, especially after Netflix was so adamant about how diverse they are and want to become.

“Because of the streaming giant loves to profit off of being a champion of diversity, but appears to keep it one shade fits all in house.”

TATIANA JOSEPH-SAUNDERS

Let’s look down the list a bit. Maybe there’d be some actual diversity in the company as a whole. These numbers reflect Netflix US employment. The racial or ethnicity makeup of employees at Netflix are pretty dismal. 6% Black, 7% Hispanic, 24% Asian, according to the Netflix Jobs website.

Netflix leadership is still predominantly white, sitting at a nice 60%. Do the creative and corporate numbers differ? Not by much. 53% of the creative and corporate employees are white, and that number dips to 45% for tech employees.

These statistics prove to be a hard pill to swallow as a person of color that loves to procrastinate because I just have to finish this new series on Netflix. The streaming giant loves to profit off of being a champion of diversity, but appears to keep it one shade fits all in house.

Whether you’re surprised or annoyed or simply apathetic, don’t go giving your praise to a corporation who uses diversity as a bargaining chip, but never cashes in on the deal.
BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

STATESBORO — Georgia Southern University will be having two graduation ceremonies in the fall and three services in spring 2020, the school announced in a campus-wide email Monday morning.

For fall 2019, GS will have a ceremony in Savannah at the Savannah Convention Center on Friday, Dec. 13 and a ceremony in Statesboro Saturday, Dec. 14 at Paulson Stadium.

“Undergraduate and graduate students will graduate together,” the email reads. “Students can choose which ceremony to attend based on the location where they would like to graduate.”

In the spring, undergraduate and graduate students will graduate separately. On Friday, May 8 there will be an undergraduate-only ceremony in Paulson Stadium in the evening, Saturday, May 9 there will be an undergraduate-only ceremony in Savannah that morning.

The graduate-only ceremony will be Saturday, May 9 in the afternoon in Hanner Fieldhouse.

“It is absolutely going to have to be ticketed. That’s the one thing that there is no way we can just say ‘anyone and everyone can show up,’” Marrero said at the State of the University. “We can’t promise you to get in and that’s the worst thing we can do. We’re going to have to figure out a quantitative way.”

The number of tickets allowed per student will be determined when the school finds out the size of the graduating class.

“All colleges will be represented at both locations and students will be organized by college.”

In addition to the new format, the school also announced that all ceremonies will be ticketed.

In the spring, undergraduate and graduate students will graduate separately. On Friday, May 8 there will be an undergraduate-only ceremony in Paulson Stadium in the evening. Saturday, May 9 there will be an undergraduate-only ceremony in Savannah that morning. The graduate-only ceremony will be Saturday, May 9 in the afternoon in Hanner Fieldhouse.

“The overall feedback was that it was a good decision,” SGA President Juwan Smith said. “The only concern was that it would be ticketed. Lingrell reassured us that it wouldn’t be a low number and there would be a pool, so that if a student only needs two or three of those (tickets), they would be issued back into will call or an online service.”

Georgia Southern University announced its future commencement plans in a campus-wide email Monday morning.

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

STATESBORO — Georgia Southern University announced its future commencement plans in a campus-wide email Monday morning.

GS signed a master lease agreement with Lakeview at Market District, formerly known as the Grove, and had 51 upperclassmen move from Freedom’s Landing or University Villas into the off-campus apartment complex.

The closing of some of University Villas was what caused much of the uncertainty towards the end of summer.

“When Villas closed in April and we didn’t know which buildings were going to be open, it was very much a state of flux for us,” Heins said.

“This year we will just plan which buildings are open and which are not.”

Heins said that all students were booked the Wednesday before classes started and that none of the common areas that had been converted into living areas had to be used.

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Prior to the announcement Monday, Dr. Scot Lingrell, Vice President of Enrollment Management gave the proposed plan to Student Government at their retreat this weekend.

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Georgia Southern University announced its future commencement plans in a campus-wide email Monday morning.
Statesboro — Faculty and students at the Georgia Southern University Department of Biological Sciences are helping state and federal agencies target the Tegu lizard, an invasive species in Tattnall and Toombs county.

An invasive species is one that is not native to a specific location and that has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health.

Lance McBrayer, Ph.D., professor of General Biology and Herpetology, graduate student Jada Daniels and undergraduates Michael Brennen and Noah Osterhoudt are involved on the project.

The Tegu lizard has been deemed a threat because they are involved on the project. Brennen and Noah Osterhoudt made a nuisance in Georgia.

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A shuttle service will begin running at night from the Blue Room to nearby housing starting August 22.

**BY SARAH SMITH**  
The George-Anne staff

STATESBORO — A popular bar that has worked its way into Georgia Southern culture, The Blue Room, is partnering with Party Elite to provide attendees with a safe shuttle service to selected housing complexes in Statesboro, starting Thursday, Aug. 22.

The route will run every Thursday through Saturday with departure times at 12:45 a.m., 1:15 a.m. and 1:45 a.m. Buses 1 and 2 holds up to 50 people and bus 3 holds from 25 to 30 people, according to William Bridwell, a partner of The Blue Room.

“We do want people to be as safe as they can be,” Bridwell said.

Bridwell brought the idea of “shuttle cabs” to Nick LaVan, owner and operator of Party Elite.

“Trying to get the students home as safe as possible and giving them as many options as possible to get a safe ride home so they aren’t drinking and driving and solving a parking issue at the Blue Room,” LaVan said.

The routes will serve residents of Langley Pond, The Landings, Burkhalter Plantation, Ashbrooke, Cottage Row, Planters Row, Talors Lake, The Islands, 111 South, The Hamptons, The Hudson and Monarch 301.

If there is a greater demand for the shuttle services, times and locations may change in the future, Bridwell said.

The cost to ride the bus is $3 per person and security will be provided on each bus by Party Elite.

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“With this new partnership, we get to not only serve students awesome coffee drinks, but we get to mobilize the campus more directly towards buying ethically, fighting injustice, and serving our neighbors,” said Klayman in a press release.

Along with regular menu items, Three Tree Coffee is launching a new bottled cold brew. They will also sell new breakfast sandwiches along with their existing line of pastries.

“When I was in college, I wish I had access to a fresh house-made sausage, egg and cheese biscuit sandwich on my way to class,” said Klayman. “All of this is now available and convenient for the campus community.”

The trolley opened for operation Monday, Aug. 26 on the corner of Chandler and Harvey.

**THREE TREE COFFEE TO START SELLING ON CAMPUS**

BY KYLE CLARK  
The George-Anne staff

STATESBORO — Three Tree Coffee is set to open a mobile coffee shop at Georgia Southern University on Aug. 26.

The shop, called The Trolley, opened on the front lawn of the Baptist College Ministries on Chandler Road. They will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday each week.

According to Philip Klayman, one of the founders of Three Tree Coffee, they have plans to extend the hours later in the semester.

Three Tree Coffee has supplied on Zach’s Brews with coffee for the past four years, and now aim to add GS to their Trolley program that started last year.

“With this new partnership, we get to not only serve students awesome coffee drinks, but we get to mobilize the campus more directly towards buying ethically, fighting injustice, and serving our neighbors,” said Klayman in a press release.

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BRINSON READY TO TAKE ON LAST SEASON AS AN EAGLE
BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne Staff

There’s no denying that senior cornerback Monquavion Brinson plays a key role on the Eagle defense. This season, he’s been working extra hard to prepare and is ready to show out for his last season as an Eagle.

Brinson’s been working during the spring and the fall to cap off his final season as an Eagle on a good note, after already leaving an immense mark in his past three years on the roster.

“This off season I worked a lot on my hips,” Brinson said. “My hip turns, a lot of footwork, a lot of trying to get my head around to find the ball.”

Beginning as a true freshman, Brinson played in all 12 games in the 2016 season, starting seven, where he tallied 25 tackles, three pass breakups, a quarterback hurry and a forced fumble.

He continued to serve as a key player for the Eagles, starting and playing in all games his sophomore and junior years as a cornerback. Last season alone, Brinson was second on the team with 67 tackles, had one interception, and 10 pass breakups.

The senior has been recognized many times for his work, being named to All-Sun Belt First Team by the George-Anne staff in 2017 and 2018. Brinson was also recognized many times for his work, being named to All-Sun Belt First Team and by Phil Steele, Pro Football Focus and Southern Pigskin in 2017 and 2018.

Brinson’s been working extra hard to make this season memorable. “The senior class has already leaving an immense mark in his past three years on the roster,” Brinson said.

With his work ethic and his values, Brinson is working hard to take on this season, he says. “The senior class has already leaving an immense mark in his past three years on the roster,” Brinson said.

BY RYAN KOSTENSKY
The George-Anne Staff

The Georgia Southern football team will be in Baton Rouge this week when they face off against the Tigers of LSU Saturday.

Just one year after a 10-3 season that saw the Eagles finish as Camellia Bowl Champions, GS faces a daunting task opening the season at No. 6 LSU. LSU too, is coming off of a 10-win season, one that saw them beat five ranked teams, including a Fiesta Bowl victory over former national champions UCF.

With the spread set at 28, the Eagles face a tough task, but are set in up all three aspects of the game, so the potential for an upset is there.

Offensively, the Eagles had an up-and-down end to the offseason, when Oklahoma State transfer running back J.D. King was granted immediate eligibility, providing a boost to an already dangerous backfield that’s still looking for more. On the flip side, it was discovered that redshirt-sophomore offensive lineman Brian Miller would miss the entire season due to a hip injury he suffered in the waning weeks of preseason.

Defensively, the Eagles boast a pair of senior cornerbacks who have been highly-touted in the offseason. Monquavion Brinson and Kindle Vildor will look to anchor the defensive backfield when they are tasked to go against what is poised to be a very dangerous LSU offense.

Redshirt-senior kicker Tyler Bass returns for his final season after a 2018 campaign that saw him miss just two field goals all season, and with points looking to be at a premium for GS, he could prove rather important come kickoff.

Kickoff between the Eagles and Tigers is set for 7:30 p.m. from Tiger Stadium, where the game will be televised on ESPNU.

BY RYAN KOSTENSKY
The George-Anne Staff

The Georgia Southern football team will be in Baton Rouge this week when they face off against the LSU Tigers for the season opener. Located right next to the Mississippi River, Baton Rouge is known for its great views, rich food culture and lively nightlife.

Planning on going to the game to cheer on the Eagles? Here are five things to do while in Tiger land. A small bar only six minutes away from Tiger Stadium, Lit Pizza is calling all pizza lovers. Lit Pizza allows the customer to create their own 11” personal pan pizza from a variety of toppings available. Lit Pizza is also vegan friendly, offering a cauliflower crust and dairy free cheese.

Pricing ranges from $6 to $8 depending the toppings added to the pizza.

Only a 13 minute walk or three minute drive, Voodoo BBQ & Grill prides themselves in their BBQ. Offering from pulled pork sandwiches, slow cooked meat platters, to their signature BBQ jambalaya. Voodoo BBQ & Grill also has a wide selection of beers and wines.

Looking for a drink after the game? Check out Mikes in Tiger land. A small bar only eight minutes from Tiger Stadium, making it a perfect post game spot to have a little bit of dancing and fun. Right next door to Mike’s are two other bars, JL’s and The House, as well.

Hours are from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Walk-On’s Bistreaux and Bar is more laid back and offers a wide selection of local beers on tap. They also have Louisiana style pub grub for if that appetize attacks. Walk-On’s has a small arcade area for those who are feeling competitive as well. Open hours are from 11 a.m. to midnight, making it a relaxing drinking time.

Baton Rouge is home of the historic battleship, The USS...
VILDOR GOING FROM ‘GOOD TO GREAT’

By Ryan Kostensky
The Georgia Southern Staff

NEW ORLEANS—Georgia Southern’s senior cornerback, Kindle Vildor, is one of the nation’s best at his position, but Vildor’s talents don’t stop with football. In fact, you could call him a two-sport athlete due to his proficiency in basketball.

Well, in NBA 2K, that is.

When asked who the best 2K player on the GS roster, Vildor gave an adamant answer in his favor.

“Me,” Vildor said. “Not going to lie, me without a doubt. My other teammate, Sean Freeman, former safety, he good too, we still play and stuff like that but now, he gave me the throne.”

Vildor and his teammates don’t play quick games with the preset NBA teams, but instead take a pickup approach by creating their own players, which makes Vildor’s skills that much more impressive.

The junior out of Atlanta has recorded seven career interceptions, including four in the 2018 season, and is poised for a dominant 2019 campaign. Vildor talked about how his team can continue their trajectory, following a 10-3 season, with a vaunted schedule on the horizon.

“Just going from good to great,” Vildor said. “Like Coach Lunsford’s always preaching each and every single day, whatever we do it’s all about the little things. Make sure we take care of that and we’ll be where we want to be for the season.”

Vildor has pulled in the accolades over the offseason, being named to a bevy of preseason awards, including the Bednark and Thorpe Award watch lists and Sun Belt preseason defensive player of the year.

Taking care of the little things is instilled in the minds of the GS football team, who travels to LSU, Minnesota, Appalachian State, Arkansas State and Troy all in the same season, and Vildor said that preparation will be the key to be successful in those games.

“It’s going to come down just to watching film throughout the week, even watching film now on your own,” Vildor said. “Just a little earlier head start on those guys for big Power Five opponents, but, I mean, it’s gonna be about the little things and little techniques that will help me and my teammates separate ourselves when it’s time to play those guys.”

For Vildor, the rematch of the 2018 GS upset of App State is his most anticipated game in 2019, and with it being on the road, it’s certain that the game will be a big one.

“Each and Every Single Game is Important”
Kindle Vildor
Georgia Southern’s Senior Cornerback

In the upset victory, Vildor hauled in two interceptions while deflecting one pass and recording two tackles in his biggest game of the season.

“Each and every single game is important,” Vildor said. “I feel like, one for me personally I’m ready to go to App State. Just going out there, I know they’re gonna have a crazy crowd, everybody have on all black, Halloween, ESPNU game, so I’m ready for that. That’s gonna be a fun game.”

VILDOR TALKS 2019 EXPECTATIONS AND NBA 2K AT 2019 SUN BELT MEDIA DAY

By Kaitlyn Sells
The George-Anne Staff

The 2019 Sun Belt season is going to be a way for the Tigers to continue to become acclimated with the new offense, run by passing game coordinator Joe Brady. Quarterback Joe Burrow has a good chemistry with his receivers since the majority are returning, and Burrow is even more confident in his second season as the starter.

Where do you think there will be a weakness on the field for the team?

Similar to last season, LSU’s biggest weakness will be the offensive line. The only constant piece of the offensive line is center Lloyd Cushenberry, while the rest of it has struggled with injuries and depth. No matter how strong the quarterback play or the run game has been, the offensive line has struggled to provide them with time to make things happen. The o-line will end up being the key to whether the defense turns out to be as successful as predicted.

It’s also not really a weakness per se, but the kicking game has a question mark right now. Former kicker Cole Tracy was the savior of LSU’s special teams last season and freshman Cade York is stepping into pretty big shoes. Coach Ed Orgeron has spoken highly of Cushenberry as the potential difference maker, while the kicking game has been inconsistent so far.

What is your final game prediction?

I’m predicting an LSU victory, 35-10. Burrow said at SEC Media Days that he believes they can put up 40 to 50 to 60 points in the new offensive scheme, but I think the offense still needs time before its runs smoothly, but the defense does its job, as per usual, and the Tigers come away with a victory.

Kick off for the Eagles is set for Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Louisiana. The game will be streamed on ESPNU and the Georgia Southern Sports Network.

Behind Enemy Bylines

Kennedy Landry
Sports editor of The Reveille

The George-Anne staff

BY KAITLYN SELLS
The George-Anne Staff

The Georgia Southern football team will be traveling to Baton Rouge for their first game of the season on Saturday as they take on No. 6 LSU. With the match, Kennedy Landry, the sports editor of The Reveille, gave her thoughts on the upcoming showdown.

Last season LSU saw a very successful season going 10-3, what do you think was a factor in that success?

One of the biggest factors in LSU’s success last year was consistency at quarterback and coach Ed Orgeron running the team exactly the way he wanted to run it. In his first full season as head coach in 2017, there was internal struggles between Orgeron and coordinators. Now, Orgeron is running the team from top to bottom with a quarterback he trusts in Joe Burrow.

Coming into the new season, which players left or graduated that will be missed? Which new players should people be keeping their eye on?

Linebacker Devin White – a first round draft pick by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers – is also the biggest loss for the Tigers. White was the 2018 Butkus Award winner for the best linebacker in the nation and was a leader both on and off the field for the Tigers. The defensive front seven are really going to miss him this season. Cornerback Greedy Williams – a second round draft pick by the Cleveland Browns – is also a big loss for the LSU defense, but his loss is less noticeable by my answer to your next question. The newcomer I think everybody will have their eye on will be freshman cornerback Derek Stingley. Stingley was a five-star recruit and the No. 1 corner in the nation and a more than fitting replacement for Williams in the secondary. On the opposite side of the ball, LSU has options everywhere. While junior running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire is locked in the starting role, freshmen John Emery Jr. and Tyrion Davis-Price will both be important parts of this LSU offense.

What are your overall expectations for the Tigers with it being the first game of the season?

I think the Tigers are more than ready to get out on the field in Tiger Stadium and make an impression. More than anything, this first game of the season is going to be a way for the Tigers to continue to become acclimated with the new offense, run by passing game coordinator Joe Brady. Quarterback Joe Burrow has a good chemistry with his receivers since the majority are returning, and Burrow is even more confident in his second season as the starter.
SAVANNAH — The Georgia Southern women’s soccer team defeated The Citadel on Sunday, marking the first victory under interim head coach Josh Moffet.

Moffet controlled the pace of the game and maintained possession of the ball. In front of a large crowd in Savannah, the team bested the Bulldogs after what interim head coach Josh Moffet called the “hardest preseason” of her soccer career.

“I’m very proud to have the first win and I’m very proud to be the head coach of a team like this,” Moffet said in a press release.

“The girls are phenomenal, like every day we get to come in and for me, it’s not a job.”

The game started off with a bang, with GS getting on the board during minute nine thanks to a goal from senior forward Frida Brattum. After another 45 minutes of play, Coumb increased the lead to make it 2-0 with the assist from freshman forward Kristin Spering and redshirt junior midfielder Marcela Montoya. With momentum in the air, GS sealed the victory with back-to-back goals within 90 seconds during minute 65. Sophomore midfielder Nosa Falines and freshman midfielder Karin Winka notched their first collegiate scores.

The Bulldogs outperformed The Citadel in first victory under interim head coach

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
The George-Anne staff

Leading Eagle defensive specialist Brooke Birch found her voice on the court

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
The George-Anne staff

When Brooke Birch is not leading the Georgia Southern volleyball team on the court, you can find her binge watching random shows on Netflix or eating highly controversial foods. Her favorite shopping trip is a trip to the Chip Girl. The food? Hawaiian pizza...yes, the one with pineapples on it.

When the defensive specialist was a freshman, her teammate gave her one piece of advice that has stuck with her over the years. She has learned that she is responsible for learning everyone’s coaching and communication style. She is the go-to person when the team needs someone to facilitate tough conversations.

“Any fall semester of my freshman year, it was a really tough practice and I started crying,” she said. “Catherine Murray was like ‘Why are you crying? Don’t take it too seriously’, so I’ve tried to not take things so seriously ever since.”

The Lorton, Virginia native, is entering her senior season as an Eagle and has lived to tell the tales of constant change in the GS volleyball program. This is the first season under head coach Chad Willis, who is coming from Sun Belt rival Appalachian State. She believes he has completely changed the culture of the team this preseason.

“I’ve experienced change every single season because we haven’t had a stable coach,” she said. “The coaches really care about making us into good human beings off the court. They want to prepare us for what is after volleyball.”

Being 10 hours away from her family at home, Birch relies on her teammates for support.

This summer, the team took a team bonding trip to North Carolina to experience white water rafting. With the help of weekly meetings and open communication about tough topics, she believes that adversity brings the team together.

Bird led the Eagles with 25 aces last season, but admits that while she was the star of her high school team, playing at the Division 1 level forced her to toughen up and rise to the challenge of her equally-as-talented counterparts.

She has stayed away from her aggressive on-court antics over the years.

“I shied away from my go-get-it attitude in high school and I really regret that,” she said. “But, I’m getting back to that with the help of the right coaches.”

Bird recorded 159 digs and eight assists last season and joins three other seniors in Ryan Tunet, Kendall Adams and Carly Tuten.

“I’m hopeful about it [the season],” she said. “I don’t know what to expect so I’m just thinking positive things.”

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