REBOUND ON THE ROAD
Football heads to Mobile Page 10

REMEMBERING NICOLE HILLIARD
1995-2019
Page 5
ARTIST SPOTLIGHT
ZACHERY NOAH RAHN

I wipe you from my nostrils
like cocaine, but your powder
still resides in my cracked lips.
My mouth is dry without your substance. My skin flares
in hives against yours. I need you like bruises.
Every cut on your arm
bleeds
like mouthwash, Irregular
stripes and polka dot burns on your skin are
a highway against my finger tips.
I float in the air with your touch
like there’s a Helter Skelter spiraling around my neck.

Good morning, whiskey.
I didn’t have my heart pills today,
and now I can’t stop swallowing
you like detergent.

Ever since he was a child
reading the “Goosebumps” series,
senior writing and linguistics major Zachary Noah Rahn has wanted to become an author.

Today, Rahn particularly enjoys writing poetry, and his career aspirations include becoming a freelance or an editor for an art magazine. He said he finds inspiration to write many of his poems while he’s working at his retail job.

Originally from Ellingham, Rahn’s interest in poetry began when he learned about the genre in high school.

“I took a liking to Edgar Allan Poe,” Rahn said. “Obviously.” Rahn is a horror fan, and bugs, space and dinosaurs are among the subjects he likes to write about.

An alum of the Disney College Program at Walt Disney World, Rahn once aspired to become an engineer so he could design attractions at the theme park. However, he later channeled that creativity into writing instead. “I like that I can create worlds and make them do whatever I want,” Rahn said.

Rahn enjoys being part of Georgia Southern University’s creative writing community, which he said is very open.

Beyond creative writing, Rahn likes watching horror movies, playing tennis, watching YouTube and going to theme parks.

When asked what advice he has for fellow young writers, Rahn said, “Don’t be afraid to write weird things. The more honest you are with your work, the more successful it’s going to be.”

READ MORE OF ZACHARY’S POETRY AT
MISCELLANY.REFLECTORSU.COM

GEORGIA SOUTHERN STUDENTS

We’re Miscellaneous Magazine for the Arts from
The George Anne Media Group, and we want your creative work.

Creative Nonfiction  Art  Poetry
Fiction  Photography  And more

Email your submissions to
miscellaneous@georgiasouthern.edu
Check out our submissions guidelines at miscellaneous.reflectorsu.com

CLASSIFIEDS

YOU CAN ADVERTISE IN THE GEORGE-ANNE FOR AS LITTLE AS $7

Need to subclass? Want to sell your bicycle? Want to avoid the trolls and scam artists on the huge online listings?

- Go to thegeorgeanne.com.
- Click the “Classifieds” link.
- Click “Pet” in the orange “Post Classifieds” box.

Follow the instructions. Write your ad, choose when it will be published and pay with your credit card.

How much will $7 Trp? Up to 30 words. For example:

Sublease available in XYZ Apartments. $720. Quiet roommates. FF, pet-friendly. Contact ABCDEF@georgiasouthern.edu from your GSU account.

The big XYZ Festival is coming up 1-3 p.m. April 2X at the Russell Union behind Gates, food and prizes. Learn about exciting opportunities with Organizations ABC.

Also available: Online classifieds. $15 for 25. Some instructions as above, except click “Online” or “Retail” in the orange box.

Avoiding trolls and scam artists: If you seek information, you are strongly encouraged to use your Georgia Southern email address and require respondents to contact you from a Georgia Southern email address. Non-GSU advertisers are encouraged to use a business or other public email address or phone number, not personal accounts or phones.
Did you know that fencing is the oldest club at GSU? Here is Chris Watkins and Nicholas Yeomansbyou that practice times are 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Studio 2 in the RAC. Stop by if you are interested!

As midterms quickly approach, utilize the on-campus resources in the Library such as: tutoring, study spaces, and the Academic Success Center. Janie Anderson, junior, utilized the Library’s available space to study in her free time.

In the Russell Union Wednesday, Dr. Damon Williams talked to faculty & students about the recent diversity report & what we can do as an institution to improve diversity & inclusion!
**CAN I HIT YOUR JUUL?**

Savannah King is a senior journalism major from Tifton, Ga.

The company Juul was荷花, and has gained praise since starting her solo career. With only one number one single, it was evident that Normani was a princess of pop. August, accompanied by a Hot 100 hit maker. The sky's the limit for her.

**WHY NORMANI IS THE POPSTAR WE NEED RIGHT NOW**

Anthony is a senior journalism major from Brooklet, Ga.

Since releasing her first album in 2016, Normani has found success after the pair of artists released "Love, Lies, Dancing With a Stranger." Once again, Normani is cementing herself as the ultimate pop star. As we look at the past and the present, we know that dance.

Do you have an opinion that needs to be heard?

The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor and appropriate guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or fewer, typed, and sent via e-mail to gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu. All submissions must be signed and include phone number for verification. GS students should include their academic major, year and hometown. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for length.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the Board of Opinions or columnists themselves and DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration of GS, the Student Media Advisory Board, The George-Anne Media Group or the University System of Georgia.
THE ORANGE CONSTANT RETURNS HOME

Band that started at Georgia Southern returns to Statesboro for Friday concert

By Sarah Smith

STATESBORO — The Orange Constant is bringing vintage rock with a contemporary twist to Statesboro Friday, Oct. 4.

The Orange Constant will return home to play at The Blue Room on Oct. 4. Formed in Statesboro, the Orange Constant will return home to play at The Blue Room on Oct. 4.

“TOC’s debut album, Time to Go (June 2015), was recorded with Grammy-nominated producer John Keane (R.E.M., Widespread Panic) and garnered praise from Relix Magazine as a confident and polished debut album,” Benson wrote in an email.

“She was an inspirational leader, good humored, compassionate and a little sassy with a lot of love to give.”

Megan Heins, director of residence education, said in an email that Nicole was passionate about developing her students.

“She always was someone I felt comfortable with. Nicole was立即した好きにイイ人。" Benson said. "Andrew and I really hit it off." After adding and losing two bandmembers, Tyler Walker, Chris Freiberg and Sam Groveman were brought on board to complete the live manband.

Preceding Brantley and Freiberg’s early influences like The Beatles and Neil Diamond, they were influenced by the idea of writing music that was the perfect mix of improvising music Constanz, Benson said. Some songs are popular for a while, but the band knows not to burn the good ones out. Reitman said, "We're not on the fast track to do this." Benson said, "We're writing these songs for people to gobble up to their hearts."}

By Nathan Woodruff

STATESBORO — Nicole Hilliard, graduate resident director at Watson Hall, passed away at Memorial Health University Medical Center at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29. Nicole Hilliard, 23, was a graduate resident director for Watson Hall.

Nicole Hilliard, 23, was a graduate resident director for Watson Hall. After graduating with a degree in history from Rowan University, she attended GS pursuing a Master’s Degree in higher education administration.

Megan Heins, director of residence education, said in an email that Nicole was passionate about developing her students. As an advisor, Hilliard was organized and comforting to her employees, Morgan said.

“She was an inspirational leader, good humored, compassionate and a little sassy with a lot of love to give.”

Megan Heins, director of residence education.
POSSIBLE NEW BUS SYSTEM

A need for public transportation sparks the possibility of a bus system

BY ANTHONY BELINFANTE
The George-Anne staff

STATESBORO—A bus system is in the works after Statesboro city officials agreed to allow City Manager Charles Penny begin the grant application process.

A previously conducted transit study found that the city of Statesboro does in fact have a need for public transportation. Still in development, city employees have recommended the Red/Blue Fixed Route Demand option for riders receiving strong support from the public.

The recommended plan would allow the city to operate the service directly through a third party. It is planned to also allow the city the ability to set its own policies, schedules, and levels of service.

Transportation would be made available for Statesboro residents Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., operating bi-weekly. Fare would be $4 for riders.

TO GET THERE

FOR PEOPLE

THAT GOES

TO HAVE

IT'S SMART

BY CLAIRE ROEKER
The George-Anne staff

The George-Anne staff in development, city employees agree to allow City Manager Charles Penny the grant application process.

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STUDENTS REACT

BY CLAIRE ROEKER
senior anthropology major

Claires Roeker represents District 1, said that students and others who don’t have their own transportation stand to benefit.

“If we are going to create a transportation system that is going to both cater to low-income folks who may not have transportation, as well as college students... we have to think about when these people need transportation,” Boyum said.

The red/Blue Route is estimated to cost the city $811,750, with annual operations and maintenance costs projected at $658,800 on the presumption of 96,000 annual passenger trips, according to All On Georgia.

Revenue could bring as much as $78,625 for the city due to the reduced rate options available for seniors.

In order to move forward, the city would have to pay $290,088 in local funds, along with $78,625 collected from fares in order to receive federal funding.

“Red/Blue is a need and I think it is money well spent,” Councilman Sam Lees said.

A formal vote is expected to be made in October.

SOUTHERN PRIDE PROM

Georgia Southern pride prom set for Friday

BY DAVIS COBB
The George-Anne staff

STATESBORO — Georgia Southern’s Office of Multicultural Affairs is teaming up with the Gay Straight Alliance to bring Pride Prom back to CS on Friday at 7 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom.

The two organizations have been putting on together for more than six years. The event is meant to be a safe space for LGBTQ+ students to be themselves, as well as get to know people who will love and respect them for it.

Pride Prom is also a chance for those students to experience the joys of prom without being afraid of any repercussions.

“Prom is a special time for a lot of people and sometimes LGBTQ+ individuals do not get the privilege of having the experience because they are not out or it may not be safe for them to be out,” Takeshia Brown, director of Multicultural Affairs, said.

“Pride Prom gives students an opportunity to have that special moment.”

This year’s Pride Prom theme is Galaxy Gala, and though there is no dress code, attendees are welcome to wear costumes or formal attire.

“The WGSS student resource center is located within the WGSS Office in the Carroll Building, in room 2288.”

CLS BY TATIANA JOSEPH-SANDERS
The George-Anne staff

STATESBORO — The Women’s, Gender and Sexualities Studies department at Georgia Southern have helped get gender inclusive bathrooms on the GS campus and a student resource center on campus.

These gender inclusive bathrooms are located in the Carroll Building at the center for social gerontology, the Zach S. Henderson Library on the 2nd floor, the health center and the counseling center.

Nikki DiGregorio, Ph.D, associate professor of child and family development, said that the gender inclusive bathrooms were very important and personal.

“Prom is a special moment.”

The WGSS is also a student resource center on campus.

“Pride Prom gives students an opportunity to have that special moment.”

Changes and though there is no dress code, attendees are welcome to wear costumes or formal attire.

“The WGSS student resource center is located within the WGSS Office in the Carroll Building, in room 2288. Within the room, a food pantry, LGBTQ+ library, a diaper and lactation station, among other resources and supplies for all students.

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Co-Director of WGSS, Lisa Costello, Ph.D., said that WGSS is making an impact on the Georgia Southern campus through inclusive excellence.

“The WGSS is an academic program that has interdisciplinary classes from all over campus, like Intro LGBT Studies, race & ethnicity, and women’s history.” Costello said.

“These classes and our programming align with and enrich the inclusive excellence pillar that is central to Georgia Southern’s strategic plan.”

Speaking on future WGSS projects or initiatives, DiGregorio, Ph.D, said that these successes were a product of years of work.

“We are excited about the University’s strategic pillar of inclusive excellence! The WGSS program has done well in inclusive excellence woven throughout its mission and has been engaged in this work for years.” DiGregorio said.

“We are here and ready to collaborate to work across campuses to help support students, faculty and staff.”

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The George-Anne staff
BY DAVON JOHNSON
The George-Anne staff
Statesboro — The criminal justice program is looking to get students ready for careers in the field of law.

"Expect to read and write a lot because you can’t come to a graduate program and procrastinate," Ernest Zittrouer, a graduate assistant, said. "If you are thinking about coming then go and talk to professors so they can explain the process."

The program offers courses that are introductory with broad comprehensive classes and focus classes on particular issues.

Criminal justice graduates are allowed to branch out from the program and take six hours of electives to aid in their research.

"Our goal is to produce students that are well-rounded to enter any career of their desire," graduate coordinator Chad Posick said. "We focus on being critical thinkers so all of our classes include critical thinking components."

The two major tracks in the program is criminal justice criminology and cybercrime.

"It's a master’s degree that sets you up for multiply different careers paths," Posick said. "The diversity and flexibility of this degree makes it stand out."

GS has two graduates who work in Statesboro with one working at the clerk of courts office and another is a victim advocate working at the Statesboro district attorney office.

The George-Anne staff
BY NATHAN WOODRUFF
The Georgia-Anne staff
Statesboro — The southern scuba club at Georgia Southern is looking to expand scuba diving interest on Statesboro campus.

"Anyone who loves the ocean and is interested in learning more about becoming a certified diver should join the Southern Scuba Divers," Hicks said. "If you are thinking about coming then go and talk to professors so they can explain the process."

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Southern Scuba Club looks to expand scuba diving interest on Statesboro campus.

Students interested in the law of law enforcement, victim advocacy, data management or the nature of justice can pursue degrees in Criminal Justice at Georgia Southern.

"We provide access to diving equipment, opportunities, training, and guidance outside of courses related to Scuba Diving," Hicks said. "If you are looking to grow as a leader and as a diver, I have met some of my best friends through the club, we are like a family."

The southern scuba club was like a family to him.

"We provide access to diving equipment, opportunities, training, and guidance outside of courses related to Scuba Diving," Hicks said. "If you are looking to grow as a leader and as a diver, I have met some of my best friends through the club, we are like a family."

The southern scuba club is interested in learning more about becoming a certified diver should join the Southern Scuba Divers.

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Lydia Odlin pushes to finish strong

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
The Georgia-Anne staff

After a historic season ending with a SoCon Championship title and former team member Rosemary Kramer’s storied career as an Eagle, the Georgia Southern women’s rifle team has high expectations for this season.

Lydia Odlin returns for her redshirt-senior season and serves as the leader for the rest of the team, comprised of all freshmen.

Growing up in Maine, Odlin got into the sport because of her father. She shot recreationally at first until her father noticed how talented she was. He put her into a gun club at the age of 12 and she never looked back. She roped her brother into shooting with her and they shot everyday, self-coached. In the southern part of the state, shooting was not a socially acceptable activity. She never felt comfortable telling strangers about her sport, but she continued to train and stay focused regardless of her environment.

“We were the first two to qualify for air rifle for junior Olympics out of our state,” she said. “We discovered…you can shoot for college. I was like ‘Wow that’s the dream.”

Her road to GS was anything but smooth her first year. Due to a coaching miscommunication, Odlin was not even placed on the roster her freshman year. Since she was the first out-of-state student recruited for the program, the then coach never told the new coach about her. All of the roster spots were filled before Odlin even arrived on campus.

Odlin was unaware of the chaos, and she uprooted her whole life to move to Statesboro…for nothing.

“I moved down here and I was like ‘When do I start?’” she said. “They were like… ‘Who are you?’”

Her family and friends advised her to go back home because it wouldn’t work out in the long run at GS, but she stayed and got a job at the ranch so she could pay for her own ammunition and train whenever she wanted.

After a year of shooting six days a week, she convinced the new coach to give her a walk-on tryout. She made the team and continues to work hard everyday to prove to herself that she deserves to be here.

In her freshman season, the rifle team was able to beat the reigning air rifle SoCon Champions for the first time in SoCon history. Her junior season, GS took the title again with just four members on the team, where the standard is five.

“We were able to win for the second time in Georgia Southern history with only four girls,” she said. “No one was more shocked than we were. It was a great feeling.”

Last season, she averaged 533.250 in smallbore and 571.250 in air rifle, one of the top averages in the nation. She has been a Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association Scholastic All-American for two years and prioritizes her academics just as much as her training for rifle.

She hopes to become a physician assistant after graduation and Head Coach Sandra Worman relies on her to be a positive example on and off the range.

“We’re calling her the elderly stateswoman and she is expressing the perfect mix of a student-athlete leader,” she said. “She is excelling in academics, as she always does, she is working hard at rifle and excelling there with her best self as she does, and she’s also remembering to keep things in proportion. She’s being a leader to the team but also showing them that it’s important to put your own oxygen mask on before you can help others.”

In the first match against UAB and Wofford on Saturday, Odlin proved this sentiment to be true as she shot a career high of 196 in the prone smallbore.

Worman is proud of the team and how they performed in the first match, despite one shooter having to change guns in the middle of the match.

“Knowing how hard it is to struggle, I want to really really push these girls and get them to what they deserve. Get them to taste that success under Georgia Southern’s name...It makes me sad to think about when I’m gonna leave, but I’m confident that these girls are gonna carry Georgia Southern into new heights by far.”

Odlin and company will go on the road to the Citadel on Oct.12 to take on UAB and the Bulldogs. After another away match a week later, they will return home on Nov.2 for Senior Day.

The Georgia Southern men’s soccer team has had a rough patch of late. They have lost four of their past five games, most recently to Mercer on Sept. 27 and Jacksonville on Tuesday.

With just two more games until the teams begins conference play at rival Georgia State whom the team has not faced since last year Sun Belt Championship loss, Head Coach John Murphy hopes to take the rest of the team on a scoring spree.

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The advantage of Savannah grown talent is certainly no stranger to Georgia Southern Athletics, and junior libero Landon Jones is no exception for Eagle volleyball. Jones, the daughter of a former Georgia College and State basketball player, high school coach, and cousin of ex-football player Tyler Summer, feels sports has always been a cornerstone of her upbringing. She began playing volleyball at age nine, and upon playing her first tournament that year, she fell in love with the sport. She said that family meant she “grew up in the gym” and that her upbringing made a full time commitment to the game second nature.

After earning her degree in exercise science, Jones hopes to enter school to become a Physician Assistant, potentially helping young athletes with diagnosis and recovery. Although she couldn’t enter nursing because of the time commitment that comes along with playing Division I volleyball, she still understands the opportunity to enter medicine is still in reach. “I've always just wanted to do that…” she said. “I think the body's a really interesting thing, and I feel like I can still be involved in athletics. With my high school we had a PA that would come around like once a week or twice a week, and so I thought that would be cool to be able to do that.” Jones’ decision to attend GS was a no brainer for the 2017 Savannah Christian grad. After a dominant high school career that included three All-State nominations, three Area Player of the Year awards, and school records for kills, digs, and aces, she committed quickly.

After playing significantly her freshman year and more sparingly her sophomore, Jones has taken advantage of Coach Chad Willis’ new culture and program to lead and maximize her reps. “The culture has changed,” she said. “I wouldn't really say that was there last year. These coaches are not about that. We have team meetings every Wednesday night.”

Personally, Jones has taken advantage of this staff’s emphasis and willingness to allow players to take extra time in preparation to improve her craft and increase her confidence. “[I’m taking] a lot of extra reps. That wasn’t really something that the coaches last year offered, but that's one thing I do continuously that helps mentally and obviously physically.”

The Eagles began with their Blue and Gold exhibition, then began the season with a meet in Charleston against UNC Asheville, Queens and Davidson. The team finished fourth with scores of 142-62, 40-164 and 55-149, respectively. The Eagle’s best race came in the 50 free from 2018’s leader, sophomore Melissa Cox, who placed second in that individual event. “Our women raced hard and brought a great team spirit to the meet,” Head Coach Amanda Caldwell said. “We have some work ahead of us to reach our goals at the end of the season.”

Diving competed at Davidson and tied the hosts 18-18, while defeating UNC Asheville 32-5. Southern divers took second, third and fourth in the one and three meter competitions. Freshman Abby Carmada garnered both second place finishes for GS while senior Gretchen Mossburg and junior Katie Knight finished third and fourth in both events. Second year diving Head Coach Collin Vest said, “Our divers performed to a standard higher than my expectations for the first meet. I could not be more excited for the season.” The Eagles continue their 2019-2020 campaign Saturday at the RAC. GS will host Florida Gulf Coast and Campbell with hopes of beginning a more upward season trajectory. The season continues at North Florida Oct. 19, at UNC Asheville-Nov. 1, at the Georgia Tech Invitational Nov. 21-24, back home for meets on the tenth and 18 of January, then against SCAD-Savannah and Tech Feb. 1.

**SWIMMING AND DIVING OPENS SEASON WITH FOURTH PLACE FINISH**

**BY MICHAEL SMITH**

Georgia Southern swim and dive began its season Sept. 21 and will continue with eight competitions through February. The Eagles began with their Blue and Gold exhibition, then began the season with a meet in Charleston against UNC Asheville, Queens and Davidson. The team finished fourth with scores of 142-62, 40-164 and 55-149, respectively. The Eagle’s best race came in the 50 free from 2018’s leader, sophomore Melissa Cox, who placed second in that individual event. “Our women raced hard and brought a great team spirit to the meet,” Head Coach Amanda Caldwell said. “We have some work ahead of us to reach our goals at the end of the season.”

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**SAVANNAH CHRISTIAN STAR LEADS EAGLES ON DEFENSE**

**BY MICHAEL SMITH**

The advantage of Savannah grown talent is certainly no stranger to Georgia Southern Athletics, and junior libero Landon Jones is no exception for Eagle volleyball. Jones, the daughter of a former Georgia College and State basketball player, high school coach, and cousin of ex-football player Tyler Summer, feels sports has always been a cornerstone of her upbringing. She began playing volleyball at age nine, and upon playing her first tournament that year, she fell in love with the sport. She said that family meant she “grew up in the gym” and that her upbringing made a full time commitment to the game second nature.

After earning her degree in exercise science, Jones hopes to enter school to become a Physician Assistant, potentially helping young athletes with diagnosis and recovery. Although she couldn’t enter nursing because of the time commitment that comes along with playing Division I volleyball, she still understands the opportunity to enter medicine is still in reach. “I've always just wanted to do that…” she said. “I think the body's a really interesting thing, and I feel like I can still be involved in athletics. With my high school we had a PA that would come around like once a week or twice a week, and so I thought that would be cool to be able to do that.” Jones’ decision to attend GS was a no brainer for the 2017 Savannah Christian grad. After a dominant high school career that included three All-State nominations, three Area Player of the Year awards, and school records for kills, digs, and aces, she committed quickly.

After playing significantly her freshman year and more sparingly her sophomore, Jones has taken advantage of Coach Chad Willis’ new culture and program to lead and maximize her reps. “The culture has changed,” she said. “I wouldn't really say that was there last year. These coaches are not about that. We have team meetings every Wednesday night.”

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EAGLES LOOKING TO BREAK TWO-GAME LOSING STREAK WITH THURSDAY NIGHT CONTEST IN MOBILE

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

The George-Anne Southern football team is looking to bounce back and break a two-game losing streak as they travel to Mobile, Alabama to take on South Alabama in their second conference matchup of the season.

The Eagles extended their losing streak to two after falling to Louisiana 37-24 in the first conference game of the season, putting the Eagles at an overall record of 1-3.

The game against UL was redshirt-junior quarterback Shai Werts’ return to the field after being out since LSU, and his comeback was less than successful. Werts only threw for 37 yards, completing six passes on 12 attempts as well as rushing for 93 total yards. The redshirt-junior fell victim to three sacks against UL.

With coach’s response to Werts’ play, it can be expected that the quarterback will be back in action on Thursday, as his performance was chalked up to just being rusty.

A big returner coming back to the field is junior running back Wesley Kennedy III, who has been out for the past four games due to academic suspension. Now that the junior has served his suspension, everyone is eager to see him back on the gridiron.

“He’s a guy that’s a playmaker force, and there’s a lot of expectations for Kennedy’s return.”

Coach Chad Lunsford said about Kennedy. “He’s a guy that’s a playmaker force, and there’s a lot of expectations for Kennedy’s return.”

Kennedy played in all 13 games last season, starting six where he was on the field for 416 total plays. The junior rushed for 495 yards for 416 total plays. The junior rushed for 495 yards and was looking for something better, “I just wanted to make sure that I see him get to the field for the first time. I see him getting better each and every day.”

The Eagle defense struggled against the Ragin’ Cajun offense, allowing for 37 points and 440 total offensive yards from UL. As a team, the defense logged 57 tackles against UL, and proved to be successful in recovering two fumbles off of muffed punts by UL.

“Getting outscored in fourth quarters definitely not what Georgia Southern football needs,” Lunsford said. “On defense we had a lot of missed tackles. We had a lot of situations where we didn’t get adjusted to their formations... Too many yards after contact, not wrapping up and making sure that we got the ball carriers down. Got out red dot in the ballgame.”

Safety Donald Rutledge Jr. led the Eagle defense against UL, being his first big game of the season with 10 tackles and one tackle for loss of three yards as well as notching one pass breakup.

The Eagle defense also struggling in the early season, being on a three-game losing streak and sitting on an overall record of 1-4. The Jags also opened up their conference play with a loss, falling 17-30 to ULM. While a disappointing loss, USA still put up 142 rushing yards on the Warhawks as well as throwing for 286 yards. USA’s success with their passing game could pose a problem for the GS defense, as USA is also struggling in the early season, being on a three-game losing streak and sitting on an overall record of 1-4.

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On the defensive end for the Jaguars, sophomore linebacker Nick Mobley has proven to be a tank on the field, racking up 41 total tackles on the season. Mobley also led the team against ULM where he notched nine tackles as well as a sack for a loss of 11 yards.

The Eagles will be traveling to Mobile, Alabama Thursday, with kickoff set for 7:30 p.m. Eastern.

STATESBORO — Redshirt-junior Shai Werts returned to the field for the first time since LSU, and like LSU the quarterback fell unsuccessful in bringing home a win for the Eagles.

The Ragin’ Cajuns defeated the Eagles 37-24 in the conference opener for both teams at Paulson Stadium Saturday night. With two weeks to prepare due to a previous bye week, the Eagles were excited to hit the gridiron once again. But that excitement did not seem to be shared by the offense and defense seemed to come out sluggish.

“We were fighting toe to toe,” Head Coach Chad Lunsford said regarding the performance. “A big stat, 14 to three in third down conversions. That is not the way you finish... we got out-rushed. We’re a running football team and we got out-rushed and them couldn’t keep up. You know, we got to learn to score in the red zone. They’ve shown to struggle against passing offenses in the past.”

Sophomore quarterback Cephus Johnson has played in all five games for the Jaguars, throwing for 514 yards and rushing for 192 yards on the season. Johnson has rushed for four touchdowns this season as well as throwing for three.

The Eagle defense should also be preparing for senior running back Tra Minter who has led USA this season, rushing for 432 yards on the season and averaging eight yards per carry. The senior has also rushed for two touchdowns on the season.

FROM FURMAN TO FITTING IN
Reynard Ellis is transitioning to Sun Belt play with success

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

A big name on the defense this year for the Georgia Southern football team has been redshirt-sophomore linebacker Reynard Ellis, who transferred from Furman and is fitting in well with the team in his first year of eligibility.

Even though he transferred last year, per NCAA transfer rules the Alabama native had to sit out his first season as an Eagle. Ellis transferred in from Furman, where he played in 12 games, starting 10 as a true freshman and totaling 92 tackles on the season.

“I just focused on getting better,” Ellis said regarding his move to the Gridiron. “He was a guy that we knew could pose a problem for the linebacker as well. Having a season as a redshirt to fit for the Eagles, getting along well with his teammates while working towards his goals of a conference championship and a bowl win.”

Ellis has also served as a good fit for the Eagles, getting along well with his teammates while working towards his goals of a conference championship and a bowl win.

“Getting of course in fourth quarters definitely not what Georgia Southern football needs,” Lunsford said. “On defense we had a lot of missed tackles. We had a lot of situations where we didn’t get adjusted to their formations... Too many yards after contact, not wrapping up and making sure that we got the ball carriers down. Got out red dot in the ballgame.”

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“He was a guy that we knew pretty early on that he was a guy that can help us,” Lunsford said about Ellis. “Throughout spring ball and and throughout training camp, he really showed that he was definitely learning our defense, and he was definitely fitting in with our football team. I see him getting better each and every game.”

“I see him getting better each and every day,” Ellis said regarding his move to the Gridiron. “Throughout spring ball and and throughout training camp, he really showed that he was definitely learning our defense, and he was definitely fitting in with our football team. I see him getting better each and every game.”

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