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# Georgia Southern University Athletics



Softball Takes Sun Belt Series From Coastal Carolina With DH Sweep  
Eagles down the Chanticleers by 9-1 and 7-6 scores to get first league series win of the year  
Softball  
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**CONWAY, S.C.** - Georgia Southern softball claimed its first Sun Belt Conference series win of the year by sweeping Saturday's doubleheader from host Coastal Carolina by 9-1 and 7-6 scores in Conway.

The Eagles improved to 9-18 overall and 2-9 in the Sun Belt with the wins, while Coastal Carolina falls to 9-18 overall and 2-10 in the league. Georgia Southern next begins a six-game homestand by hosting Charleston Southern on Tuesday, April 13, for a 4 p.m. doubleheader at Eagle Field.

"Obviously, it's been a rough last few weeks," Georgia Southern Head Coach [Kim Dean](#) said. "We've been putting in really good fights, but not securing wins. And after last night's loss in the seventh, we just had a really good team talk this morning. It's easy to put up one big inning and get comfortable, but we stressed having as many good innings as possible. I felt, across the board, we had a lot of outstanding performances. Our pitching threw well, our hitters came up huge and defensively

we made some incredible plays. We scored quite a few runs today, but still left more out there. It takes a village to win, and to come back when you've had some tough times. But today was just 25 women fighting hard for each other."

#### **GAME ONE: Georgia Southern 9, Coastal Carolina 1 (6 inn.)**

The Eagles used a five-run second inning to race past the Chanticleers in six innings, collecting the 9-1 win in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader.

[Bailee Wilson](#) launched a two-run home run to start the scoring in the second. A first-and-third steal play brought home another run, then [Mekhia Freeman](#) followed with an RBI double for the fifth-year player's 200th career hit. She is one of only five Georgia Southern softball players to reach the 200 hit plateau.

[Faith Shirley](#) capped the inning with a two-run single. The Eagles added a run in the third as [Ashlynn Gunter](#) drew a bases-loaded walk to make the score 6-0.

Coastal Carolina plated a run in the bottom of the third on an RBI single by Abbey Montoya. Shirley drove in two more runs in the top of the sixth, then scored on a wild pitch for the final 9-1 scoreline.

[Kyleigh Richardson](#) (3-4) notched the win for the Eagles in the circle, hurling 4 2/3 innings of three-hit, one-run ball, walking one and striking out one. Iyanla De Jesus (2-6) took the loss for the Chanticleers, giving up four hits and four runs in 1 2/3 innings of work, walking one and striking out two.

Shirley finished the game 3-for-3 with a pair of doubles and four RBI, while Freeman and [Janai Conklin](#) each had two hits apiece.

#### **GAME TWO: Georgia Southern 7, Coastal Carolina 6**

[Shayla Smith](#) launched a pair of home runs and [Harlee Rewis](#) kept the Chanticleers off the scoreboard for the final 2 2/3 innings as Georgia Southern earned the sweep with a 7-6 win over Coastal Carolina in the nightcap.

Smith's first home run was a solo shot in the third inning, then her two-run blast in the top of the fourth snapped a 3-3 tie. A wild pitch scored [Mekhia Freeman](#) and [Faith Shirley](#) had an RBI groundout that capped the four-run inning and put the Eagles on top by a 7-3 score.

Coastal Carolina chipped away at the Eagle lead with two runs in the fourth. Leading off the top of the fifth, [Mekhia Freeman](#) robbed Kayla Rosado of a home run with a fantastic grab in center field. With a runner on second and one out in the inning, Rewis entered the game. An error led to the sixth run scoring for the Chanticleers, but Rewis escaped the jam with a fly out on another outstanding play by [Alia Booth](#) in right field.

In the bottom of the seventh, the Chanticleers got a leadoff double by Kayla Rosado. A sacrifice then put pinch runner Paige Rivas on third with less than two out. Rewis struck out Mary Sobataka for the second out of the inning, then after a walk, retired Stavi Augur on a grounder back to the pitcher to preserve the win.

[Rylee Waldrep](#) (3-4) earned the win for the Eagles in relief, giving up six hits and five runs - four earned - in 2 1/3 innings of work, walking two. Rewis notched her first save of the season, giving up just two hits and two walks in 2 2/3 innings, striking out two.

[Shayla Smith's](#) two home runs and three RBI led the Eagles offensively in game two, while [Janai Conklin](#) went 2-for-4 with a pair of doubles.

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