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Setting the Scene Game Preview

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SETTING THE SCENE

Game Preview

Site: Strahan Arena (10,000)

Tipoff: 8 p.m. ET

Listen: GS Sports Network (pregame show starts a half hour before tipoff) - WHKN 94.9 FM (Statesboro), 630 AM WBMQ (Savannah), 1370 AM WLOP (Jesup)

Watch: ESPN+

Series: GS leads 6-2, W1

Last Meeting: W, 81-77, 2/24/18 (Strahan)

Probable Starters:

#0 - Montae Glenn

#2 - Elijah McCadden

#4 - Tookie Brown

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern begins Sun Belt Conference play at Texas State Thursday in an 8 p.m. ET contest on ESPN+.
- It's the fourth season GS starts conference play on the road in its five campaigns in the Sun Belt.
- It's the third contest in a four-game road trip for the Eagles, their longest of the season.
- Georgia Southern is 3-2 in conference openers under head coach Mark Byington and 2-2 in the Sun Belt.
- Georgia Southern has finished in the top-3 in three of their four plus seasons in the Sun Belt and has 46 conference victories, the fourth-most since 2014. The Eagles joined Louisiana and UTA as the only three Sun Belt schools to reach double-digit conference wins in each of the last four seasons.
- GS has won four of its last five conference games, which capped the 2017-18 regular season.
- GS is 2-3 in its last five and coming off a 94-90 loss at Dayton last Saturday.
- GS ranks seventh in the country in field goal percentage (.512) and 10th in scoring, averaging 87.2 points a game. The Eagles have scored 80-plus nine times, 90-plus four times and over 100 twice.
- The Eagles are 34th in the country in free-throw attempts (322) and 77th in makes (210).
- GS ranks 30th in the nation in turnover margin (+4.0), 13th in turnovers forced (17.8) and 51st in steals (8.1).
- The Eagles are 1-4 in true road games this season and 4-4 away from home.

- GS finished the non-conference portion of its schedule with an 8-5 record. The slate is rated the 52nd most difficult in the country by the NCAA Net, the highest in the Sun Belt.
- Tookie Brown has been named to the Lou Henson Award Watch List for the second straight season. The award is given to the Mid-Major Basketball Player of the Year at the Final Four.
- Brown was named first-team All-Sun Belt and first-team All-District for the third consecutive season last year. He is the 17th player in the 43-year history of the Sun Belt to earn first-team accolades in three seasons and became the first Eagle to accomplish the feat in Georgia Southern history.
- Injuries have kept Georgia Southern from having its full roster available for any game this season, and three opening day starters have missed a combined six contests. GS has used five different starting lineups.
- Texas State is off to its best start since the 1980-81 season, and the Bobcats posted an eight-game winning streak, the first time since 1951-52 that Texas State has won eight consecutive non-conference games.
- Texas State is ranked No. 21 in the latest CollegeInsider.com Mid Major Top 25 poll. It's the second straight week that the Bobcats are ranked in the poll after entering the poll for the first time in school history on Dec. 17.
- The Bobcats were picked eighth in the Sun Belt Preseason Poll, and Nijal Pearson was named preseason second-team all-league.

The Series

- This will be the ninth meeting in the series, which began in 1965. The teams renewed the series in 2014-15 as members of the Sun Belt Conference, and both contests were settled by a combined six points. Seven of the eight meetings in the series have been decided by six points or less.
- The Eagles' 40-36 win over Texas State (1/3/15) was their fewest points allowed since Dec. 5, 1987, when they held Savannah State to 36 points. It is the first 40-36 game in the shot clock era and ranks in a tie for 19th lowest scoring game for two teams combined and the lowest scoring Sun Belt game in the shot clock era.
- GS is 2-1 against Texas State in Strahan Arena.