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Setting the Scene Game Preview

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SETTING THE SCENE

Game Preview

Site: College Park Center (7,000)

Tipoff: 3 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: Tied 4-4

Last Meeting: L, 63-83, 2/22/18 (CPC)

Probable Starters:

#0 - Montae Glenn
#2 - Elijah McCadden
#4 - Tookie Brown
#13 - Quan Jackson
#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern wraps up the first weekend of Sun Belt Conference play at UTA Saturday in a 3 p.m. ET contest on ESPN+.
- It's the final contest in a four-game road trip for the Eagles, their longest of the season.
- The Eagles have lost their last three and are 2-3 in their last five contests. GS is coming off a 73-70 setback at Texas State Thursday night.
- The Eagles have opened conference play on the road in four of their five seasons in the league.
- 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 ranks 14th in the country in field goal percentage (.504) and 10th in scoring, averaging 86.0 points a game. The Eagles have scored 80-plus nine times, 90-plus four times and over 100 twice.
- The Eagles are 41st in the country in free-throw attempts (334) and 83rd in makes (217).
- GS ranks 30th in the nation in turnover margin (+4.0), 13th in turnovers forced (17.9) and 41st in steals (8.3).
- The Eagles are 1-5 in true road games this season and 4-5 away from home.
- GS finished the non-conference portion of its schedule with an 8-5 record. The slate is rated the 41st most difficult in the country in the latest edition of the NCAA Net (through games Jan. 3), making it the most difficult 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 eight contests. GS has used six different starting lineups.
- UTA is coming off a 63-58 loss to preseason Sun Belt favorite Georgia State Thursday. The contest against the Panthers capped a challenging stretch in which seven of nine Mavs opponents played in the postseason last year, and five of those played in the NCAA Tournament.
- The Mavericks played seven Quadrant 1 & 2 non-conference opponents in the NCAA latest NET report, which is tied for the 6th-most in the country.
- UTA lost its top-9 scorers and only returns one scholarship letterwinner from last year's team in DJ Bryant. UTA is one of five teams in the country with no scholarship seniors.
- The Mavericks rank 14th in the nation in 3-point percentage defense at .280. UTA has allowed two opponents all year to shoot better than 36 percent from 3-point range.
- UTA was picked 11th in the Sun Belt Preseason Coaches Poll.

The Series

- This is the ninth meeting in the all-time series, which began in 1972 when the Eagles topped the Mavs, 73-69, in the Claxton Fruitcake Classic in Hanner Fieldhouse.
- The Eagles are 3-4 against the Mavs since joining the Sun Belt in 2014 but have yet to win in the College Park Center. It's the only facility in the Sun Belt in which the Eagles have not posted a victory.