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## Setting the Scene Game Preview

Georgia Southern University

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# SETTING THE SCENE

## Game Preview

**Site:** Hanner Fieldhouse (3,897)

**Tipoff:** 5 p.m.

**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 trails 6-4, L1

**Last Meeting:** L, 101-92, 2/10/18 (Hanner)

**Promotions:** Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport T-shirt toss – One lucky fan will “Fly Like a Winner” and go home with 2 free airline tickets!, Glowstick Night – The annual glow stick night game.

### Probable Starters

#4 - Tookie Brown

#13 - Quan Jackson

#23 - Simeon Carter

#24 - David-Lee Jones Jr.

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern takes on Louisiana in a 5 p.m. Sun Belt contest on ESPN+.
- The Eagles are coming off a 79-78 win over ULM Thursday night and are 2-3 in their last five.
- Georgia Southern is 27-7 in Hanner Fieldhouse in its last 34 contests there, 55-19 in five-plus years under Mark Byington and 30-9 in Sun Belt games. The Eagles are 5-1 in Hanner this season.
- GS ranks 12th in the country in field goal percentage (.502) and 14th in scoring, averaging 85.0 points a game. The Eagles have scored 80-plus nine times, 90-plus four times and over 100 twice.
- GS ranks 35th in the nation and first in the Sun Belt in turnover margin (+3.6), 19th in the NCAA in turnovers forced (17.5) and 39th in steals (8.2).
- GS finished the non-conference portion of its schedule with an 8-5 record. The slate is rated the 33rd most difficult in the country in the latest edition of the NCAA Net (through games Jan. 10), making it the most difficult 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 48 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.

- 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.
- Brown ranks eighth on the Sun Belt career scoring list, eighth on the NCAA active career scoring list and is 23 points shy of 2,000.
- Third-team Preseason All-Sun Belt selection Ike Smith had successful back surgery over the Christmas break and will be reevaluated in a week. Smith has missed the last six contests with the injury and is averaging 14.7 points and 5.7 rebounds a contest.
- Injuries have kept Georgia Southern from having its full roster available for any game this season, and three opening day starters, including Smith, have missed a combined 11 contests. GS has used seven different starting lineups.
- Louisiana is 3-2 in its last five and coming off an 89-76 loss at Georgia State Thursday.
- The defending conference regular-season champions are 92-57 in Sun Belt games under head coach Bob Marlin.
- The Ragin' Cajuns are 3-3 in true road games and 5-4 away from home.
- Louisiana's JaKeenan Gant collected 45 points and 11 rebounds in the Ragin' Cajuns win at Little Rock last Saturday and posted 36 points and 11 boards at Georgia State Thursday. He is a preseason second-team All-Sun Belt selection, and the Ragin' Cajuns were tied for second with the Eagles in the Preseason Poll.

### **The Series**

- Louisiana leads the all-time series, which began in the 1964-65 season, 6-4, and has won four of the last six, including the only meeting last season, a 102-91 decision in Hanner Fieldhouse.
- Before the Eagles joined the Sun Belt in 2014-15, the teams had not met since 1992.
- The Eagles are 2-2 against the Ragin' Cajuns in Hanner Fieldhouse.