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## Setting the Scene Game Preview

Georgia Southern University

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# SETTING THE SCENE

## Game Preview

**Site:** Trojan Arena (5,200)

**Tipoff:** 7 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 15-8, W2

**Last Meeting:** W, 89-83, 3/3/18 (Hanner)

### Probable Starters:

#4 - Tookie Brown

#13 - Quan Jackson

#23 - Simeon Carter

#24 - David-Lee Jones, Jr.

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern opens a two-game trip to the Yellowhammer State Thursday at Troy. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. ET on ESPN+.
- The Eagles are 2-3 in their last five and coming off an 87-85 loss to Louisiana Saturday evening in Hanner Fieldhouse.
- Georgia Southern has trailed by double digits in each of its last seven contests and came back to win three of those games. The Eagles have come back from double-digit deficits to win five contests this season.
- GS ranks 16th in the country in field goal percentage (.499) and 16th in scoring, averaging 85.0 points a game. The Eagles have scored 80-plus 10 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), 14th in the NCAA in turnovers forced (17.5) and 34th in steals (8.3).
- GS finished the non-conference portion of its schedule with an 8-5 record. The slate is rated the 27th most difficult in the country in the latest edition of the NCAA Net (through games Jan. 14), 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 Midseason Watch List. 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 two points shy of 2,000.
- 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 12 contests. GS has used seven different starting lineups.
- Troy is 3-2 in its last five and coming off a 90-85 overtime win at Arkansas State Saturday.
- The Trojans are 6-3 at home and 1-1 in home league games.
- Preseason All-Sun Belt selection Jordon Varnado averages 19.1 points and 7.5 rebounds.
- The Trojans were picked fourth in the Sun Belt Preseason Coaches Poll.

### **The Series**

- Georgia Southern leads the all-time series, which began in 1932, 15-8, and swept the season series last year.
- Nine of the last 10 meetings have been decided by seven points or less.
- The Eagles lead the series 5-4 since GS joined the Sun Belt in 2014, and GS is 3-4 on the road.
- Eight of the Eagles' wins were recorded before 1964 as the teams played 13 times between 1932 and 1964.
- The series was renewed Dec. 9, 1991 with the Eagles earning a 102-94 home win.