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Setting the Scene Game Preview

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SETTING THE SCENE

Game Preview

Site: GSU Sports Arena (3,854)

Tipoff: 1 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 leads 43-20, L1

Last Meeting: L, 67-73, 3/10/18 (neutral)

Probable Starters:

#0 - Montae Glenn
#4 - Tookie Brown
#10 - Calvin Wishart
#13 - Quan Jackson
#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern takes on Georgia State in the first of two scheduled contests this season. Tipoff is at 1 p.m. in GSU Sports Arena, and the game will air on ESPN+.
- One point is on the line in the Southern vs. State Rivalry Series, which is currently tied 4-4.
- The Eagles are 3-2 in their last five and coming off a 74-58 win over Texas State last Saturday.
- GS ranks seventh in the country in field goal percentage (.498) and 15th in scoring, averaging 84.0 points a game. The Eagles have scored 80-plus 12 times, 90-plus five times and over 100 twice.
- GS ranks first in the Sun Belt in turnover margin (+3.0), 20st in the NCAA in turnovers forced (17.0) and 31st in steals (8.1).
- GS finished the non-conference portion of its schedule with an 8-5 record. The slate is rated the 18th most difficult in the country in the latest edition of the NCAA Net (through games Jan. 29), 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 50 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 ranks sixth on the Sun Belt career scoring list and eighth on the NCAA active career scoring list.
- 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.
- 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 16 contests. GS has used eight different starting lineups.
- Georgia State is the defending Sun Belt Tourney champs and picked to win the league in the Preseason Coaches Poll. The Panthers are ranked No. 21 in the CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top-25 Poll.
- The Panthers rank 42nd in the NCAA in total steals and 17th in blocked shots per game.
- Junior D'Marcus Simonds, the Sun Belt Preseason Player of the Year, is seventh in the league averaging 18.6 points per game. He stands in second-place on Georgia State's all-time scoring list behind R.J. Hunter.
- Georgia State has made 204 3-pointers this season, an average of 9.7 per game which ranks second in the Sun Belt and No. 28 in the NCAA after setting a school and conference record with 323 last season. The Panthers have made 13 or more 3-pointers in a game five times this season.

The Series

- Georgia Southern leads the all-time series, which began in 1948, 43-20, but the Panthers are 11-6 in the last 17 meetings and have won six of the last nine.
- Georgia Southern is 10-12 at Georgia State and has lost the last eight, dating back to 1992.
- Five of the Eagles' last six wins in the series have all been by five points or less, and two were in overtime.
- Georgia Southern was 16-3 against the Panthers from 1985-1992, when both schools were members of the TAAC. The Eagles were 3-0 against the Panthers in the TAAC Tournament.
- Southern won all seven meetings before the Eagles began the Division I era in 1971-72.
- Georgia State topped the Eagles 38-36 in the 2015 Sun Belt Championship. It was the lowest-scoring Sun Belt game since the shot clock era began and the only time the teams have played in the Sun Belt Tournament. The Panthers are 2-0 against the Eagles in the SBC Tournament.