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Setting the Scene Game Preview

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SETTING THE SCENE

Game Preview

Site: Hanner Fieldhouse (3,897)

Tipoff: 7 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 11-6, W2

Last Meeting: W, 88-86 OT, 1/19/19 (away)

Probable Starters

#0 - Montae Glenn

#4 - Tookie Brown

#10 - Calvin Wishart

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern plays five of its final seven regular-season games at home, starting with South Alabama Wednesday at 7 p.m. on ESPN+.
- It's the second meeting between the teams this season. GS won the first meeting 88-86 in overtime in Mobile back on Jan. 19 as Montae Glenn blocked a game-tying shot attempt by Trae Mitchell just before the clock expired.
- GS is tied for fourth in the Sun Belt standings, and South Alabama is tied for seventh.
- The Eagles are 2-3 in their last five and coming off an 88-79 loss at ULM last Friday.
- GS ranks fifth in the country in field goal percentage (.501) and 13th in scoring, averaging 84.1 points a game. The Eagles have scored 80-plus 13 times, 90-plus six times and over 100 three times.
- GS ranks second in the Sun Belt in turnover margin (+2.3), 35th in the NCAA in turnovers forced (15.9) and 53rd in steals (7.6).
- The Eagles are 6-3 in Hanner Fieldhouse this season 56-21 under Mark Byington and 31-11 in Sun Belt contests.
- Georgia Southern has finished in the top-3 in three of their four plus seasons in the Sun Belt and has 52 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 ninth 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.
- Senior Ike Smith will sit out the rest of the season and seek a medical hardship waiver to regain a year of eligibility. Smith, who has amassed 1,480 career points and 492 rebounds, played in the first 10 games of the season and averaged 14.7 points and 5.7 boards for the Eagles, and Georgia Southern is 7-7 since he has been out.
- 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 19 contests. GS has used eight different starting lineups.
- South Alabama has won three of its last four but is coming off a 73-68 home loss to Little Rock Saturday.
- The Jags are 1-7 on the road and 1-3 in road Sun Belt games.
- Josh Ajayi has scored in double figures in 19 straight games, and has tallied 20 points or more six times during the stretch. Ajayi leads the Sun Belt in field-goal percentage (.559) and averages 16 points and 8.3 rebounds a game.

The Series

- South Alabama leads the all-time series, which began in 1978, 11-6, and has won five of the last eight meetings.
- Seven of the 10 meetings since the Eagles joined the Sun Belt have been decided by six points or less with two going into overtime.
- The teams split the season series last year with each team winning at home.
- GS is 3-4 at home against the Jags and have won the last two.
- Prior to the 2014-15 season when GS joined the Sun Belt, the teams had not met since 2010 and 2011, both South Alabama victories.
- The Jaguars won four of the first five meetings from 1978-80.