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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:** [TrueBlue Live](#)

**Series:** GS leads 11-4, L1

**Last Meeting:** L, 89-91, 2/3/18 (away)

**Promotion:** Cheerleader for a Day

### Probable Starters

#0 - Montae Glenn

#4 - Tookie Brown

#10 - Calvin Wishart

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern continues a three-game homestand to cap the regular season with a contest against Arkansas State Saturday at 5 p.m. in Hanner Fieldhouse.
- GS has won its last five and enters the game in control of its own destiny in its quest to win one of the top two seeds in the upcoming Sun Belt Tournament. The top two seeds earn a double bye into the semifinal round, while the third and fourth-seeded teams receive a bye into the quarterfinals.
- GS is tied for second with Georgia State in the Sun Belt standings, and Arkansas State is tied for eighth.
- A win today would guarantee the Eagles at least a top-4 seed. A combination of a win and a UTA loss would guarantee the Eagles no worse than a top-3 seed.
- The Eagles are one victory away from a second consecutive 20-win season. The last time GS won 20 games two years in a row was in 1987-88 (24-7) and 1988-89 (22-6). Another victory would also give GS three 20-win seasons in the last five years.
- This is the first and only meeting between the Eagles and Red Wolves this season and the fourth straight game in which GS is playing a Sun Belt opponent for the first time this year.
- The Eagles are coming off an 81-66 home win over Little Rock Thursday night. GS has held four of its last five opponents under 70 points.
- GS ranks sixth in the country in field goal percentage (.502) and 13th in scoring, averaging

83.5 points a game. The Eagles have scored 80-plus 15 times, 90-plus seven times and over 100 three times. GS has shot 50 percent or better in 15 contests and 60 percent or better twice.

- GS ranks second in the Sun Belt in turnover margin (+2.2), 26th in the NCAA in turnovers forced (16.0) and 35th in steals (8.0).
- Georgia Southern has finished in the top-3 in three of their four plus seasons in the Sun Belt and has 57 conference victories, tied with UTA for the third-most since 2014. GS and UTA are currently the only Sun Belt schools to reach double-digit conference wins in each of the last five seasons.
- Tookie Brown ranks fifth on the Sun Belt career scoring list and ninth on the NCAA active career scoring list. He is six steals away from 200 for his career and the only player in Sun Belt history with over 2,000 points and 500 assists.
- 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 Montae Glenn is two blocked shots away from 100 for his career. He is currently ranked first on Georgia Southern's career field goal percentage list (.589) and his .637 shooting percentage this season is currently a school record.
- 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 11-7 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 24 contests. GS has used eight different starting lineups.
- The Eagles are 9-3 in Hanner Fieldhouse this season, 59-21 under Mark Byington and 34-11 in Sun Belt contests.
- Arkansas State is 2-3 in its last five and coming off a 76-60 loss at Georgia State Thursday.
- Ty Cockfield is among just seven players nationally to average at least 22.0 points, 3.5 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game this season. He leads the Sun Belt in scoring, averaging 22.1 points an outing.
- A-State leads the Sun Belt in rebounding at 38.3 rebounds per game and is 10-6 this season when out-rebounding its opponent.

### **The Series**

- This will be the 16th meeting in the all-time series, which began in 1956. Georgia Southern owns a 11-4 edge and has won nine of the last 10, including five of six since joining the Sun Belt in 2014-15.
- Georgia Southern is 6-1 at home against the Red Wolves.
- Three of the last six meetings have been decided by five points or less.