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## Setting the Scene Game Preview

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# SETTING THE SCENE

## Game Preview

**Site:** Lakefront Arena (10,000)

**Tipoff:** 8:30 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 trails 9-12, L1

**Last meeting:** L, 79-88 (away)

### **Probable Starters:**

#0 - Montae Glenn

#4 - Tookie Brown

#10 - Calvin Wishart

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern enters the Sun Belt Tournament as the third seed for the third straight season after tying for second place with a 12-6 conference record. It's the fourth time the Eagles have finished in the top-3 in their five seasons in the league.
- GS will meet No. 7 ULM Friday, March 15, at 8:30 p.m. ET. in Lakefront Arena in New Orleans. The Warhawks defeated Coastal Carolina 80-50 Thursday in Lakefront Arena. GS split with ULM this season with each team winning at home.
- Friday's game will be the Eagles' second in the last 13 days.
- The first-round, quarterfinal and semifinal games are set for live coverage on ESPN3 with Sunday's championship game slated for live coverage on ESPN2. All games will be available on the WatchESPN app.
- The Eagles have posted 20 wins in consecutive seasons for the first time in 30 years. The last time GS won 20 games two years in a row was in 1987-88 (24-7) and 1988-89 (22-6). GS now has three 20-win seasons in the last five years.
- GS, UTA and Louisiana are the only Sun Belt schools to reach double-digit conference wins in each of the last five seasons. The Eagles have 58 Sun Belt conference victories.
- Georgia Southern is playing in its 39th Division I conference tournament this year. GS is 30-34 all-time in conference tourneys, 2-4 in the Sun Belt Tournament, 20-11 as the higher seed, 5-7 as the third seed and 12-20 in quarterfinal games.

- GS is 12-8 in neutral site contests during head coach Mark Byington's tenure and 3-0 this season after winning the Islands of the Bahamas Showcase in November.
- GS has won six of its last seven but is coming off a 90-85 home loss to rival Georgia State last Saturday.
- GS ranks second in the country in field goal percentage (.503) and 13th in scoring, averaging 83.5 points a game. The Eagles have scored 80-plus 17 times, 90-plus seven times and over 100 three times. GS has shot 50 percent or better in 16 contests and 60 percent or better three times.
- GS ranks second in the Sun Belt in turnover margin (+2.1), 22nd in the NCAA in turnovers forced (15.8) and 35th in steals (7.8).
- Tookie Brown was named Sun Belt Player of the Year and first-team all-conference and is the first four-time first-team all-conference player in league history. He is the only player in Sun Belt history with over 2,000 points and 500 assists and ranks fourth on the Sun Belt career scoring list and 10th 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.
- Redshirt sophomore Quan Jackson was named third-team All-Sun Belt.
- Senior Montae Glenn ranks 5th in the league in blocked shots and is two away from 100 for his career. He is currently ranked first on Georgia Southern's career field goal percentage list (.589) and his .639 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 12-8 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 26 contests. GS has used eight different starting lineups.
- The Eagles have notched 21 wins away from home (road and neutral site) in the last two seasons and have 10 this year, posting a 6-3 record in road Sun Belt games. The most wins away from home in a season in school history is 12 in 1988-89.

### **The Series**

- ULM leads the all-time series, which began in 1976, 12-9 and split with the Eagles this season with each team winning at home.
- The Eagles are 7-4 against ULM since joining the Sun Belt. Six of those games have been decided by four points or less, and the Eagles have won four of them.
- GS is 2-0 against ULM in the Sun Belt Tournament and topped the Warhawks 63-55 in the quarterfinals last season.