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Setting the Scene Game Preview

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SETTING THE SCENE

Game Preview

Site: Lakefront Arena (10,000)

Tipoff: 6:30 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: Series tied 5-5

Last meeting: L, 67-72, (away)

Probable Starters:

#0 - Montae Glenn

#4 - Tookie Brown

#10 - Calvin Wishart

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern makes its second straight appearance in the Sun Belt Tournament semifinals as the Eagles take on UTA Saturday at 6:30 p.m. ET in Lakefront Arena. The contest will air live on ESPN+.
- The Eagles and Mavs split the season series this year with each winning on the other's home floor.
- GS has won seven of its last eight and advanced to the semifinals by topping ULM 81-67 Friday night.
- Georgia Southern entered the Sun Belt Tournament as the third seed for the third straight season after tying for second place, along with UTA and Texas State, 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.
- Saturday's game will be the Eagles' third in the last 14 days.
- 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 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 31-34 all-time in conference tourneys, 3-4 in the Sun Belt Tournament, 10-23 as the lower seed, 6-7 as the third seed and 5-8 in semifinal games.

- GS is 13-8 in neutral site contests during head coach Mark Byington's tenure and 4-0 this season after winning the Islands of the Bahamas Showcase in November.
- GS ranks second in the country in field goal percentage (.503) and 13th in scoring, averaging 83.4 points a game. The Eagles have scored 80-plus 18 times, 90-plus seven times and over 100 three times. GS has shot 50 percent or better in 17 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 tallied the 100th of his career vs. ULM Friday. He is currently ranked first on Georgia Southern's career field goal percentage list (.588) and his .629 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 13-8 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 27 contests. GS has used eight different starting lineups.
- The Eagles have notched 22 wins away from home (road and neutral site) in the last two seasons and have 11 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.
- UTA earned the second seed via the conference tiebreaker and received a triple bye into the semifinals. The Mavs lost 74-61 to Georgia State in the championship contest last season.
- This will be the Mavs' second game in the last 14 days. It will also be UTA's first neutral site game of the season.
- Brian Warren was named third-team All-Sun Belt, and Chris Ogden was named the league's Coach of the Year.

The Series

- This is the 11th meeting in the all-time series, which began in 1972 when the Eagles topped the Mavs, 73-69, in the Claxton Fruitcake Classic in Hanner Fieldhouse.
- The Eagles are 4-5 against the Mavs since joining the Sun Belt in 2014.
- The teams have never met in the Sun Belt Tournament.