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## **Season Preview: Men's Basketball Sophomores and Newcomers Look to Make an Impact**

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AJ Henderson - Georgia Southern Athletics

*Elijah McCadden played in 32 of 33 games last season.*

## Season Preview: Men's Basketball Sophomores and Newcomers Look to Make an Impact

**The second in a three-part men's basketball season  
preview.**

By Marc Gignac  
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**STATESBORO** – The knock on almost all college basketball freshmen at the mid-major level is a lack of consistency.

There will be some nights where everything comes together, and some nights in which they look like they've never played in a game before. Then, there are some nights when both of those descriptions are fitting within five minutes of each other.

Many a coach has said the best thing about freshmen is they become sophomores, and the 2019-20 Georgia Southern roster contains a quartet of sophomores ready to take the next step.

Two Eagles, Elijah McCadden and Calvin Wishart, saw a pretty good chunk of playing time and found themselves in the starting lineup at times during the season. Two others, Will Dillard and David Viti, redshirted the campaign. All four will likely see time in the rotation at some point this season.

McCadden's length and versatility allow him to play a number of positions. He played in 32 games, started six and averaged 5.2 points, 2.5 rebounds and 1.2 assists while shooting 49 percent from the field. He scored in double figures eight times and averaged 21.8 minutes a game.

"I don't know if anybody has improved as much as Elijah has," said Georgia Southern coach Mark Byington. "He was able to play 22 minutes a game as a freshman last year because he's athletic and he's smart, and I think his game and his skill set is at another level right now to where he can drive by anybody and he's shooting the ball very well. He had a game in Spain where he made five 3s. He should one of the best defensive players on the floor, and he can play anywhere from point guard all the way down to the 4 spot for us. We are majorly going to lean on him this year because of his talent and how much he has improved. I'm really excited for him because he's put in a lot of hard work, and it's showing."

Wishart will look to step into the point guard role as well as play off the ball. He played in 30 contests, starting the last 16 of the season, and he averaged 5.2 points, 1.8 rebounds and 1.3 assists a game.

"Calvin is going to be leaned on this year and will have to be consistent and bring it every night," said Byington. "I think his defense has improved, and he is really good with the ball in his hands. He didn't really get a chance to show that as much last year, but the ball is going to be in his hands more, and he's going to have to make a play, be it scoring, finding somebody or getting us into something."



