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Setting the Scene Game Preview

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SETTING THE SCENE

Game Preview

Site: Hanner Fieldhouse (3,897)

Tipoff: 8 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 3-0, W3

Last meeting: W, 101-84 (Hanner)

Promotions: Bring a canned good for the Statesboro Food Bank

Probable Starters:

#2 - Elijah McCadden

#3 - Ike Smith

#10 - Calvin Wishart

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern plays its home opener Friday Nov. 8, against Reinhardt in Hanner Fieldhouse. The contest will be after the Eagles' volleyball match against Appalachian State, and tipoff is slated for 8 p.m.
- The Eagles are 42-4 in home openers in the Division I era and 6-0 under Mark Byington.
- Georgia Southern was picked third in the Sun Belt in the conference's Preseason Men's Basketball Coaches Poll. Quan Jackson was named first-team All-Sun Belt, Ike Smith was named second-team all-league and Isaiah Crawley was named third team all-conference.
- The Sun Belt poll follows a trend of preseason praise for the Eagles. Athlon, Lindy's, Street & Smith's and The Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook all have the Eagles picked in the top-3 of the conference.
- The Eagles 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 ranked fourth in the country in field goal percentage (.499) and 15th in scoring, averaging 82.6 points a game last year. The Eagles scored 80-plus 18 times, 90-plus seven times and over 100 three times. GS shot 50 percent or better in 17 contests and 60 percent or better three times.
- Senior Ike Smith received a medical hardship waiver to regain a year of eligibility. Smith, who has amassed 1,496 career points and 496 rebounds, played in the first 10 games of the 2018-19

season and averaged 14.7 points and 5.7 boards for the Eagles.

- Smith needs four points and four rebounds to become the fifth Eagle with 1,500 career points and 500 rebounds, joining Jeff Sanders (1,861 pts, 893 reb), Kevin Anderson (1,843 pts, 986 reb), Matt Simpkins (1,684 pts, 642 reb) and Louis Graham (1,581 pts, 908 reb).
- Smith has been named to the Lou Henson Award Preseason Watch List. The award is given annually to the nation's top Division I Mid-Major player.
- Reinhardt enters the contest 1-2 and is coming off a 67-48 home loss to Point University Wednesday night.
- The Eagles' lone win was a forfeit victory.

The Series

- The Eagles lead the series 3-0, and all three wins have come in Hanner Fieldhouse.
- **Last Meeting - 11/18/10 - Hanner Fielhouse:** Jelani Hewitt led seven Georgia Southern players in double figures with 17 points and added six rebounds and five assits.
- Ben Drayton III scored 16, and Eric Ferguson added 16.
- The Eagles shot 65.4 percent from the field for the game, including 68 percent in the second frame. GS outscored Reinhardt 27-16 from the free-throw line.