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Setting The Scene Game Preview

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SETTING THE SCENE

Game Preview

Site: HTC Center (3,600)

Tipoff: 7 p.m.

Listen: GS Sports Network (pregame show starts a half hour before tipoff)

Watch: ESPN+

Series: GS trails series 5-3, W2

Last meeting: 2/21/19, W 79-74 (HTC Center)

Probable Starters:

#2 - Elijah McCadden

#3 - Ike Smith

#10 - Calvin Wishart

#13 - Quan Jackson

#23 - Simeon Carter

- GS opens a stretch of three road Sun Belt games in five days with a 7 p.m. contest at Coastal Carolina Jan. 2 on ESPN+.
- The Eagles will also play at Appalachian State Jan. 4 and at Little Rock Jan. 6.
- It's the first time GS has played three conference road games in five days since January of 1993 (Marshall, VMI, Furman).
- The games are part of a four-game road trip that began at Georgia Dec. 23 and is the Eagles' longest of the season.
- It's the third time the Eagles will have played three games in five days this season. GS had three in five before the Christmas break and played three in three days in the Hilton Garden Inn FGCU Classic in November.
- The Eagles are 3-2 in their last five and coming off a 73-64 loss at Georgia Dec. 23. GS has had nine days off since its last contest.
- The Eagles rank 22nd in the country in steals (9.5/gm), 13th in turnovers forced (18.5/gm) and eighth in turnover margin (+6.1).
- GS ranks second in the Sun Belt in fewest fouls (15.8/gm) and third in fewest turnovers (12.4/gm).
- Senior Ike Smith received a medical hardship waiver to regain a year of eligibility. Smith scored five points against Reinhardt Nov. 8 to pass 1,500 for his career and had four rebounds vs. Radford Nov. 15 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.
- Coastal Carolina is coming off an 11-day layoff as the Chants' last contest was an 81-69 win at South Alabama Dec. 21.
- The Chanticleers are 5-1 in their last six and are 5-4 at home this season. This will be the Chants' first conference home game.
- Coastal Carolina was picked seventh in the Sun Belt Coaches Preseason Poll, and DeVante' Jones was named preseason second-team All-Sun Belt. The sophomore was the league's Freshman of the Year in 2018-19.