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Georgia Southern University Athletics



Ten Eagles Earn All-Sun Belt Honors
Johnson III and Vildor make first-team All-SBC
Football

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NEW ORLEANS – Ten Georgia Southern football players were honored by the league coaches and members of the media as the Sun Belt Conference announced Wednesday the selections for its all-conference teams.

Junior defensive end [Raymond Johnson III](#) and senior cornerback [Kindie Vildor](#) were chosen for first-team All-Sun Belt Conference accolades. Two players - junior linebacker [Rashad Byrd](#) and senior kicker [Tyler Bass](#) - were named second team and two players - senior cornerback [Mongquavion Brinson](#) and sophomore safety Kenderick Duncan Jr - were named to the third team. Four Eagles - junior running back [Wesley Kennedy III](#), sophomore linebacker [Reynard Ellis](#), junior running back [J.D. King](#) and junior quarterback [Shai Werts](#) - earned honorable mention recognition.

The Sun Belt Conference's coaches and a member of the media representing each team voted on the list of candidates for the teams with points assigned for rankings for each position. The first, second and third teams are comprised of 12 offensive players (1 QB, 3 WR, 2 RB, 1 TE, 5 OL), 12 defensive players (4 DL, 3 LB, 4 DB, 1 at large selection) and 4 special team players (K, P, Return Specialist and All Purpose), unless there are ties.

FIRST TEAM

[Raymond Johnson III](#): 2018 second-team All-Sun Belt selection ... An honorable mention selection as a true freshman ... Has 30 tackles, including seven for loss and three sacks ... Got the start against No. 6 LSU in the opener, playing 44 defensive snaps ... Had five tackles, including half a tackle for loss, against the Tigers ... Had four tackles against Maine ... Had six tackles, including 2.0 for loss, at Minnesota ... Had two tackles against Louisiana ... Had a big impact at South Alabama, blocking a field goal in overtime and then recovering a fumble in the second overtime ... Also had three tackles, including half a stop for loss ... Had three tackles, including one for loss, against Coastal Carolina ... Had a tackle against New Mexico State ... Had two tackles, including a sack, against No. 20 Appalachian State ... Had two tackles and a pass breakup against Troy ... Had a sack and a quarterback hurry against ULM ... Had a sack at Arkansas State, but had to leave the game early with an injury ... Missed the Georgia State game with an injury.

[Kindie Vildor](#): 2018 first-team All-Sun Belt selection and second-team All-American ... Has 25 tackles, including three for loss ... Has four pass break ups and an interception ... Was on the field for 53 defensive snaps in the opener at No. 6 LSU, recording one tackle ... Wasn't thrown at much against Maine, but recorded a pass breakup in the win ... Had two tackles at Minnesota ... Recorded four stops against Louisiana ... Had a tackle for loss and two key pass break ups at South Alabama ... Tallied four stops, including one for loss, against Coastal Carolina ... Had two tackles, including one for loss, and an interception against New Mexico State ... Had two tackles against No. 20 Appalachian State, but had to leave the game in the first half with an ankle injury ... Missed the Troy and ULM games ... Returned to play 55 snaps at Arkansas State, recording five tackles ... Had four tackles and a pass break up against Georgia State.

SECOND TEAM

[Tyler Bass](#): 2018 first-team All-Sun Belt and third-team All-American ... 2017 second-team All-Sun Belt ... Is 17-for-25 on field goals for the season ... Made a 47-yard field goal at No. 6 LSU in the opener ... Named the Sun Belt Conference Special Teams Player of the Week following his effort against Maine ... Made a

career-high four field goals and had six touchbacks in that game ... Connected on field goals of 25 and 45 yards at Minnesota ... Made all three field goals against Louisiana, coming from 28, 44 and 31 yards ... Also had six touchbacks in the game ... Hit the game-winning field goal in the second overtime at South Alabama ... Hit a 45-yard field goal against Coastal Carolina ... Had six touchbacks against New Mexico State ... Kicked a 49-yard field goal against No. 20 Appalachian State ... Made all four PATs against Troy ... Made six PATs and a field goal against ULM ... Made both PATs and a field goal and also completed a 7-yard pass on a fake field goal at Arkansas State ... Kicked a 49-yard field goal and four PATs against Georgia State.

Rashad Byrd: 2018 honorable mention All-Sun Belt ... Leads the team with 79 tackles, including 9.0 for loss and 2.0 sacks ... Had a career-high 16 tackles at No. 6 LSU in the season opener ... Played 53 defensive snaps against the Tigers ... Had four stops against Maine ... Had a monster game at Minnesota, tallying 11 tackles ... Had a sack, forced fumble, fumble recovery and return for a 44-yard touchdown late in the game to give the Eagles the lead ... His play against the Gophers earned him Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Week honors ... Was limited by injury against Louisiana, but still played 43 total snaps with three tackles ... Had four tackles, including half a stop for loss, at South Alabama ... Had eight tackles against Coastal Carolina ... Had five tackles, including one for loss, and returned an interception 7 yards for a touchdown against New Mexico State ... Tallied eight tackles and a break up against No. 20 Appalachian State ... Led the squad with 10 tackles and a forced fumble against Troy ... Had four tackles, including one for loss, and an interception that he returned 32 yards against ULM ... Had a sack at Arkansas State, but had to leave the game in the third quarter with an injury ... Had five stops, including one for loss, against Georgia State.

THIRD TEAM

Monquavion Brinson: 2017 and 2018 second-team All-Sun Belt ... Has 38 tackles and 11 pass break ups ... Had five tackles in the opener against No. 6 LSU ... Was tied for the team lead with seven tackles against Maine ... Also had two pass break ups ... Tallied three tackles and a pass break up at Minnesota ... Also returned a blocked field goal 77 yards for a touchdown, his first collegiate touchdown ... The play earned him Sun Belt Conference Special Teams Player of the Week honors ... Had three solo stops against Louisiana ... Had five tackles at South Alabama but suffered a leg injury that cut short his night ... Came off the bench for the first time since his freshman year against Coastal Carolina ... Had a tackle on 39 snaps ... Had two tackles against New Mexico State ... Set a new Sun Belt Conference record for career passes defended with three break ups against No. 20 Appalachian State to give him 37 ... Also had five tackles in the win ... Had two tackles and a pass break up against Troy ... Had two stops and a pass breakup against ULM ... Had three tackles at Arkansas State ... Tallied three pass break ups against Georgia State.

Kenderick Duncan Jr.: Has 71 tackles, including 3.5 for loss, along with two interceptions and seven pass break ups ... Got the start in the opener at No. 6 LSU, playing 68 defensive snaps ... Was credited with seven tackles and a pass breakup against the Tigers ... Had five tackles and an interception that he returned 35 yards against Maine ... Had another interception at Minnesota, returning it 33 yards to set up the Eagles' first touchdown ... Also had five tackles and a pass break up ... Was tied for the team lead with 10 tackles against Louisiana ... Had five tackles, including one for loss, at South Alabama ... Had two tackles before being disqualified in the first half for targeting against Coastal Carolina ... Had four tackles, including half a stop for loss, against New Mexico State ... Led the team with 11 tackles and also had a pass break up against No. 20 Appalachian State ... Has eight tackles, including 1.5 for loss, and two pass break ups against Troy ... Had four tackles and a pass breakup against ULM ... Had eight tackles, including one for loss, and a forced fumble at Arkansas State ... Had three tackles and two pass break ups against Georgia State.

HONORABLE MENTION

Reynard Ellis: Is second on the team with 78 tackles, including 8.5 for loss and two sacks, to go along with two fumble recoveries and a blocked kick ... Got the start in the opener at No. 6 LSU, playing 63 defensive snaps ... Had seven total tackles against the Tigers ... Tied for the team lead with seven tackles against Maine ... Also had a fumble recovery ... Tallied seven tackles, including 3.0 for loss and a sack, and a pass break up at Minnesota ... Sliced in to block a field goal in the fourth quarter which was returned 77 yards by **Monquavion Brinson** for a touchdown ... Had five tackles against Louisiana ... Led the team with six stops, including half a tackle for loss, at South Alabama ... Posted nine stops against Coastal Carolina ... Had six tackles, including two for loss, against New Mexico State ... Had seven tackles, including one for loss, against No. 20 Appalachian State ... Had five tackles and a fumble recovery against Troy ... Had eight tackles, including one for loss, and a pass breakup against ULM ... Led the team with nine tackles, including a sack, at Arkansas State ... Had one stop against Georgia State.

Wesley Kennedy III: 2018 honorable mention All-Sun Belt Conference selection ... Has run for 760 yards and 10 touchdowns along with a punt return touchdown ... Missed the first four games of the season ... Returned for the South Alabama game and scored the game-tying touchdown with 20 seconds left to force overtime ... Carried the ball eight times for 52 yards and had a 24-yard catch ... Rushed 24 times for 117 yards and two scores against Coastal Carolina ... Scored the game winner in the third overtime ... Also caught two passes for 16 yards ... Amassed 222 all-purpose yards against New Mexico State ... Ran the ball six times for 143 yards and two touchdowns ... Also had a 9-yard catch and a 67-yard punt return for a touchdown to earn him Sun Belt Conference Special Teams Player of the Week honors ... Ran for 145 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries against No. 20 Appalachian State ... Scored on a 68-yard run on the first drive of the second half ... Scored on a 41-yard rushing touchdown against Troy ... Rushed 19 times for 76 yards against ULM ... Scored on a rushing touchdown late ... Carried the ball 19 times for 74 yards at Arkansas State ... Had 78 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries against Georgia State.

J.D. King: Leads the team with 776 rushing yards and eight touchdowns ... Was granted eligibility for the year on Aug. 18 following an appeal to the NCAA ... Made his Georgia Southern debut in the opener at No. 6 LSU, playing 33 offensive snaps ... Carried the ball 11 times for 23 yards against the Tigers ... Rushed 13 times for 41 yards, including a 25-yarder, against Maine ... Carried the ball seven times for 35 yards at Minnesota ... Tallied 59 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries against Louisiana ... Had 22 carries for 72 yards and a score at South Alabama ... Tallied 84 yards on 22 totes against Coastal Carolina ... Carried the ball 19 times for 143 yards and two touchdowns against New Mexico State ... Ran for 69 yards on 21 carries against No. 20 Appalachian State ... Carried the ball 15 times for 41 yards against Troy ... Ran the ball 16 times for 102 yards and a touchdown against ULM ... Missed the Arkansas State game with an injury ... Scored three touchdowns and ran for 107 yards on 16 carries against Georgia State.

Shai Werts: An honorable mention all-conference selection in 2017 and 2018 ... Has rushed for 676 yards and five touchdowns ... Has also thrown for 704 yards and nine touchdowns ... Got the start in the opener at No. 6 LSU, but his day was cut short after suffering a right shoulder injury early on ... Played just 17 snaps ... Had six rushes and three passing attempts in his brief appearance ... Missed the Maine and Minnesota games with a right shoulder injury ... Returned for the Louisiana game ... Rushed for 93 yards and threw for 37 in the game, playing all 70 offensive plays ... Rushed for 102 yards at South Alabama ... Also had 79 yards passing in the win ... Ran for 48 yards and also threw two touchdowns in overtime against Coastal Carolina ... Ran the ball eight times for 67 yards against New Mexico State ... Ran for 83 yards, including a 55-yard touchdown, against No. 20 Appalachian State ... Threw for 181 yards and three touchdowns against Troy ... Also carried the ball 22 times for 55 yards in the game ... Threw for 80 yards and a touchdown and ran for 53 yards and two scores against ULM ... Tallied 333 yards of total offense and accounted for four touchdowns at Arkansas State ... Passed for 175 yards and three touchdowns while rushing for 158 yards and a score ... Had 15 carries for 55 yards and a score against Georgia State ... Also completed seven passes for 73 yards.

Below are all the entire first, second and third teams, as well as the individual awards:

Player of the Year: Omar Bayless, Arkansas State (Senior, WR, Laurel, Miss.)

Offensive Player of the Year: Darrynton Evans, Appalachian State (Junior, RB, Oak Hill, Fla.)

Defensive Player of the Year: Akeem Davis-Gaither, Appalachian State (Senior, LB, Thomasville, N.C.)

Newcomer of the Year: Kaylon Geiger, Troy (Junior, WR, Fort Worth, Texas)

Freshman of the Year: Layne Hatcher, Arkansas State (Freshman, QB, Little Rock, Ark.)

Coach of the Year: Billy Napier, Louisiana

First Team Offense

Kaleb Barker, Troy (Senior, QB, Decatur, Ala.)

Darrynton Evans, Appalachian State (Junior, RB, Oak Hill, Fla.)

Tra Barnett, Georgia State (Senior, RB, Elberton, Ga.)

Omar Bayless, Arkansas State (Senior, WR, Laurel, Miss.)
Kirk Merritt, Arkansas State (Senior, WR, Destrehan, La.)
Kaylon Geiger, Troy (Junior, WR, Fort Worth, Texas)
Josh Pederson, ULM (Junior, TE, Morristown, N.J.)
Noah Hannon, Appalachian State (Junior, OL, Greer, S.C.)
Victor Johnson, Appalachian State (Senior, OL, North Augusta, S.C.)
Hunter Atkinson, Georgia State (Senior, OL, Flowery Branch, Ga.)
Kevin Dotson, Louisiana (Senior, OL, Plaquemine, La.)
Robert Hunt, Louisiana (Senior, OL, Burkeville, Texas)

First Team Defense

Demetrius Taylor, Appalachian State (Junior, DL, Miami, Fla.)
William Bradley-King, Arkansas State (Junior, DL, Kansas City, Mo.)
Tarron Jackson, Coastal Carolina (Junior, DL, Aiken, S.C.)
[Raymond Johnson III](#), **Georgia Southern (Junior, DL, Sumter, S.C.)**
Akeem Davis-Gaither, Appalachian State (Senior, LB, Thomasville, N.C.)
Bryan London II, Texas State (Senior, LB, Converse, Texas)
Carlton Martial, Troy (Sophomore, LB, Mobile, Ala.)
Shaun Jolly, Appalachian State (Sophomore, DB, Stone Mountain, Ga.)
Darreon Jackson, Arkansas State (Senior, DB, Derby, Kan.)
[Kindle Vildor](#), **Georgia Southern (Senior, DB, College Park, Ga.)**
Corey Straughter, ULM (Junior, DB, Monroe, La.)
Will Sunderland, Troy (Senior, DB, Midwest City, Okla.)

First Team Special Teams

Blake Grupe, Arkansas State (Sophomore, K, Sedalia, Mo.)
Cody Grace, Arkansas State (Senior, P, Perth, Western Australia)
Raymond Calais, Louisiana (Senior, RS, Breaux Bridge, La.)
Tra Minter, South Alabama (Senior, AP, Ellaville, Ga.)

Second Team Offense

Dan Ellington, Georgia State (Senior, QB, Olive Branch, Miss.)
Elijah Mitchell, Louisiana (Junior, RB, Erath, La.)
[Josh Johnson](#), ULM (Junior, RB, Opelika, Ala.)
Thomas Hennigan, Appalachian State (Junior, WR, Greensboro, N.C.)
Corey Sutton, Appalachian State (Junior, WR, Cornelius, N.C.)
Ja'Marcus Bradley, Louisiana (Senior, WR, Ackerman, Miss.)
Aubry Payne, Georgia State (Junior, TE, Locust Grove, Ga.)
Cooper Hodges, Appalachian State (Freshman, OL, Glen St. Mary, Fla.)
Baer Hunter, Appalachian State (Junior, OL, Clemmons, N.C.)
Bobby Reynolds, ULM (Senior, OL, Keller, Texas)
Aaron Brewer, Texas State (Senior, OT, Dallas, Texas)
J.I. Gaston, Troy (Senior, OL, Monroeville, Ala.)

Second Team Defense

Kevin Thurmon, Arkansas State (Senior, DL, Chicago, Ill.)
Zi'Yon Hill, Louisiana (Sophomore, DL, New Iberia, La.)
Jeffery Whatley, South Alabama (Senior, DL, Midland City, Ala.)
Will Choloh, Troy (Sophomore, DL, Lawrenceville, Ga.)
Jordan Fehr, Appalachian State (Senior, LB, Charlotte, N.C.)
[Rashad Byrd](#), **Georgia Southern (Junior, LB, North Augusta, S.C.)**
Joe Dillon, Louisiana (Junior, LB, Tylertown, Miss.)
Cortez Sisco, ULM (Senior, LB, Memphis, Tenn.)
Josh Thomas, Appalachian State (Senior, DB, Montgomery, Ala.)
B.J. Edmonds, Arkansas State (Senior, DB, Mobile, Ala.)
Chandler Kryst, Coastal Carolina (Senior, DB, Tega Cay, S.C.)
Michael Jacquet III, Louisiana (Senior, DB, Beaumont, Texas)

Second Team Special Teams

[Tyler Bass](#), **Georgia Southern (Senior, K, Irmo, S.C.)**
Rhys Byrns, Louisiana (Sophomore, P, Melbourne, Australia)
Darrynton Evans, Appalachian State (Junior, AP, Oak Hill, Fla.)
Darrynton Evans, Appalachian State (Junior, RS, Oak Hill, Fla.)

Third Team Offense

Zac Thomas, Appalachian State (Junior, QB, Trussville, Ala.)
Raymond Calais, Louisiana (Senior, RB, Breaux Bridge, La.)
Trey Ragas, Louisiana (Junior, RB, New Orleans, La.)
Jonathan Adams, Arkansas State (Junior, WR, Jonesboro, Ark.)
Cornelius McCoy, Georgia State (Sophomore, WR, Deerfield Beach, Fla.)
Reggie Todd, Troy (Junior, WR, Mobile, Ala.)
Isaiah Likely, Coastal Carolina (Sophomore, TE, Maiden, Mass.)
Jarrett Horst, Arkansas State (Sophomore, OL, Middleton, Wis.)
Jacob Still, Arkansas State (Junior, OL, Collierville, Tenn.)
Trey Carter, Coastal Carolina (Junior, OL, Monroeville, Ala.)
Shamarious Gilmore, Georgia State (Junior, OL, Riverdale, Ga.)
Kirk Kelley, Troy (Senior, OL, Marrero, La.)

Third Team Defense

C.J. Brewer, Coastal Carolina (Junior, DL, Bowdon, Ga.)
Sterling Johnson, Coastal Carolina (Senior, DL, Clayton, N.C.)
Donald Louis, ULM (Senior, DL, Monroe, La.)
Marcus Webb, Troy (Senior, DL, Decatur, Ala.)

Tajhea Chambers, Arkansas State (Junior, LB, Gordon, Ga.)
Teddy Gallagher, Coastal Carolina (Junior, LB, Los Angeles, Calif.)
Nikolas Daniels, Texas State (Senior, LB, League City, Texas)
Desmond Franklin, Appalachian State (Senior, DB, Inverness, Fla.)
[**Monquavion Brinson**](#), Georgia Southern (Senior, DB, Atlanta, Ga.)
[**Kenderick Duncan Jr.**](#), Georgia Southern (Sophomore, DB, Stockbridge, Ga.)
Travis Reed, South Alabama (Senior, DB, Meridian, Miss.)

Third Team Special Teams

Stevie Artigue, Louisiana (Senior, K, Lafayette, La.)
Tyler Sumpter, Troy (Junior, P, Hoover, Ala.)
Reggie Todd, Troy (Junior, RS, Mobile, Ala.)
Raymond Calais, Louisiana (Senior, AP, Breau Bridge, La.)

Honorable Mention (Georgia Southern Only)

[**Reynard Ellis**](#) (LB, So.)
[**Wesley Kennedy III**](#) (RB, Jr.)
[**J.D. King**](#) (RB, Jr.)
[**Shai Werts**](#) (QB, Jr.)