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# Georgia Southern University Athletics



Twelve Eagles Earn All-Sun Belt Honors  
Bass, Rainey and Vildor make first-team All-SBC  
Football

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

Junior kicker [Tyler Bass](#), senior offensive lineman [Curtis Rainey](#) and junior cornerback [Kindie Vildor](#) were chosen for first-team All-Sun Belt Conference accolades. Four players - junior cornerback [Monquavion Brinson](#), senior offensive lineman [Jeremiah Culbreth](#), senior running back [Wesley Fields](#) and sophomore defensive lineman [Raymond Johnson III](#) - were named second team and senior defensive lineman [Logan Hunt](#) earned third team. Four Eagles - sophomore linebacker [Rashad Byrd](#), sophomore running back/slot [Wesley Kennedy III](#), junior defensive lineman [Ty Phillips](#) and sophomore quarterback [Shai Werts](#) - earned honorable mention recognition.

"It's great for these 12 players to be recognized by the coaches and media around the conference for what they accomplished this year individually," head coach [Chad Lunsford](#) said. "What's even more exciting is that eight of these guys will be back next year. We've had a great year so far as a TEAM and now we have to go out and finish with a great effort in our bowl game."

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.

**[Tyler Bass](#):** 2017 second-team All-Sun Belt ... One of the best kickers in the country ... A Lou Groza Award semifinalist ... Is 16-for-18 on field goals with one miss coming from 57 yards ... Has a long kick of 50 yards and eight makes of 40 yards or longer ... Leads the league in field goal percentage ... Has made all 43 PATs and threw a two-point conversion ... Leads the team in scoring ... Also has six tackles on kickoffs ... Has 48 touchbacks ... Has 17 made field goals fo 40 yards or longer over the past two seasons.

**[Curtis Rainey](#):** The starting center for the Eagles ... A senior starter and key cog to the potent inside running game ... Has started 10 games this year, playing 667 offensive snaps ... Has played over 2,200 snaps in his career.

**[Kindie Vildor](#):** Considered one of the best corners in the country right now by Pro Football Focus analytics ... Leads the Sun Belt in pass breakups with 11, passes defended with 15 and is tied for the conference lead with four interceptions ... Also has 39 tackles, including 3.5 for loss ... Has been a true shutdown corner this

season as the Eagle pass defense has helped pave the way for the nation's No. 1 turnover margin squad ... Did not allow a completion against No. 2 Clemson, picking off a pass ... Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Week following his effort against Appalachian State.

## SECOND TEAM

**Monquavion Brinson:** 2017 second-team All-Sun Belt ... Is second on the team lead with 67 tackles ... Is second in the conference behind his teammate with 11 passes defended ... Is second in the league with 10 pass breakups ... Has an interception ... A big part of a defense that has helped the Eagles lead the nation in turnover margin ... Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Week following the South Alabama game.

**Jeremiah Culbreth:** Leads the team with 678 offensive snaps ... A four-year starter who has played over 2,400 snaps for his career ... A key cog in the Eagles' potent rushing attack as the starting tackle ... Has started all 12 games.

**Wesley Fields:** Leads the Eagles in both rushing and receiving yards, which would be a first for the Georgia Southern program ... Heads into the bowl with 951 rushing yards and 10 scores, along with 237 receiving and a score ... Averaging 108 all-purpose yards per games ... Had 148 yards rushing and two touchdowns at Coastal Carolina and then went for 151 and a score the next week against Georgia State ... Averaged 95 yards per game in Sun Belt contests.

**Raymond Johnson III:** An honorable mention selection last season as a true freshman ... A force off the edge for the Eagles ... Leads the team with 8.0 tackles for loss and his 4.5 sacks are second on the team ... Is second in the conference lead with three fumble recoveries ... Also has three QB hurries, a forced fumble, two pass breakups, a sack and a blocked PAT.

## THIRD TEAM

**Logan Hunt:** A second-team All-Sun Belt selection last year ... A force off the edge for the Eagles' pesky run defense ... Leads the team with 5.0 sacks ... Has 29 tackles, including 6.5 for loss ... Also has a forced fumble ... Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Week following the Arkansas State game.

## HONORABLE MENTION

**Rashad Byrd:** Is fourth on the team in tackles with 47, including 5.0 for loss and ... Has been a big-play maker ... Had an interception against Clemson and recovered a fumble against Arkansas State ... Blocked a field goal against Georgia State.

**Wesley Kennedy III:** Is among the league leaders in all-purpose yards ... Has stats as a rusher, receiver, as well as kick and punt returner, the only person on the team who can boast that ... Has rushed for 388 yards and three touchdowns ... Averages 12 yards per catch and 98 all-purpose yards per game.

**Ty Phillips:** A force in the middle for the Eagles' strong rushing defense ... Has 32 tackles on the season, including 3.0 for loss and 2.5 sacks ... Picked up a fumble and returned it 17 yards ... Part of a defensive effort that has the Eagles at No. 1 in the country in turnover margin.

**Shai Werts:** Having one of the best seasons in program history in terms of efficiency ... Leads the team and the conference with 13 rushing touchdowns after having three all of last year ... Also has 10 touchdowns through the air ... Has 829 rushing yards and 954 passing yards ... Has not completed a pass to the other team in 111 attempts heading into the bowl game ... Sun Belt Offensive Player of the Week following his big game against Appalachian State.

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

**Player of the Year: Justice Hansen (Arkansas State, QB, RS-Senior)**

**Offensive Player of the Year: Zac Thomas (Appalachian State, QB, Sophomore)**

**Defensive Player of the Year: Ronheen Bingham (Arkansas State, DE, Senior)**

**Newcomer of the Year: Kirk Merrit (Arkansas State, WR, Junior)**

**Freshman of the Year: Marcel Murray (Arkansas State, RB, Freshman)**

**Coach of the Year: Scott Satterfield (Appalachian State)**

## First Team Offense

QB - Justice Hansen (Arkansas State, RS-Senior)

RB - Darrynton Evans (Appalachian State, Sophomore)

RB - B.J. Smith (Troy, Junior)

WR - Kirk Merrit (Arkansas State, Junior)

WR - Marcus Green (ULM, Senior)

WR - Damion Willis (Troy, Senior)

TE - Keenen Brown (Texas State, Senior)

OL - Victor Johnson (Appalachian State, Junior)

OL - Lanard Bonner (Arkansas State, Senior)

**OL - Curtis Rainey (Georgia Southern, Senior)**

OL - Kevin Dotson (Louisiana, Junior)

OL - Kirk Kelley (Troy, Junior)

## First Team Defense

DL - MyQuon Stout (Appalachian State, Senior)

DL - Ronheen Bingham (Arkansas State, Senior)

DL - Jeffrey Gunter (Coastal Carolina, Sophomore)

DL - Trevon Sanders (Troy, Senior)

LB - Jordan Fehr (Appalachian State, Junior)

LB - Bryan London II (Texas State, Junior)

LB - Hunter Reese (Troy, Senior)

DB - Clifton Duck (Appalachian State, Junior)

DB - Desmond Franklin (Appalachian State, Junior)

DB - Justin Clifton (Arkansas State, Senior)

**DB - Kindle Vildor (Georgia Southern, Junior)**

DB - Cedarius Rookard (Troy, Senior)

## First Team Special Teams

**K - Tyler Bass (Georgia Southern, Junior)**

**P - Brandon Wright (Georgia State, Junior)**

RS - Marcus Jones (Troy, Sophomore)  
AP - Marcus Green (ULM, Senior)

#### **Second Team Offense**

QB - Zac Thomas (Appalachian State, Sophomore)  
RB - Elijah Mitchell (Louisiana, Sophomore)  
**RB - [Wesley Fields](#) (Georgia Southern, Senior)**  
WR - Corey Sutton (Appalachian State, Sophomore)  
WR - Justin McInnis (Arkansas State, Senior)  
WR - Jamarius Way (South Alabama, Senior)  
TE - Javonis Isaac (Arkansas State, Sophomore)  
OL - Chandler Greer (Appalachian State, Senior)  
OL - Noah Hannon (Appalachian State, Sophomore)  
**OL - [Jeremiah Culbreth](#) (Georgia Southern, Senior)**  
OL - Robert Hunt (Louisiana, Junior)  
OL - Deontae Crumitie (Troy, Senior)

#### **Second Team Defense**

DL - William Bradley-King (Arkansas State, Sophomore)  
DL - Forrest Merrill (Arkansas State, Junior)  
**DL - Raymond Johnson (Georgia Southern, Sophomore)**  
DL - Tyree Turner (South Alabama, Junior)  
LB - Akeem Davis-Gaither (Appalachian State, Junior)  
LB - David Griffith (ULM, Senior)  
LB - Bull Barge (South Alabama, Senior)  
LB - Tron Folsom (Troy, Junior)  
DB - Jerry Jacobs (Arkansas State, Sophomore)  
**DB - [Monquavion Brinson](#) (Georgia Southern, Junior)**  
DB - Nigel Lawrence (South Alabama, Senior)  
DB - Marcus Jones (Troy, Sophomore)

#### **Second Team Special Teams**

K - Tyler Sumpter (Troy, Sophomore)  
P - Cody Grace (Arkansas State, Junior)  
RS - Tra Minter (South Alabama, Junior)  
AP - Tra Minter (South Alabama, Junior)

#### **Third Team Offense**

QB - Caleb Evans (ULM, Junior)  
RB - Marcel Murray (Arkansas State, Freshman)  
RB - Trey Ragas (Louisiana, Sophomore)  
WR - Penny Hart (Georgia State, Junior)  
WR - Ja'Marcus Bradley (Louisiana, Junior)  
WR - Deondre Douglas (Troy, Senior)  
TE - Collin Reed (Appalachian State, Junior)  
OL - Hunter Atkinson (Georgia State, Junior)  
OL - T.J. Fiailoa (ULM, Sophomore)  
OL - Bobby Reynolds (ULM, Junior)  
OL - Tristan Crowder (Troy, Junior)  
OL - J.I. Gaston (Troy, Junior)

#### **Third Team Defense**

DL - Tarron Jackson (Coastal Carolina, Sophomore)  
**DL - [Logan Hunt](#) (Georgia Southern, Senior)**  
DL - Zi'Yon Hill (Louisiana, Freshman)  
DL - Antione Barker (Troy, Junior)  
DL - Jarvis Hayes (Troy, Junior)  
LB - Anthony Flory (Appalachian State, Senior)  
LB - Jacques Boudreaux (Louisiana, Junior)  
LB - Nikolas Daniels (Texas State, Junior)  
DB - Tae Hayes (Appalachian State, Senior)  
DB - Darreon Jackson (Arkansas State, Junior)  
DB - Blace Brown (Troy, Senior)  
DB - Tyler Murray (Troy, Sophomore)

#### **Third Team Special Teams**

K - Massimo Biscardi (Coastal Carolina, Freshman)  
P - Tyler Sumpter (Troy, Sophomore)  
RS - Clifton Duck (Appalachian State, Junior)  
AP - Darrynton Evans (Appalachian State, Sophomore)

#### **Honorable Mention (Georgia Southern Only)**

[Rashad Byrd](#) (LB, So.)  
[Wesley Kennedy III](#) (RB/Slot, So.)  
[Ty Phillips](#) (DL, Jr.)  
[Shai Werts](#) (QB, So.)

