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Setting the Scene Game Preview

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SETTING THE SCENE

Game Preview

Probable Starters

#0 - Montae Glenn
#3 - Ike Smith
#4 - Tookie Brown
#13 - Quan Jackson
#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern caps a three-game road trip by traveling to UCF for a 7 p.m. contest Tuesday on ESPN3.
- After playing five games in the first 13 days of the season, Georgia Southern has played just three games in the last 22.
- The Eagles have won 10 of their last 13, dating back to last year, and are coming off an 89-75 win over in-state rival Mercer Saturday afternoon.
- GS ranks second in the country in field goal percentage (.527) and 10th in scoring, averaging 88.5 points a game.
- The Eagles are ranked 21st in the latest CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Poll.
- Georgia Southern senior guards Tookie Brown and Ike Smith were named All-Sun Belt, and the Eagles were picked in a tie for second in the conference's Preseason Men's Basketball Coaches Poll.
- 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 had Brown on the preseason All-Sun Belt team and the Eagles picked in the top-3 of the conference.
- Brown was named first-team All-Sun Belt and first-team All-District for the third consecutive season last year. He is the 17th player in the 43-year history of the Sun Belt to earn first-team accolades in three seasons and became the first Eagle to accomplish the feat in Georgia Southern history.
- Brown has been named to the Lou Henson Award Watch List for the second straight season. The award is given to the Mid-Major Basketball Player of the Year at the Final Four.
- GS has six scholarship newcomers on the roster, the most in a season during head coach Mark Byington's tenure. The Eagles returned just five lettermen, but three seniors were starters the last two seasons and the five returners entered the campaign with 3,936 career points among them, the 12th-most in the country.
- With a 21-12 record last season, Georgia Southern reached 20 wins for the second time in four years.
- Georgia Southern has finished in the top-3 in three of their four seasons in the Sun Belt and has 46 conference victories, the fourth-most since 2014. The Eagles joined Louisiana and UTA as the only three Sun Belt schools to reach double-digit conference wins in each of the last four seasons.
- UCF has won six of its last seven and is coming off a 70-45 home win over Grambling State Saturday afternoon. The Knights are 4-1 at home with the lone loss coming to Florida Atlantic in the third game of the season.
- The Knights are in the middle of a four-game homestand to finish their non-conference schedule.
- The Knights are receiving votes in the USA Today Coaches Poll at 7-2 on the season.
- The Knights have been dominant on defense the last two seasons under Johnny Dawkins, holding opponents to a combined 38.10 percent from the floor, which led the nation during that period.
- Only two teams in the nation were ranked in the top six in scoring defense in both 2016-17 and 2017-18 - UCF and Virginia.
- The Knights rank 11th in the nation in defensive field goal percentage (36.7) and 20th in scoring defense (60.8).
- The Knights were picked to win The American by the league's coaches, a first for the program in its Division I history.