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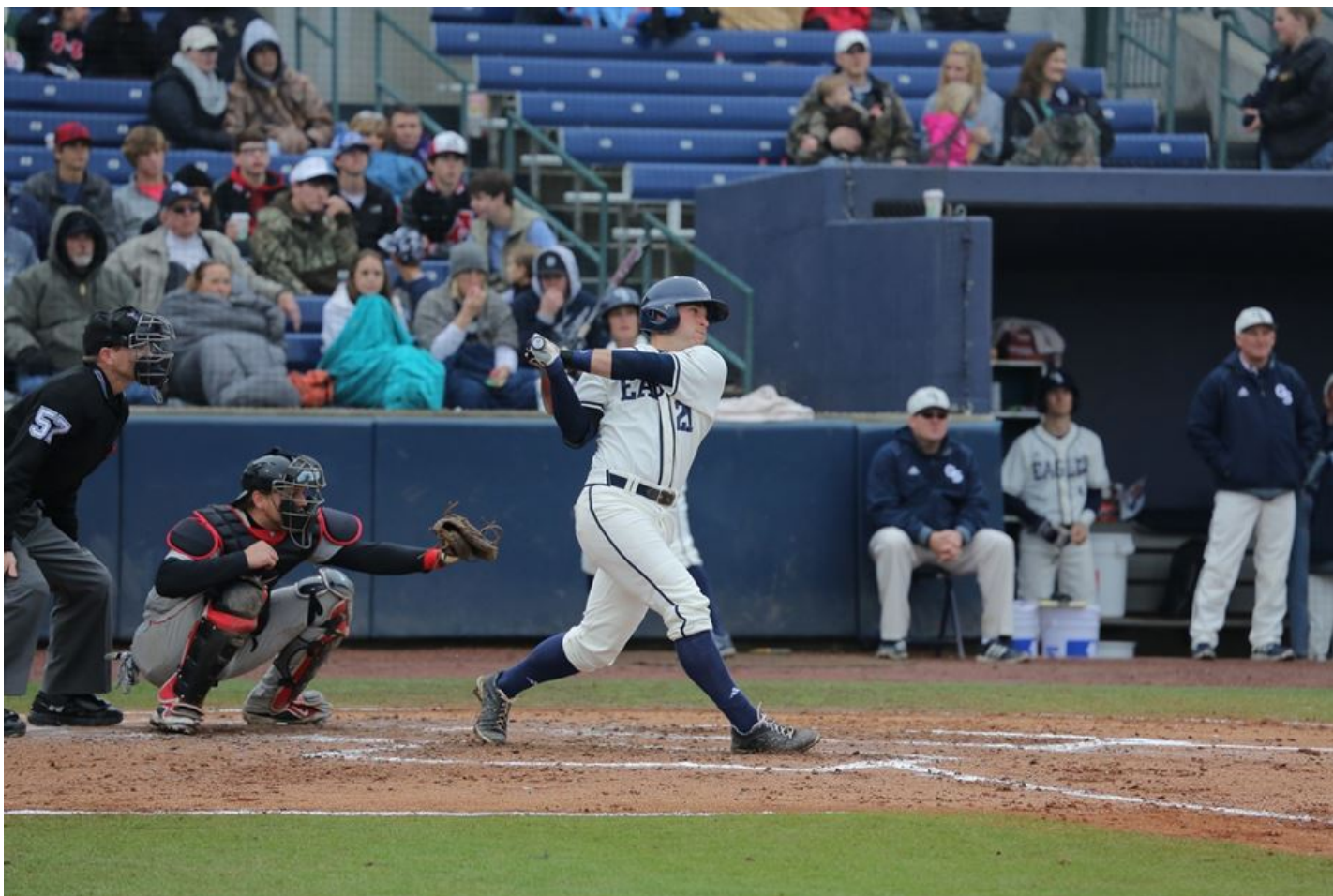
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Georgia Southern University Athletics



Thomas' Walk Off Lifts Eagles to First Sun Belt Win
Baseball

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[Hennon Interview](#) | [Thomas Interview](#)

STATESBORO, Ga. – [Hunter Thomas](#) delivered a two out walk-off single with the bases loaded in the ninth inning to hand the Georgia Southern Eagles their first Sun Belt Conference win 5-4 over the Appalachian State Mountaineers at J.I. Clements Stadium.

Georgia Southern (9-5, 1-0) led early but an eighth-inning rally put Appalachian State (5-7, 0-1) ahead 4-3.

[Aaron Mizell](#) led off the ninth inning with a single through the right side of the infield, and an error by the shortstop Dillon Dobson and a bunt single by [Kody Adams](#) loaded the bases with no outs.

Ryan Ross came on in relief of Taylor Thurber and recorded two quick outs before allowing the game-winning single to Thomas. The senior pinched hit in the eighth inning and beat Ross to the bag on a ball hit to the right side of the defense.

"I am really proud of [Hunter Thomas](#). He is a team guy. He wasn't in the lineup tonight but has a great attitude every day. He steps up there in the biggest at-bat in the game and hustled down the line," Head Coach [Rodney Hennon](#) said.

Thurber (2-1) took the loss after allowing four hits and two unearned runs over 1.2 innings.

[Chris Brown](#) (2-1) worked around a leadoff walk in the ninth inning and struck out a batter to earn his second win of the season.

[Evan Challenger](#) allowed one run over five innings and struck out three batters but received his third-straight no decision.

The Eagles led 2-0 after the first inning. [Aaron Mizell](#) plated a [Spencer Duffie](#) one-out double and later scored on a [Charles Sheffield](#) infield single.

The Mountaineers struck for three runs in the eighth inning off of reliever [Jason Richman](#) to take a 4-1 lead.

"[Jason Richman](#) has picked us up so many times. It was time for our guys to pick Jason up," Hennon said. "I felt like App State had a good approach against him, and they put some good swings on the ball."

The series continues tomorrow at 2 p.m. Senior righthander [Tripp Sheppard](#) will take the mound for the Eagles, while the Mountaineers will start freshman righthander Travis Holden.

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