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Georgia Southern University Athletics



South Alabama Takes Series with 12-7 Win over Baseball

The series finale is set for 1 p.m. Sunday

Marc Gignac

Baseball

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STATESBORO, Ga. – South Alabama used seven singles to plate eight runs in the top of the sixth inning, and Cody Van Aken tossed four scoreless innings to finish the game as the Jags topped Georgia Southern 12-7 Saturday at J.I. Clements Stadium.

[Cal Baker](#) led the Georgia Southern (27-20, 16-10) offense with two hits, and [Ryan Cleveland](#) drove in three runs, including two with two-out a single.

Ben Gann was 3-for-5 with a double and three RBIs to lead South Alabama (31-17, 16-7), and Cole Gleason was 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles. Van Aken took the mound with a five-run lead in the bottom of the sixth and gave up just one hit while striking out two the rest of the way.

Trailing 7-4 in the sixth, a leadoff walk, six straight singles 1-out singles and a pair of Eagle errors helped the Jaguars score eight runs and open a 12-7 cushion.

After surrendering a run in the first inning, the Eagles plated four runs in the second inning with the help of four hit batters and two walks. South Alabama came back with three runs in the fourth on the strength of an RBI double by Cole Billingsley and a two-run double by Gann.

Cleveland's two-out single drove in two runs to give the Eagles the lead back at 6-4 in the fourth, and the Eagles had a chance to break the game open with the bases loaded and one out in the fifth. [Aaron Mizell](#) flied out to center field before [Chase Griffin](#) drew a bases-loaded walk to score a run. Jaguar pitcher Joey Jones got [Hunter Thomas](#) to fly out to left field to end the threat.

"We didn't play well in really any area of the game – offensively, defensively and we didn't pitch very well," said assistant head coach for pitching [B.J. Green](#).

"Walks, errors and plays we didn't make can cost you when you are playing a quality opponent, and I think that's what happened today."

First pitch for the final game of the series is set for 1 p.m. Sunday, and Georgia Southern and the baseball program will honor its six seniors as a part of Senior Day prior to the contest.

"The key tomorrow is getting back to playing good baseball so we can continue down the stretch here," said Green. "We need to just come out and play a good, clean baseball game – get timely hits, make pitches and play good defensively."

Active duty and retired military members will receive a free general admission ticket with ID and Family members can purchase discounted general admission tickets for \$5 each Sunday as part of Military Appreciation Weekend. In addition, International Diamond Center will give away a .70 carat round brilliant diamond to a fan who finds it buried in the infield following Sunday's contest. Fans can register to dig for the diamond on the concourse before the game.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, GSEagles.com, through social media channels facebook.com/GSathletics, twitter.com/GSathletics, iOS app Georgia Southern Eagles and Android app Eagles GATA. Tickets to Georgia Southern athletics events can be purchased by calling 1-800-GSU-WINS or by visiting GSEagles.com and clicking on the tickets link in the top menu.

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