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Georgia Southern University Athletics



Southern vs. State Rematch Opens Sun Belt Tournament

Baseball

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STATESBORO, Ga. - Georgia Southern and Georgia State will square off for the fourth-straight time as a Southern vs. State rematch is slated to open the 2015 Sun Belt Conference Tournament on Wednesday at 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET.

The Eagles (30-25) are the reigning Southern Conference Tournament Champions after [Chase Griffin](#) hit a walk-off single in a 4-3 win over Samford in the 2014 SoCon Tournament.

Georgia Southern will not defend its title as the team moved to the Sun Belt Conference for the 2015 season.

The Eagles finished fourth in the standings and will be the number four seed in the Sun Belt Tournament that opens on Wednesday.

Georgia Southern took the regular season series from Georgia State on Saturday in 11 innings. [Ryan Cleveland](#) delivered the go-ahead run with a RBI single. Georgia

Southern dropped the series opener to the Panthers (29-25) 6-2 before winning game two 4-3 on Friday.

South Alabama won the regular season title and will face eight seed Arkansas State in game two of the day at 1:30 p.m. ET.

The winners of game one and two will meet in the winners bracket at 5 p.m. ET on Thursday, while the losers will play at 10 a.m. ET.

The Eagles enter the conference tournament hitting .259 as a team. [Kody Adams](#) leads the team with a .327 batting average, a .408 on-base percentage and 14 doubles. [Aaron Mizell](#) ranks third in the conference with 12 home runs and ranks second on the team with a .289 batting average.

The pitching staff holds a 4.21 ERA. [Jason Richman](#) ranks third in the conference with seven victories and is 7-1 with a 3.56 ERA.

[Evan Challenger](#) leads the pitching rotation and ranks second in the Sun Belt with a 1.95 ERA. Challenger is 5-3 in 13 starts and will get the call on Wednesday against Georgia State.

Challenger allowed three runs on six hits and a walk on Thursday in a 6-2 loss to the Panthers. The lefthander allowed three two-out runs over the first two innings before settling in to retire seven-straight batters before a Trae Sweeting single in the fifth inning. Challenger punched out Justin Jones before exiting after 4.2 innings.

Georgia State enters the field of eight with a .273 batting average. Matt Rose leads the SBC with a 15 home runs and is hitting .289 in 50 starts. Catcher Joey Roach leads the squad with a .314 batting average.

The Panthers' (29-25) pitching staff holds a 4.02 ERA. Kevin Burgee has been solid out of the bullpen for Georgia State and has seven saves with a 2.54 ERA. Nathan Bates will likely get the call on Wednesday and is 5-3 with a 4.25 ERA.

Links to live stats, audio and video are available on gseagles.com.

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