Volleyball Preview: Eagles Play ULM in Sun Belt Tourney Thursday

Georgia Southern University

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Georgia Southern University Athletics

Volleyball Preview: Eagles Play ULM in Sun Belt Tourney Thursday
First serve is set for 1 p.m. ET Thursday on ESPN+.
Marc Gignac
Women's Volleyball
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Ga. Southern (16-10, 9-7) vs. ULM (5-26, 1-15)
Date: Nov. 18 - 1 p.m. ET - Foley Sports Tourism Center
Series: GS leads 6-4, W1 | Series History
Tickets | Live Video (ESPN+) | Live Stats | Tournament Bracket

Georgia Southern
Roster
Stats
Schedule

ULM
Roster
Stats
Schedule
Georgia Southern plays in its fourth Sun Belt Conference Tournament this week, and the Eagles open the tourney by taking on ULM Thursday at 1 p.m. ET in the Foley Sports Tourism Center. The winner of the tourney earns the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The Eagles, who earned the third seed in the East Division, defeated the Warhawks 3-1 in Monroe in their only meeting this season, and GS owns a 6-4 edge in the all-time series, which began in 2005. The winner of the match plays the West's second seed, UTA, Friday at 1 p.m. ET.

The Eagles have never defeated UTA in 11 tries and suffered a 3-0 home loss Oct. 31 in the lone meeting between the teams this season.

Georgia Southern is 1-3 all-time in the Sun Belt Tournament after picking up its first victory last year with a 3-2 win over Troy in pool play. The Eagles have never faced ULM in the Sun Belt Tournament and lost 3-1 in their only meeting against UTA last season in pool play.

This will mark the second consecutive year that the Sun Belt Tournament will take place in Foley, and each of the tournament's 11 matches will be broadcast on ESPN+. This year's tournament will be a single-elimination event.

Georgia Southern is coming off a 1-1 weekend, topping Troy 3-1 and falling 3-0 to South Alabama. GS has won three of its last four matches.

ULM has lost its last 15 matches, a stretch that started with a 3-1 setback to Georgia Southern Sept. 24.

The Eagles' 16 wins so far this season are the most since Georgia Southern went 28-6 in 2013, and their nine Sun Belt wins are their most since joining the league in 2014. Their 11 home wins are the most since 2013, when GS went 13-2 in Hanner Fieldhouse.

Madison Brown earned Sun Belt Conference Setter of the Week honors for the third time in her career Nov. 9.

Brown moved into fifth place on the Georgia Southern all-time assist list with 2,901. She leads the league in aces (0.49/set) and ranks fourth in assists (9.31). She is the third Eagle to win a Sun Belt weekly award this season. Freshman Ashlyn Lovett has been named Defensive Player of the Week twice (Sept. 28 and Oct. 26), and sophomore Grace Slader was named Setter of the Week Oct. 12.

Lovett ranks seventh in the league in digs (4.13/set), and Slader ranks fifth in the Sun Belt in assists (8.70/set) and third in aces (0.38/set).

The Eagles rank fifth in the Sun Belt in hitting percentage (.209), sixth in blocks (2.12/set) and sixth in aces (1.46/set).

Baylor Bumford ranks second in the Sun Belt in hitting percentage (.368).

Senior Maddie Bryant notched 10 kills vs. Arkansas State Oct. 23 to reach 600 for her career. She now has 652 kills, 569 digs and 143 blocks.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting the following link: Sun Belt Women's Volleyball Championship Tickets. Tickets are for daily admission, are good for all matches that day and must be purchased online. No on site cash transactions will take place. Sun Belt students with a valid ID will be admitted free of charge.