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Georgia Southern University Athletics



Spring Football Practice: O-line Ready to Keep Rolling
Blue vs. White Spring Game is set for 1 p.m. Saturday in Paulson Stadium
Marc Gignac
Football

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STATESBORO, Ga. – Senior offensive lineman [Darren Foreman](#) is probably tired of answering the same question over and over and over again this spring.

It's probably been re-phrased 100 different ways, but it's the same question, which in its purest form is - are ya'll gonna be ready?

That's what happens when you are the lone starter back from an offensive line that helped Georgia Southern lead the nation in rushing last season. Everybody wants to know who will fill the roles left behind by four seniors who played a ton of snaps for the Eagles and if the unit can be as good as it was last year.

"It has been the question, but we just come out here every day and try to get better, working on the little things," said Foreman. "Some of the younger guys haven't had that much experience, but we're trying to get them a lot of reps and portray game speed as much as possible to give them experience so come fall camp, we'll be ready."

Foreman started all 12 games at left guard on an offensive line that helped the Eagles rush for over 380 yards a game and 55 touchdowns. For those scoring at home, that's 4.6 rushing touchdowns a game. Looking to fill the void left by the four seniors is a wealth of talent and, equally as important at the FBS level, size. The 10 offensive lineman on the spring depth chart average over 6-foot-2 and 300 pounds.

"I feel like the younger guys are getting better and putting in extra time outside of practice to get comfortable with the system," said Foreman.

The refurbished O-line has also spent 13 spring practice sessions going against a veteran D-line that helped a defense rank first in the Sun Belt in points allowed. It just so happens that those guys play for Georgia Southern too.

"It's helping us a lot because those guys have seen game speed, and it's helping the other guys who haven't played in a game get more experience," said Foreman.

So to answer the question, it looks as though Eagle Nation need not worry as long as the Eagles adhere to their mantra, "Get Better Every Day."

"We're going to be as good as we work and if we put in enough hard work the rest of this spring and into the offseason, we'll be fine," said Foreman.

Georgia Southern practiced in shorts and helmets for about an hour and a half on an unseasonably cool day on the banks of Beautiful Eagle Creek. The Eagles were visited by the Southern Pigskin Radio Network, which broadcast live from the Ted Smith Family Football Center and spent time with a number of student-athletes as well as offensive coordinator [Doug Ruse](#) and head coach [Willie Fritz](#).

The Eagles are not expected to practice Friday. Saturday's Blue vs. White Spring Game is set for 1 p.m. in Paulson Stadium.

Spring Game

Kickoff for the Blue vs. White Spring Game is set for 1 p.m. Saturday and gates open at noon. Fans are asked to enter the stadium through gates 1 and 12 and sit in the North Stands. Admission and parking are free, and the Rotary Corporation Field of Dreams will be open for the kids to toss the old pigskin around. There will also be inflatables, courtesy of Crazy Nick's, on the Field of Dreams.

While Blue and White GATA on the field Saturday, the second annual Tailgate Cook-Off will be contested in the parking lot. Tasting begins at 11 a.m. and concludes at 12:30 p.m. Eagle fans are invited to serve as tasting judges for \$3 to enter the tailgate zone, sample the food and complete a ballot to determine the top four. Scores from the tasting judges will be calculated, and winners will be announced during the game.

The top-place tailgate and grill masters win a one-night stay at a hotel plus 2 tickets to the Georgia Southern vs. Georgia game in Athens Nov. 21, 2015. Fans at the game can enter a drawing for a UniFlame Gas Grill, courtesy of the Sun Belt Conference. Fans must be at least 18-years-old to enter the drawing.

Following the game, the Eagle Football Alumni Association (EFAA) will be holding its Eighth Annual \$10,000 Reverse Raffle & Auction at 5 p.m. in the Gene Bishop Field House. There will be a silent and live auction, which will feature an array of items such as autographed memorabilia, vacation opportunities, once-in-a-lifetime Georgia Southern game experiences, vintage Georgia Southern Football memorabilia, autographed memorabilia from local professional teams and much more. The final 10 tickets in the reverse raffle will be drawn after the live auction, and the final ticket will win \$10,000! The ticket cost is \$100, which will allow a total of two people into the event and one entry in the \$10,000 Reverse Raffle drawing. Food and beverages will be complimentary with a ticket purchase.

Also following the football game, the Georgia Southern softball team plays host to Troy in a doubleheader beginning at 3 p.m., and the first 100 fans who present their roster card from the spring football game at the softball doubleheader will receive a free t-shirt.

Weekend Events

- 2nd Annual Spring Football Tailgate Cook-off – Saturday, April 18 | Tasting begins at 11 a.m.
- Blue-White Spring Football Game – Saturday, April 18 at 1 p.m.
- EFAA Reverse Raffle and Auction – Saturday, April 18 at 5 p.m. in Bishop Field House
- Eagle Softball vs. Troy – Saturday, April 18 at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
The first 100 fans to bring their roster card from Blue-White game will receive a free t-shirt
- Eagle Softball vs. Troy – Sunday, April 19 at noon

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. Eagle fans can follow Coach [Willie Fritz](#)'s twitter account @CoachWEFritz. For tickets, call 1-800-GSU-WINS or visit GSEagles.com/tickets.
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