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# WBB Weekend Preview: Eagle Women Travel to Face Off Against UL Monroe and Louisiana This Weekend

*Georgia Southern hits the road to continue Sun Belt play Thursday and Saturday*



Dan Groover

Women's Basketball | 1/11/2017 1:50:00 PM

## Story Links

[2016-17 GS WBB Quick Facts \(PDF\)](#)

[2016-17 GS WBB Media Guide \(PDF\)](#)

[@GSAthletics WBB](#)

[@coachdrown](#)

[@GSAthletics](#)

**STATESBORO, Ga.** – The Georgia Southern women's basketball team travels to the state of Louisiana this weekend to face off against Sun Belt foes UL Monroe and Louisiana. The Eagles tip off the weekend against UL Monroe at 7 p.m. on Thursday night and will then travel to Lafayette to face off against the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns on Saturday at 6 p.m. EST.

### **THURSDAY GAME SNAPSHOT**

Georgia Southern vs. UL Monroe

Thursday, Jan. 12 | 7:00 p.m. EST | Fant-Ewing Coliseum (Monroe, La.)

[Live Video](#) | [Live Stats](#) | [Live Audio \(GS Sports Network\)](#)

### **SCOUTING THE WARHAWKS (Twitter - [@ULM\\_WBB](#))**

GS and ULM met in women's basketball for the first time in 2015 when Georgia Southern joined the Sun Belt Conference. The Warhawks and Eagles have met four times since their original debut in 2015 and UL Monroe has defeated Georgia Southern each time, holding a commanding 4-0 record. Both teams will be looking for their first conference win during Thursday night's matchup.

Jeff Dow enters his third season at the helm of the Warhawks program. Dow holds an all-time career record as a head coach and as an assistant coach of 480-286 (.627) and a record of 245-140 (.636) as a head coach. In his time as a coach, Dow has compiled twelve 20-win seasons, seven NCAA tournament appearances, four postseason WNIT appearances and six conference championships.

UL Monroe has started their campaign 3-11 and 0-3 in Sun Belt play with their only wins being over Centenary, LSU-Alexandria, and Houston Baptist. The Warhawks enter Thursdays matchup on a three-game losing streak and have dropped 8 of their last 9 games. The Warhawks are averaging 56.7 points per game while giving up 72.4 points to their opponents. ULM enters Thursday's game shooting 37.0% (281-759) from the field and are averaging 4.9 three pointers per contest. The Warhawks have forced 13.6 turnovers per game, but also turn the ball over 22.2 times per game themselves.

ULM is led in scoring by Gabriella Cortez, a transfer from Southwest CC. The junior forward averages 12.1 points per game and holds a 38.1% three-point percentage on the year. Senior forward Stephanie Ratliff leads the Warhawks from down low, posting a team-best 7.6 rebounds per game, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> in the Sun Belt.

[2016-17 UL Monroe Roster](#)

[2016-17 UL Monroe Schedule](#)

[2016-17 UL Monroe Statistics](#)

### **SATURDAY GAME SNAPSHOT**

Georgia Southern vs. Louisiana

Saturday, Jan. 14 | 6:00 p.m. EST | Cajundome (Lafayette, La.)

[Live Video](#) | [Live Stats](#) | [Live Audio \(GS Sports Network\)](#) |

### **SCOUTING THE RAGIN' CAJUNS (Twitter - [@RaginCajunsWBB](#))**

Georgia Southern and University of Louisiana at Lafayette have met in women's basketball only four times in school history, with the Ragin' Cajuns owning a 4-0 record over the Eagles. The two teams met for the first time in 2015 when Georgia Southern entered the Sun Belt Conference.

Garry Brodhead enters his fifth season at the helm of the Ragin' Cajuns women's basketball team prior to spending the previous five seasons as an associate head coach at McNeese State, where he helped guide the Cowgirls to a 52-15 record from 2010-2012, as well as back-to-back Southland Conference championships and NCAA Championship appearances. Last season, Brodhead guided the Cajuns to the best season in his tenure at Louisiana, winning 25 games and claiming a second-straight Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI) Tournament Championship.

The Ragin' Cajuns will face off against Georgia State on Thursday night, and they enter that game with a record of 8-4, 2-1 in conference play with wins over ULM and Arkansas State. The Ragin' Cajuns are averaging 71.4 points per game while holding their opponents to 69.4 points. As a team, ULL enters Thursday's game shooting 42.3% (320-757) from the field and are averaging 4.8 three-pointers per contest. The Ragin' Cajuns have forced 20.3 turnovers per game, and only average 14.1 turnovers per game.

Louisiana is led in scoring by Jaylyn Gordon's 18.9 points per game. The senior guard had started every game for the Ragin' Cajuns, averaging 39.3 minutes per game. She enters Thursday's game shooting 35.6% (73-205) from the field and 35.6% (32-90) from three-point range. She is second on the team with 24 total steals, trailing behind freshman guard Jasmine Thomas who has totaled 28 on the year. Simone Fields averages 16.4 points per game and leads the team from down low with 89 total rebounds. The junior forward has a whopping 57.0% (85-149) percentage from the field with an average of 7.9 rebounds per game.

[2016-17 Louisiana Roster](#)

[2016-17 Louisiana Schedule](#)

[2016-17 Louisiana Statistics \(PDF\)](#)

#### **LAST TIME OUT (L, 86-89 vs. Troy)**

Kayla Robinson scored 17 points, and Jayla Chills hit a huge jumper with 21.1 seconds left as Troy held off Georgia Southern 89-86 in Sun Belt Conference women's basketball action Saturday afternoon in Hanner Fieldhouse.

Georgia Southern trimmed a 20-point second-half deficit down to two points on a 3-pointer by [Alexis Sams](#) with 49 seconds left. Chills dropped in the pull-up jumper with the shot clock winding down, and Sams missed a triple try from the wing on the Eagles' trip down the floor. GS was forced to foul, and Chills made 1 of 2 free throws with eight seconds left. [Sierra Butler](#) scored a layup with one second remaining, but the Trojans inbounded the ball without incident and time ran off.

[Patrice Butler](#) collected 24 points, one off her career high, and matched her career best with 11 rebounds for Georgia Southern (4-10, 0-3). [Sierra Butler](#) tallied 14 points and matched her career-high with 14 rebounds, and [Alexis Brown](#) scored a career-high 17 points. [Angel](#)

McGowan scored 19, and Sams netted eight off the bench, all in the second half.

Robinson made 6 of 10 from the field, and Chills finished with 13 points, six rebounds and five assists for Troy (10-4, 3-0). Amanda Mendoza scored 12, and Claresa Banks chipped in 11. Caitlyn Ramirez finished with 9 points and 11 rebounds.

### **RECORD CLIMBING**

- The next start for Senior, Alexis Sams will move her into sole possession for fifth place all-time in games started (94) passing Sharon Mitchell (1996-01), and set her sights on Rosie Arnold (1995-99) who sits in fourth place with 97. Sams eclipsed the 500 career point mark with six points against UCF (12/17). She has now scored 519 career points during her collegiate career. She is also in the top-11 of three career categories, including 11th in three-point field goals made (116), 7th in three-point field goals attempted (384), passing Lee Dubose (2002-06), and tied for fifth in games started (93).

- Senior Patrice Butler scored her 1,000th career point against South Alabama (1/5). She has scored 895 points while in Statesboro and has 1,026 collegiate points between her time at Furman (131) and Georgia Southern (895).

- Senior Angel McGowan is currently in the top-20 in program history of four career categories, including the top-10 of two. With her 19 points against Troy, McGowan moved into 15th all-time for points scored (1,169) passing Tiffany Brown (2004-08) and sets her sights on Mimi Dubose (2010-14) who is 14th overall with 1,194 points. Angel is also 10th in steals (165), fourth in three-point field goals attempted (448), and slid into a tie for 7th in three-point field goals made (128) with Carolyn Whitney (2006-10), and Tara Anders (1991-95), just 3 shy of two former Eagles tied for fifth (Tiffany Brown [2004-08] and Jamie Navarro [2007-11]).

- Junior Sierra Butler is currently in a tie for 18th in school history with 33 blocks. Butler is tied with Tracy Wilson (1987-91) and Sarah McCary (1998-02), and sits just one block shy of 17th, occupied by Sierra Kirkland (2012-16).

### **YEAR TWO FOR DROWN AND COMPANY**

When Kip Drown took over the reins of the Georgia Southern women's basketball program over a year ago, he knew the rebuild would be a process that required him, his staff and the players to be patient. After the first year, the Eagles are looking to take the next step in building a successful program and they will have plenty of experience to draw from both on the coaching side as well as on the court.

Despite being chosen 10<sup>th</sup> in the Preseason Sun Belt Conference Coaches' Poll, the team isn't looking to just roll over. The Eagles return plenty of talent and are a year older with more experience overall while also adding key pieces at every position. Last season, the Eagles had plenty of depth at certain positions, but were inexperienced at others. With at least three players at every position this year, and some players cross-trained at multiple positions, GS is prepared to take the next step.

### **MCGOWAN AND BUTLER EARN PRESEASON ALL-SUN BELT HONORS**

Georgia Southern women's basketball student-athletes Angel McGowan and Patrice Butler earned Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference honors as voted on by the league's coaches prior to the season. McGowan, a senior guard from Greenville, S.C., earned first team honors

and Butler, a senior forward/center from Norcross, Ga., was named to the third team.

#### **NEXT UP**

The Eagles will return home to face the Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina for the first time as Sun Belt foes on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. inside Hanner Fieldhouse.

*The 2017 Sun Belt Conference Men's and Women's Basketball Championships are scheduled for a week of March Madness in the Big Easy. New Orleans will once again be home to the two championships that will take place at Lakefront Arena from March 7-12 and ticket books can now be purchased from your our ticket office. For more information, visit the Sun Belt Conference's championship central websites - [Men's Championship](#) – [Women's Championship](#) – and be sure to follow the [@FunBelt](#) on social media - [@SunBelt](#).*

*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. Fans can purchase tickets to Georgia Southern Athletics events by visiting [GSEagles.com/Tickets](#).*

[Print Friendly Version](#)

## **PLAYERS MENTIONED**

### **#20 Sierra Kirkland**

F

5' 11"

Senior

### **#35 Patrice Butler**

F/C

6' 2"

Senior

### **#25 Sierra Butler**

F/C

6' 2"

Junior

### **#11 Angel McGowan**

G/F

5' 9"

Senior

**#23 Alexis Sams**

G

5' 5"

Redshirt Senior

Georgia Southern Athletics provides current information on all its sports through its official website, [GSEagles.com](http://GSEagles.com), which is fully responsive across all mobile devices. Information on Eagle athletics can also be found through social media channels [facebook.com/GSATHletics](https://facebook.com/GSATHletics), [twitter.com/GSATHletics](https://twitter.com/GSATHletics) and [Instagram.com/GSATHletics](https://Instagram.com/GSATHletics). To purchase tickets to Georgia Southern athletics events, visit [GSEagles.com/tickets](http://GSEagles.com/tickets).

In order to expedite entry and provide a safe environment for all patrons and participants, Georgia Southern Athletics has implemented a Clear Bag Policy for all ticketed sporting events, effective Aug. 1, 2017. Fans can find the complete policy as well as an FAQ section at [GSEagles.com/ClearBag](http://GSEagles.com/ClearBag).