

# 1981-82 BIG BLUE BASKETBALL



GEORGIA SOUTHERN COLLEGE  
"A UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA"  
STATESBORO, GEORGIA

**GEORGIA SOUT**  
**1981-82 Men's Varsi**

**N O .**

W	B	NAME	POS	CL	HT
41	52	Lafayette Adams	C-F	Jr.	6-6
24	24	Reggie Cofer	G	Sr.	6-1
21	21	Joe Colar	F	Sr.	6-6
12	12	Spindle Graves	G	Jr.	6-1
20	20	Clarence Hall	G	Fr.	6-2
40	40	Bobby Jahn	F	Sr.	6-5
30	3	David Meakins	F	Fr.	6-6
32	32	Dennis Murphy	F	Jr.	6-5
22	25	Brian Norwood	G	Jr.	6-4
42	51	John Rahn	C	Sr.	6-7
44	4	Aaron Rucker	F	So.	6-4
34	5	David Wright	F	Jr.	6-6

HEAD COACH: Frank Kerns (Alabama, 1960)

ASSOCIATE COACH: Mike Backus (Hampton Sydney, 1970)

ASSISTANT COACHES: Mike Jeffers (Georgia Southern, 1975)

Ted Kinder (Armstrong State, 1980)

GEORGIA SOUT
LOCATION: Statesboro, GA 30560
HEMOCOURT: W.S. Hanner Fieldhou
NICKNAME: Eagles
AFFILIATION: NCAA Division I Trans
HEAD COACH: Frank Kerns
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: David "Bucky" Wagner (Of
1980-81 RECORD: Overall
LETTERMEN LOST: Five
LETTERMEN
For More Information Concer
Hank Schomber - Spo
Georgia Southern College
Phone: 912/681-5522

**GEORGIA SOUT**

**1980-81 Men**

**5-22 .185 (**

**TAAC 2-10 (**

NAME	G-GS	FGM-FGA	PCT.	FTM-FTA	PCT.
R Cofer	26-24	160- 342	.469	105-138	.761
J Rahn	25-22	147- 306	.480	45- 62	.726
B Jahn	26-11	106- 226	.469	18- 22	.818
T Fahey	27-22	85- 146	.582	32- 59	.542
L Koch	27-25	60- 153	.392	43- 56	.768
R Jackson	18-11	59- 126	.468	27- 50	.540
D Wilcox	27- 9	47- 100	.470	28- 36	.778
P Osterman	23- 1	38- 91	.418	28- 35	.800
J Colar	23- 8	43- 95	.453	9- 14	.643
B Liddell	21- 1	16- 48	.333	13- 25	.520
M Palmore	16- 3	12- 36	.333	4- 12	.333
D Cecil	18- 1	13- 35	.371	3- 7	.429

TEAM RE

SOUTHERN	786-1704	.461	355-516	.688
OPPONENTS	834-1749	.477	461-685	.673

Rebound Margin - 2.3

SHOTS MISSED: GSC 1079, OPP 1139 DEAD BALLS: GSC 47, OPP 64

BLOCKS: Fahey 27, Jackson 13, Rahn 10, Cofer 5, Koch 4, Palmore 4, C  
STEALS: Cofer 46, Rahn 16, Jackson 18, Jahn 14, Fahey 13, Koch 15, Os  
240.

## ERN COLLEGE Basketball Roster

WT	AGE	STATUS	HOMETOWN	SCHOOL
171	21	JC	Gadsen, AL	Murray St. JC
174	21	3VL	Augusta	T.W. Josey HS
192	20	2VL	Baton Rouge, LA	Tara HS
185	21	RS	Louisville, KY	Doss HS
178	19	HS	Milledgeville	Baldwin Co. HS
204	22	2VL	Greenwood, IN	Greenwood HS
188	18	HS	Milledgeville	Baldwin Co. HS
180	21	JC	Metter	Hiawassee (TN) JC
178	20	JC	Chicago, IL	Crowder JC
225	23	1VL	Burlington, IA	Burlington HS
172	23	JC	Toledo, OH	Alpena (MI) CC
190	20	JC	Glenwood	Hiawassee (TN) JC

TRAINER: Tom D. "Doc" Smith (Indiana State, 1956)  
MANAGERS: Robert Mackessey, Jim Plunkett.

### ERN COLLEGE

PRESIDENT: Dr. Dale W. Lick

(6000) ENROLLMENT: 6,603

COLORS: Blue and White

America Athletic Conference (TAAC)

ord - first year Overall - 8 years, 137-78

o U., 1960)

5-22 TAAC - 2-10

BACK: Four STARTERS BACK: Three

ing Eagle Basketball contact:

s Information Director

Statesboro, Georgia 30460

Home: 912/764-4188

### ERN COLLEGE

#### Basketball

(4-9, A 1-13)

(2-4, A 0-6)

REB-AVG	AST	PF-D	PTS.	AVG.	HI	MIN
105- 4.0	103	81- 5	425	16.4	28	918
166- 6.6	28	79- 6	339	13.6	26	749
76- 2.9	30	50- 1	230	8.9	22	541
177- 6.6	6	78- 4	202	7.5	24	574
34- 1.3	108	96- 6	163	6.0	16	799
94- 5.2	19	62- 4	145	8.1	19	463
109- 4.0	8	39- 1	122	4.5	13	516
34- 1.5	17	51- 0	104	4.5	19	226
58- 2.5	7	34- 0	95	4.1	14	312
15- 0.7	5	9-0	45	2.1	13	131
38- 2.4	4	16- 0	28	1.8	9	131
41- 2.3	0	35- 2	29	1.6	6	115

#### OUNDS

1022-37.9 335 630-29 1927 71.4 115

1085-40.2 334 521-10 2129 78.9 106

Scoring Margin - 7.5

JRNOVERS: GSC 463, OPP 413 ATTENDANCE: Home 16,239 (13/1249)

Away 27,822 (14/2063)

il 5, Osterman 3, Liddell 1, Wilcox 5, Colar 3, Jahn 3, GSC 85 / OPP 62.

rman 12, Liddell 5, Colar 6, Wilcox 5, Palmore 3, Cecil 3 GSC 159 / OPP

## 1981-82 EAGLE BASKETBALL

New Head Coach Frank Kerns has instilled a new outlook and discipline in Georgia Southern's basketball program that most long-time observers admit they have not seen in recent years.

"We are not doing anything special," said Kerns. "We just want a program that is first class in every aspect. I am not overly concerned with winning and losing. If we do things right, the wins will be there.

"There is not that much that is really complicated. If you do things right on and off the floor and you have good kids, you can win."

Since arriving on the Southern campus in May, Kerns has worked diligently to revamp the Eagle program. He retained all the assistant basketball coaches from a year ago. "That is one of the smartest things I have ever done," he notes in praise to his staff. "They (Mike Backus, Mike Jeffers and Ted Kinder) are all excellent coaches and offer our program a lot."

After a total squad evaluation, Kerns determined that the Eagles needed to fill several gaps. As a result eight new players are on hand and there are just four returnees.

Of the eight new faces, one (Spindle Graves) is a transfer who becomes eligible this season after sitting out a year, two (Clarence Hall and David Meakins) are from the high school ranks and five (Lafayette Adams, Dennis Murphy, Brian Norwood, Aaron Rucker and David Wright) are junior college transfers.

"We have some talent," said Kerns. "The key is how well we can begin to play together. We had several encouraging early signs that this squad will get along together on and off the court and that is important for our success."

Another factor for Kerns, in everything he does, is intensity and he demands the same from his players on the court. His basketball philosophy does not put the importance of any one part of the game above another and he coaches what he describes as "total basketball".

"You don't win consistently without being able to play solid defense, rebound well or have a consistently sound offense," he notes. "We want to do it all well."

That is where Kern's intensity turns to the court. "We want 40-minutes of intensity on the court," he says. "Not just in spurts, but continuous intensive play."

"This game is one of continuous intensive flow that demands a lot from the individuals mentally as well as physically. Each player must be able to play with a certain recklessness on defense and then return immediately to a controlled state when the team reclaims the ball and goes to offense."

To accomplish that turnabout requires discipline and concentration and that is what Kern's is developing in the Eagle program.

Returnees Reggie Cofer, John Rahn, Bobby Jahn and Joe Colar are giving excellent leadership. The newcomers all come from strong winning backgrounds and have given the squad the mental attitude of a winner.

"We are not going to come out predicting championships or anything like that," said Kerns. "I don't like to predict records. We are going to be better and we are going to do things right."

So far balance has been a key for the Eagles as they begin preparations for their second season of Trans America Athletic Conference play. "Balance keeps everyone on their toes and keeps the competition within the squad high," noted Kerns. "Players will be working themselves in and out of the top spots almost daily."

There will be a lot of learning to do, so the emergence of "number one" unit, may not come until late in preseason.

At guard the Eagles have the TAAC All Conference veteran Cofer, Graves, Hall and Norwood. At forward are Colar and Jahn, along with newcomers Meakins, Murphy, Rucker and Wright. Rahn and Adams are listed at center.

## **FRANK KERNS HEAD BASKETBALL COACH**



Intense and Dedicated.

Those two words best describe Georgia Southern's new Head Basketball Coach Frank Kerns.

Those two qualities, coupled with Kerns outstanding "on the floor" coaching ability, will lead the Eagles out of the doldrums for the last few seasons.

"We are going to do things right," says the new Eagle boss. "On and off the floor we will have a first class, Division I program. That is the only way. If you do the things you are supposed to, you don't have to worry about winning and losing. The wins will come.

"I don't worry about winning and losing."

Kerns began the Eagle turnaround almost from the first hour he stepped foot on campus. That first step was in full stride and the running has not let up yet.

One of his first moves was to keep the coaching staff. "That was one of the smartest things I have done," he says now. "They are all talented, dedicated individuals who have contributed a great deal to our program," he says about Mike Backus, Mike Jeffers, and Ted Kinder all of whom assisted with the program a year ago.

Kerns came to Southern from Tennessee at Chattanooga where he was number one assistant for the Southern Conference Champion Mocs. He had been with Coach Murray Arnold's staff for two seasons.

Arnold brought Kerns from Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL, where he built a 137-78 record in eight seasons as head coach. He was a NAIA Coach of the Year in 1974-75.

"When I was coaching at Birmingham Southern and we played Frank's Spring Hill teams, I felt he was one of the finest coaches I had to play against," said Arnold explaining why he chose Kerns as his top aide.

Kerns has brought new direction to the entire Eagle program. His emphasis is not just "on the floor" but on the total individual. He places a strong emphasis on academics. Over 90 percent of his players have graduated on time.

His day starts early with the players at breakfast and runs late, closing, again with the team, in study hall. "Our people have responded very well to what we have asked," he says. "Doing things right off the floor is just as important as doing them well on. It takes both to be a winner."

The 43-year old Kerns played collegiate basketball at Alabama where he received Bachelor and Masters' Degrees. His coaching experience included stops at Clarke County (AL) High School, Fairhope (AL) High School and Magill Institute in Mobile before taking the Spring Hill job in 1971.

He is married to the former Tally Colson of Mobile. They have two sons.

# EAGLE F

## **LAFAYETTE ADAMS**

**Center-Forward, 6-7, 180, Jr., Gadsen, AL., Murray State JC.** Smart player with quickness and jumping ability . . . played junior college ball for Ron Murphee at Murray State in Tishomingo, OK where he led the Aggies to the conference championship . . . has the ability and experience to be able to step in and play for the Eagles . . . was named to all conference and all region teams . . . a native of Colorado Springs, he played his high school ball at Sansom High School in Gadsen, AL.

## **REGGIE COFER**

**Guard, 6-1, 170, Sr., Augusta, GA, T.W. Josey H.S.**

Most experienced player on squad and will be counted on for leadership . . . was a regular starter the last two years after starting six times as a freshman . . . can play point, but better suited to number two guard spot . . . is three total points shy of averaging 10 points a game for career and has 233 assists in that period . . . equalled or surpassed his previous career high of 21 points eight times last year with a new high of 28. On two other occasions he hit 26 and during one five game stretch he averaged 22 points a game as he built a team leading 16.4 scoring average . . . was named Class A Player of the Year at Josey high school while playing for Bernard Morgan . . . his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Cofer are regulars at Eagle games.

## **JOE COLAR**

**Forward, 6-7, 195, JR., Baton Rouge, LA, Tara H.S.**

Two year veteran who shows flashes of outstanding potential . . . has not yet "found himself" however . . . has size and build to be a good one . . . if he brings his game together he could be one of the team leaders . . . averaged nearly 20 points a game for Bill Whittle at Tara High in Baton Rouge... was a McDonalds-All-America nominee . . . Son of Joseph and Rachael Colar.

## **SPINDLE GRAVES**

**Guard, 6-1, 160, Jr., Louisville, KY, Doss H.S.**

Transferred to Southern last year from Ohio University . . . will be part of a strong twosome at point guard for the Eagles . . . he is an excellent ball handler . . . has good quickness . . . will take charge on the court.

## **CLARENCE HALL**

**Guard, 6-2, 186, Fr., Milledgeville, GA, Baldwin County H.S.**

Comes to the Eagles from the Georgia AAAA State Champions . . . is a solid Division I prospect . . . will play "second guard" spot . . . has good quickness . . . was well coached while playing in Coach James Lunsford's Baldwin County program . . . teammate David Meakins also with the Eagles.

## **BOBBY JAHN**

**Forward, 6-5, 195, Sr., Greenwood, IN, Greenwood H.S.**

Veteran performer with three years of experience . . . played a swing position last year but is expected to see duty only at small forward this year . . . a streak shooter he can be devastating with his baseline jumper . . . will be more effective shooter with better shot selection . . . had a career high 22 points against Stetson last year when he averaged nearly nine points a game . . . was an all-state and honorable mention All-America Greenwood, IN H.S. where he played for Gene Haynes.

# ROFILES

## **DAVID MEAKINS**

**Forward, 6-5, 175, Fr., Milledgeville, GA, Baldwin Co. H.S.**

Well developed, well coached youngster who has Eagle coaches excited . . . excellent tutoring from Coach James Lunsford . . . is an aggressive and heady player with the reputation of "doing whatever it takes to get the job done" . . . is still growing and filling out.

## **DENNIS MURPHY**

**Forward, 6-6, 190, Jr., Metter, GA, Hiwassee Junior College**

Led Hiwassee to national championships where they finished fourth . . . club did not lose until they reached the final four . . . Dennis is a super talented player and will play a key role in the Eagles success . . . his ability will open a lot of things up on the floor . . . versatile enough to play inside or outside.

## **BRIAN NORWOOD**

**Guard, 6-3, 175, Jr., Chicago, IL., Crowder Junior College**

A solid point guard prospect . . . he averaged 14 points and seven assists while leading Crowder Junior College of Neosha, MO to 54 wins in 65 games the last two years . . . was an all-city and all-section player at Hyde Park High School in Chicago where he was also a member of the school's swim team . . . has ability to play second guard.

## **JOHN RAHN**

**Center, 6-8, 230, Sr., Burlington H.S.**

Second leading scorer on last year's team with a 13.6 average . . . played mostly at the big forward last year, but coaches would like to see him inside this season . . . has the size to be a factor inside and at times last year showed he can handle things there . . . transferred from Western Kentucky after playing his prep ball at Burlington, IA for former GSC Coach John Nelson . . . had a high game of 26 points against Austin Peay in season opener . . . led club with a 6.6 rebound average including games of 14 and 13 against Baptist and Georgia State.

## **AARON RUCKER**

**Forward, 6-4, 172, So., Toledo, OH, Alpena (MI) CC**

An extremely quick, aggressive player . . . tenacious offensive rebounder, he "slashes to the board" according to coaches . . . is capable of playing great defense . . . needs to get his offensive game under control, when he does he will be solid contributor on both ends of court . . . his intensity is a plus . . . although a junior college transfer, he played just one year at Alpena and will have three years eligibility at GSC.

## **DAVID WRIGHT**

**Forward, 6-7, 190, Jr., Glenwood, Hiwassee (TN) JC**

Outstanding athlete who comes from a background of winning programs . . . tremendous rebounding ability . . . very strong . . . outstanding individual who is a plus to the program in many ways . . . a good student . . . although he played his JC ball in Tennessee for NJCAA finalist Hiwassee, he grew up just 40 miles from GSC campus.

## 1981-82 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Nov 20	Windsor Canadians	STATESBORO	8:00
28	Jacksonville	Jacksonville, FL	7:35
Dec. 3	Armstrong State	STATESBORO	7:30
5	Baptist	Charleston, SC	7:30
7	*Houston Baptist	STATESBORO	7:30
12	*Hardin Simmons	Abilene, TX	8:30
18-19	Juice Bowl Tourn. (Lamar, Brown, Florida Southern)	Lakeland, FL	TBA
Jan 7	*Hardin Simmons	STATESBORO	7:30
9	*Ark.-Little Rock	STATESBORO	7:30
14	*Samford	STATESBORO	7:30
16	*Mercer	STATESBORO	7:30
19	*Ark.-Little Rock	Little Rock, AR	8:30
23	*Samford	Birmingham, AL	8:30
25	*Centenary	STATESBORO	7:30
28	*NE Louisiana	STATESBORO	7:30
30	*NW Louisiana (HC)	STATESBORO	8:00
Feb 1	South Carolina	Columbia, SC	8:00
4	*Houston Baptist	Houston, TX	8:30
6	*Centenary	Shreveport, LA	7:00
10	*Mercer	Macon, GA	8:00
13	Georgia Tech	STATESBORO	7:30
15	Armstrong State	Savannah, GA	8:00
17	Augusta	STATESBORO	7:30
20	Baptist	STATESBORO	7:30
25	*NW Louisiana	Natchitoches, LA	8:30
27	*NE Louisiana	Monroe, LA	8:30
Mar 4-6	TAAC Conference Tourn. at NE LA	Monroe, LA	TBA

ALL TIMES EASTERN  
\* TAAC GAMES

## 1980-81 RESULTS

GSC		OPP
87	Austin Peay (H)	88 OT
69	Georgia State (A)	81
78	Tennessee Tech (H)	80
81	Armstrong State (A)	87
70	San Francisco (A)	91
57	#UT Chattanooga (A)	75
72	#SE Louisiana (N)	87
115	Cardinal Stritch (H)	63
81	*Centenary (H)	100
66	*Samford (H)	67
66	Baptist (A)	60
80	Georgia State (H)	61
50	*Samford (A)	56
65	*Hardin-Simmons (A)	85
72	*NW Louisiana (A)	77 OT
59	*Houston Baptist (H)	55
60	Armstrong State (HC)	65
77	Stetson (H)	81
70	*Mercer (A)	105
91	*Ark.-Little Rock (H)	75
58	*Mercer (H)	60 OT
54	*Ark.-Little Rock (A)	60
73	*NE Louisiana (H)	93
69	South Carolina (A)	106
83	Stetson (A)	106
67	Baptist (H)	83
57	**Samford (N)	73

\* TAAC Games  
# CHOO CHOO CLASSIS at Chattanooga, TN  
\*\* TAAC Tournament at Shreveport, LA

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**ON THE COVER:** The 1981-82 Eagle squad. Bottom row (left to right): Adams, Norwood, Graves, and Murphy. Middle Row (l-r): Cofer, Rucker, Hall, Colar, and Jahn. Back Row (l-r): Wright, Meakins and Rahn.

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