



2024-25 Women's Basketball

2024-25 SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NOTES

Women's Basketball Contact: Natalie Kelly • E-Mail: natalie.kelly@selu.edu • Office: (985) 549-2142 • Cell: (985) 517-2926
www.LionSports.net • Twitter: @LionUpAthletics • Facebook: /sluathletics

Game 9 | Southeastern (6-2) vs Houston (2-7)



Southeastern (6-2) vs Houston (2-7)

Sunday December 8, 2024 • 1 p.m.
Houston, Tex. •
Non-Conference Game

The Southeastern Louisiana University women's basketball team will return on the road to face Houston Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. for its final non conference game of the season.

The Lady Lions return this upcoming season ranked second in the Southland Conference Preseason Poll after a solid year of production and five added newcomers to bolster this season's roster.

Sunday's game will be televised on ESPN+. Live stats can be accessed on the women's basketball schedule page at <http://www.lionsports.net/>.

The Lady Lions returned a solid core of 10 returners from last season that finished 19-12 overall and 14-4 in SLC play. Southeastern continues to reload to progress the winning standard of the program as one of the top teams in the Southland Conference.

Southeastern secured a 47-point victory over Spring Hill College at home to improve to 6-2 in non conference play and 3-0 at home. SLU controlled the entire game with a dominant third quarter holding the Badgers scoreless. The Lady Lions gained a season high 47 bench points and 58 points in the paint. Freshman **Tyreona Sibley** led all scorers in diuble figures with 12 points and four assists as a spark off the bench. Seniors **Taylor Bell** and **Kaili Chamberlin** tied to contribute eight points in the commanding win. **Avari Berry** stepped up to lead the team with six assists while **Mackenzie Thomas** lead on the boards with seven rebounds.

SLU is seeking to close its non conference schedule with solid momentum heading into conference play. The Lady Lions are also looking to gain its first win over Houston within its series record led by **Alexius Horne** with 13.5 points per game and 3.5 rebounds. **Bell** (9.8 ppg), **Cheyenne Daniels** (8.4 ppg), **Lexi Alexander** (8.9 ppg) and **Arianna Patton** (7.5 ppg) are also key contributors for Southeastern that leads the Southland Conference in turnover margin (+7.13) and assist/turnover ratio (1.11).

Ayla Guzzardo, continues to push the Lady Lions to repeat last year's success.

Game Information

TV
ESPN+

Audio
90.9 FM The Lion

Live Stats
<http://stats.statbroadcast.com/broadcast/?id=552935>

Series Record
0-8

Last Meeting
HOU 78-65
Nov. 9, 2019

2024-25 Schedule and Results

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT
Nov. 4	Millsaps	W, 79-45
Nov. 9	at Nebraska	L, 68-78
Nov. 15	Southern Miss	W, 68-61
Nov. 19	at Memphis	W, 63-57
Nov. 23	at Louisiana Tech	W, 59-47
Nov. 29	Quinnipiac (Miami Tournament)	L, 70-53
Dec. 1	Charlotte	W, 62-53
Dec. 5	Spring Hill	W, 73-26
Dec. 8	at Houston	1 p.m.
Dec. 18	at Nicholls*	TBA
Dec. 21	at McNeese*	1 p.m.
Jan. 2	UTRGV*	6 p.m.
Jan. 4	A&M-Corpus Christi*	1 p.m.
Jan. 9	at SFA*	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	at New Orleans*	2 p.m.
Jan. 16	at A&M-Commerce*	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	at Northwestern State*	1 p.m.
Jan. 23	HCU*	6 p.m.
Jan. 25	UIW*	1 p.m.
Jan. 30	Lamar*	6 p.m.
Feb. 1	New Orleans*	1 p.m.
Feb. 6	at HCU*	6 p.m.
Feb. 8	at UIW*	1 p.m.
Feb. 13	McNeese*	6 p.m.
Feb. 15	Nicholls*	1 p.m.
Feb. 20	Northwestern State*	6 p.m.
Feb. 22	A&M-Commerce*	1 p.m.
Feb. 27	at UTRGV*	12 p.m.
Mar. 2	at A&M-Corpus Chrsiti*	2 p.m.
Mar. 10-13	Southland Conference Tournament	TBA

Home Games in **bold**

*-Southland Conference Game

Coach Guzzardo, a Hammond, Louisiana native, has built this program from the ground up since the 2017-18 season.

Guzzardo took over a program that was a combined 24-93 in the four seasons preceding her tenure. Her debut season saw the Lady Lions go 8-21 overall and 7-11 in Southland Conference play. SLU finished 9-20 in Guzzardo's second year before reaching its first accomplishment in year three.

The 2019-20 Lady Lions advanced to the Southland Conference Tournament for the first time since the 2011-12 season. SLU was set to face New Orleans in the first round. With both teams on the floor set for tip-off, the tournament was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020-21 season saw Southeastern post its first winning season since 2009-10 and earn a No. 2 seed and a bye into the semifinals, where it lost a 79-77 heartbreaker to Sam Houston State.

Guzzardo's fifth season in Hammond saw the 2021-22 Lady Lions open the SLC Tournament with an 80-66 quarterfinal victory over New Orleans – the program's first conference tournament win since the 2001-02 season.

After earning a spot in the final with a 59-54 overtime win over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in the semifinals, SLU fell to UIW, 56-52, in overtime. All the trials and tribulations of the previous five seasons made the break through for this season's squad that much sweeter.

Under Coach Guzzardo, the 2022-23 season made program history for the first time claiming the title of Southland Conference regular season and Tournament champion. The Lady Lions defeated Lamar in the SLC Tournament championship 66-57 to clinch their first NCAA Tournament bid. Southeastern move on to face up against Big Ten Tournament champion Iowa at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City, IA.

The 2023-24 Lady Lions finished out with another successful season under the leadership of Coach Guzzardo to advance to the semifinal of the Southland Conference Tournament. Southeastern gained a record of seven consecutive wins to open conference play and closed out another season above a .500 winning percentage.

Scouting Houston

Southeastern will face the Houston Cougars for its last non conference game of the season. Houston averages 56.0 points per game and 33.7 rebounds. The Cougars have lost their last four games with a 61-57 loss to UT Arlington on the road.

Houston is led by fifth-year senior **Laila Blair** averaging 11.3 points per game and 2.9 rebounds. The Houston, Tex. native has contributed double-digit scoring in five-of-seven games so far this season and finished tied her season-high 18 points in the loss to UT Arlington.

Blair is not the only weapon for the Cougars. Redshirt sophomore **Gigi Cooke** is another key contributor for Houston averaging 11.0 points per game and 2.9 rebounds. Cooke has secured four games in double figures and a season-high 21 points against Rice.

Eylia Love also plays a crucial role for the Cougars, contributing 10.4 points per game and leads the team on the boards with 6.7 rebounds. Love also chips in on the defensive end and earns 2.0 steals per game to gain extra possessions.

Head Coach Ayla Guzzardo

Ayla Guzzardo was named the seventh head women's basketball coach in Southeastern Louisiana history on April 3, 2017. Guzzardo took over the helm of the program after spending the 2016-17 season as the lead assistant on the Lady Lion staff.

In her first season as the head coach at Southeastern, the Lady Lions posted their highest win total in both overall games and conference games since the 2013-14 season. Under Guzzardo's tutelage, senior guard Taylin Underwood was named to the All-Southland Conference, All-Louisiana and Southland All-Academic teams.

The Lady Lions topped their overall win total again in 2018-19. Guzzardo's second SLU roster was led by All-Southland and All-Louisiana selection **Celica Sterling**.

In 2019-20, Guzzardo led her squad back to the Southland Conference Tournament for the first time since the 2011-12 season. Sterling repeated as an All-Southland and All-Louisiana selection, while Alexius Horne became the first Lady Lion to be named Southland Conference Freshman of the Year.

The 2020-21 Lady Lions enjoyed their best season to date under Guzzardo, posting an 11-8 overall record and a 10-5 mark in Southland Conference play – the program's best marks in both overall and in league action since 2008-09. SLU earned a best-ever second-place finish in the Southland standings and earned a berth in the Southland Conference Tournament semifinals. Under Guzzardo's tutelage, **Morgan Carrier** and **Hailey Giaratano** both earned All-Southland Conference notice. Carrier was also named All-Louisiana, while Giaratano represented Southeastern on the Southland All-Academic team.

The 2021-22 Southeastern squad took a further step forward, finishing 16-11 overall and 10-4 in conference play. SLU picked up their first two wins in Southland Conference Tournament play since the 2001-02 season and advanced to the SLC Tournament championship game for the first time in school

history. Senior forward **Caitlyn Williams** was the first Lady Lion to earn first team All-Southland honors since 2008-09 and was joined on the all-conference team by Carrier and Giaratano. Williams and Giaratano also earned All-Louisiana notice, while Giaratano repeated as a Southland All-Academic selection.

The 2022-23 Lady Lions won the first Southland Conference championship in program history under Guzzardo and finished out its best season yet 21-10 on the season and 14-4 in league play. Giaratano and **Alexius Horne** were named to the All-Southland Conference team, while **Natalie Kelly** and **Jen Pierre** were named to the SLC All-Defensive team.

In 2023-24, Southeastern enjoyed yet another incredible season with Guzzardo at the helm, posting a 19-12 overall record and a 14-4 mark in Southland Conference play for the second consecutive year. SLU finished third in the Southland standings and finished in the Southland Conference Tournament semifinals. **Giaratano** and **Pierre** repeated as All-Conference selections, Giaratano earned All-Conference First Team while Pierre became the first Lady Lion to earn SLC Defensive Player of the Year under Guzzardo. Giaratano and **Kennedy Paul** also earned 1,000 career points, the first time in program history two players have accomplished that feat in the same season.

The Hammond, Louisiana native began representing her hometown university after spending four seasons on the staff at Akron. During her time with the Zips, Guzzardo worked with the point guards and coached **Kasie Cassell**, who led the nation with 7.8 assists per game in 2012-13. Guzzardo also worked with four 1,000-point career scorers during her time in Akron.

In her last season with Akron, Guzzardo was a member of head coach Jodi Kest’s staff that helped the team to its first-ever MAC Tournament championship and NCAA Tournament appearance. The 2013-14 Zips ranked among the national leaders in scoring offense (13th) and assists (7th), while **Hanna Luburgh** (22.2 ppg) and **Rachel Tecca** (22.1 ppg) was the nation’s top scoring tandem.

Prior to joining the Akron coaching staff, she played two years for the Zips. As a senior, she was ranked among the MAC leaders in assists (4.2 apg, 3rd), assist/turnover ratio (1.3, 5th) and steals per game (1.7 spg, 15th). Her 133 assists in 2009-19 were the fifth-highest single-season total in school history and she is ninth in Akron history with 238 career assists.

Guzzardo began her collegiate playing career at Shelton State Community College. She helped her team to a pair of conference championships and a 62-9 record in her two seasons.

A graduate of Hammond’s St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Guzzardo spent the 2014-15 season on the staff of her high school alma mater, helping the Lady Falcons to an appearance in the Top 28.

A 2010 graduate of Akron, she earned her bachelor’s degree in business organization, before going on to earn her master’s degree in 2012 in sport science and coaching. Guzzardo and her daughter, Cameron, reside in Hammond.

Guzzardo’s Career Coaching Record		
Year	Overall	SLC
2024-25 (Present)	6-2	
2023-24	19-12	14-4
2022-23	21-10	14-4
2021-22	16-11	10-4
2020-21	11-8	10-5
2019-20	12-17	9-11
2018-19	9-20	4-14
2017-18	8-21	7-11
Totals	102-101	68-53

2024-25 All-Southland Conference Preseason Ranking	
1. Lamar	236
2. Southeastern	213
3. A&M-Corpus Christi	200
4. SFA	193
5. UIW	149
6. Texas A&M-Commerce	112
7. Nicholls	108
8. New Orleans	102
9. UTRGV	92
10. Northwestern State	67
11. McNeese	61
12. HCU	51

2024-25 Southland All-Conference Preseason First Team	
Sabria Dean	Lamar
Akasha Davis	Lamar
Lexi Alexander	Southeastern
Mieria Aguado	A&M-Corpus Christi
Paige Allen	A&M-Corpus Christi
Second Team	
Britiya Curtis	Nicholls
Ashlyn Traylor	SFA
Jalencia Pierre	Southeastern
Taylor Bell	Southeastern
Jordyn Newsome	East Texas A&M

2024-25 Southeastern Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown/Last School
0	Lexi Alexander	F	6-0	Jr.	TR	Round Rock, Tex./Nicholls
1	Jalencia Pierre	G	5-5	Jr.	2L	Springfield, La./Amite HS
2	Arianna Patton	G	5-5	Sr.	1L	Meridian, Miss./Jones College
3	Allasia Washington	G	5-8	Jr.	2L	Baton Rouge, La./Madison Prep
4	Demi Gentry	G	5-11	So.	1L	Memphis, Tenn./White Station HS
5	Taylor Bell	G	5-11	Sr.	3L	Shreveport, La./Huntington HS
6	Kaili Chamberlin	G	5-9	Sr.	TR	Medford, Ore./McNeese/Austin Peay
7	Tyreona Sibley	G	5-8	Fr.	TR	Baton Rouge, La./Central HS
10	Jaslynn Walter	G	5-10	Fr.	HS	Nashville, Tenn./East Nashville Magnet
11	Avari Berry	G	5-6	So.	1L	Austin, Tex./Pflugerville HS
12	Terri Crawford	F	6-1	Sr.	TR	Birmingham, Ala./Central Arkansas
13	Mo'Nique Joseph	F	6-1	Jr.	TR	Lake Worth, Fla./Indian River CC
24	Mackenzie Thomas	G	5-8	Sr.	1L	Laurel, Miss./Jones College
30	Cheyenne Daniels	C	6-3	Sr.	1L	Miami, Fl./Shawnee CC
31	Alexius Horne	G	5-9	Sr.	2L	Baton Rouge, La./Denham Springs HS

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Ayla Guzzardo (Akron, 2010)

Record at Southeastern: 102-101 (8th Year) | **Career Record:** Same

Associate Head Coach: Kenneth Lee Jr. (Nicholls, 2013)

Assistant Coaches: Aja Ochie (SLU, 2013); Ronneka Robertson (South Alabama, 2014), Hailey Giaratano (SLU, 2023)

Pronunciation Guide

#1 Jalencia - Ju-Len-SEE-uh

#30 Cheyanne Daniels - Shy-anne

#31 Alexius Horne - UH-lex-ee-us “Horn”

Head Coach Ayla Guzzardo - Ay-luh Guh-zar-doe

Assistant Coach Aja Ochie - “Asia” OH-chee

Assistant Coach Ronneka Robertson - Roe-KNEE-kuh

Assistant Coach Hailey Giaratano - JEER-uh-tah-know

Probable Southeastern Starters

Pos.	#	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown	Ppg.	Rpg.
F	0	Lexi Alexander	6-0	Jr.	Round Rock, Tex.	8.9	7.9
G	1	Jalencia Pierre	5-5	Jr.	Springfield, La.	7.0	3.1
G	2	Arianna Patton	5-5	Sr.	Meridian, Miss.	7.5	1.5
C	30	Cheyenne Daniels	6-4	Sr.	Miami, Fl.	94	5.6
G	31	Alexius Horne	5-9	Gr.	Baton Rouge, La.	13.5	3.5

Off the Bench

Pos.	#	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown	Ppg.	Rpg.
G	4	Demi Gentry	5-11	So.	Memphis, Tenn.	0.0	1.5
G/F	5	Taylor Bell	5-11	Sr.	Shreveport, La.	9.8	2.7
G	6	Kaili Chamberlin	5-9	Sr.	Medford, Ore.	2.5	1.8
G	7	Tyreona Sibley	5-8	Fr.	Baton Rouge, La.	5.3	3.0
G	11	Avari Berry	5-6	So.	Austin, Tex.	0.3	1.3
F	12	Terri Crawford	6-1	Sr.	Birmingham, Ala.	2.0	2.5
F	13	Mo'Nique Joseph	6-1	Jr.	Lake Worth, Fla.	1.2	0.4
G	24	Mackenzie Thomas	5-8	Sr.	Laurel, Miss.	1.0	2.0

Coach and Player Talking Points

Team Notes

- Limit second chance opportunities (under 10 offensive rebounds)
- Play in transition and finish around the rim
- Execute offensively
- Play inside/out
- Secure 50/50 balls

Head Coach Ayla Guzzardo

- Hammond, Louisiana native
- 2022-23 Southland Coach of the Year
- Led program to four straight winning seasons - the longest such streak since the 1993-94 through 1995-96 seasons
- Has led Southeastern to a better winning percentage than the previous year each of her six seasons
- Took over a program that was 24-93 in the preceding four years
- Led team to first Southland Conference Tournament title game in 2021-22
- Took over in 2017-18 after serving as lead assistant in 2016-17

Associate Head Coach Kenneth Lee Jr.

- 8th season at SLU
- Denham Springs, Louisiana native
- Former guard at Nicholls
- Previous head coach at Brusly High School (2015-16)

Assistant Coach Aja Ochie

- 9th season at SLU
- Played for the Lady Lions from 2010-14
- Two-time All-SLC power forward
- Ranks in program's career top 10 in games played, points, rebounds, free throws made, field goals made and blocked shots.

Assistant Coach Ronneka Robertson

- 3rd season at SLU
- Kentwood, Louisiana native
- Four-year letterwinner at South Alabama as a power forward

#0 Lexi Alexander

- Nicholls transfer
- Versatile post player (Face-up style, nice touch around the rim)
- Double-doubles: vs Southern Miss (11 pts, 12 rbs), Quinnipiac (17 pts, 10 rbs)

#1 Jen Pierre

- Quick point guard
- 2023-24 SLC Defensive Player of the Year
- 2022-23 SLC All-Defensive Team
- Avg 8.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg (ranked second in assists (88) and steals (42))
- Tied career high 21 pts vs McNeese last season

#2 Arianna Patton

- One-year letterwinner
- 3-point shooter
- solid on-ball defender

#3 Allasia Washington

- Scored a career high 17 pts vs New Orleans
- Versatile player

- Solid rebounder in the guard position

#4 Demi Gentry

- Big body guard that can play in the paint
- Solid mid-range shot

#5 Taylor Bell

- Big body guard
- Strong drive/shooter
- Second leading scorer last season, led in steals (51)
- 2024 SLC Preseason All-Conference (Second Team), 2022-23 SLC All-Tournament Team

#6 Kaili Chamberlin

- McNeese/Austin Peay transfer
- 3-point shooter

#7 Tyreona Sible

- Spark plug off the bench
- 3-point shooter
- Aggressive guard

#10 Jaslynn Walter

- Freshman
- Selected to the All-Midstate girls basketball Honorable Mention
- Out due to injury

#11 Avari Berry

- Back up point guard
- Solid on-ball defender
- Scored 17 points vs Southern-New Orleans off the bench

#12 Terri Crawford

- Central Arkansas transfer
- Third year with the program
- Aggressive post, face up game

#13 Mo'Nique Joseph

- Aggressive back-to-basket post player
- Solid rebounder

#24 Mackenzie Thomas

- Big body guard (can play in the paint and out on the perimeter)
- 3-point shooter
- Aggressive rebounder

#30 Cheyanne Daniels

- Third leading scorer last season, led in blocks
- Secured nine game in double-figures in 2023-24
- Back-to-the-basket post player
- Finishes well around the rim, soft touch jump shot

#31 Alexius Horne

- Team's best pure scorer (3-point shooter, driver, mid-range)
- 2022-23 All-Southland Conference, 2021-22 SLC All-Tournament Team, 2019-20 Southland Conference Freshman of the Year
- Scored career-high 28 points at LSU in 2022
- Dropped 24 points versus No. 23 Nebraska
- Sat out all of 2023-24 season due to injury