

GEORGIA STATE BASKETBALL

# PREVIEW



# The First Look At The Season

Georgia State won five of its final nine games before bowing out to the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament in head coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener's first year.

The Panthers showed progress during the 12-19 season after losing its first CAA game by 24 points on the road and then coming back to beat that team later in the regular season at home and again in the opening round of the tournament.

GSU also knocked off a pair of CAA foes when they were ranked in the Top 25 mid-major polls.

In year two with the new coach, GSU returns six lettermen and three transfers from last year, while adding four freshmen to the mix. Four of the returnees all started for more than half the season and a fifth player started nine games in the second half of the season, giving the team a huge head start over last year at this time.

"The team progressed a long, long way over the course of the year and finished by playing with more confidence and aggressiveness," the veteran head coach summarized.

"I saw that the team always wanted to improve and showed up at every practice wanting to get better, work, learn and win. We have added more talent and have more experience



*All-CAA forward Chan Harris returns for a final season as the lone senior on the team. Her 38 career double-figure games show she knows how to score.*

from the start and will set our sights even higher."

"The team chemistry is much better, the returners all know the priorities and what to expect, so we will be way ahead of where we were when we start practices," Baldwin-Tener said. "The year-round conditioning helps us and we will have so much more depth on the roster."

In general, coach learned these facts about last year's team. "To win, we needed to win the rebound battle and play tough defense with steals, with getting to the loose balls, with challenging the other team's shooters and by being aggressive," she noted.

"The effort was there and our final defensive stats were all pretty good, but we struggled on the offensive end, so that is where we must find the improvement in order to win consistently."

The veterans returning and the depth of the roster will help enable the coaching staff to continue to build the type of 40-minute pressure and up-tempo team they want. The defensive pressure can challenge all over the court and substitute more to stay fresh with more players who can contribute. The tempo can reflect the style that Baldwin-Tener employed at East Carolina when

her teams led the Conference-USA in scoring. That scoring last year translated to GSU victories as the team has won 19 consecutive games when scoring 70 or more points over the past several years.

"We want to dictate and be the aggressor on both ends," Baldwin-Tener said. "Getting the ball out in transition helps and I encourage the players to take the first best shot we can get and not wait around for a methodical half-court offense all the time."

Without naming names, GSU will return an All-CAA player, an All-CAA rookie, a former All-SoCon rookie, one of the league's best shot blockers, will add some strong prep scorers and will return the entire coaching staff to help guide the players.

Here's a first look at the team:

**Post Players:** The Panthers will have five players 6-foot-2 or taller, with a pair of returning starters.

Leading the way is senior All-CAA forward Chan Harris. The 6-foot-2 Harris averaged 12.3 points and 8.9 rebounds last year, while blocking 49 shots and making 42 steals. The athletic run-the-floor Harris has 38 career double-figure scoring games, 19 career double-figure rebounding games, 10 double-double career games, plus 91 career blocked shots.

Starting 6-foot-3 junior center Cody Paulk became a major force for the Panthers as the year wore on and showed she'll be a huge contributor these next two years. Paulk blocked 56 shots last year to finish second in the CAA and altered probably twice that many opponent attempts. She finished second on the team with 154 rebounds, but upped the average to seven rebounds a game over the final 14 games. She has eight career double-figure scoring games and showed she is developing more into a scorer.

Transfer forward 6-foot-2 Nicole Hargraves brings college experience after playing her first two years

in the A-10 with Charlotte and is an up-and-down the floor hustler like Harris.

Transfer center 6-foot-3 Alana Beroth came from East Carolina with coach Baldwin-Tener and should provide more help down low with her size as the year progresses.

Six-foot-three Australian sophomore Victoria Smith returns as she continues to improve. Even though she is only 5-foot-9, junior Tiffany Anderson showed she can con-

tribute inside or outside as she started 16 games. She averaged six points and four rebounds a game, averaging only 20 minutes a game and was third on the team in offensive rebounds. Her hustle and aggressiveness helps on the defensive pressure and the second-chance points.

**Guards:** All-CAA rookie Kendra Long returns after leading the team with 57 three-point baskets last year at a 37 percent rate, averaging



7.6 points a game.

Junior transfer Sade Means played two seasons at Appalachian State, earning All-Rookie team honors in the SoCon. Means has 10 career double-figure scoring games and should add veteran leadership to the backcourt.

Junior point guard Jerlisa Taylor comes back after leading the team with 67 assists and starting nine games over the second half of the season.

Veteran Tiffany Anderson (mentioned in the post section) is able to help on the wing and showed she has a good jump shot.

All four freshmen who will be look-

ing recruits are guards to contribute.

Brittany Johnson comes from Indiana where she made 174 three-point baskets in her prep career.

Kayla Nolan prepped in the tough metro Atlanta area and is a tough-nosed scorer and penetrator.

Miranda Smith displayed her 1,000-point scoring in Virginia high school play and also averaged seven rebounds a game.

Ashley Watson is a solid point guard from California, where she was a 1,000-point scorer with 300-plus assists.



“The roster is deeper with more talent and I will find places for anyone who shows they can contribute to a winning effort,” Baldwin-Tener added.

“Once again, it won’t be how we start the season, but how strongly we can come together and how well we are playing in the CAA season and then the tournament.”

“I think the depth will give us a whole lot more balance offensively than we had last year,” the coach pointed out. “The experience of all the upperclassmen should help us understand the 40-minute effort it takes to win and keep us challenged from within to play at our highest level.”

“Obviously our schedule is loaded with postseason tournament teams in the non-conference portion and then the CAA games will be challenging, especially with those teams that return a lot of their starters and All-CAA players,” the coach noted.

“Winning breeds confidence and we gained some of that last year, so now we have to grow off that and bring maximum effort to go with our abilities so we can compete and win in the upper half of the CAA.”



*Cody Paulk and Chan Harris combined for 106 blocked shots last season as the school’s best shot-block ing tandem ever.*

**ALPHABETICAL ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
4	Tiffany Anderson	G/F	5-9	Jr.	Albany, Ga./Dougherty
22	Alana Beroth	C/F	6-3	Fr.-R	Pfafftown, N.C./Reagan
12	Chan Harris	F	6-2	Sr.-R	Macon, Ga./Northeast
15	Nicole Hargraves	F	6-2	R-Jr.	Charlotte, Ga./Charlotte/Grimsley
41	Brittany Johnson	G	5-9	Fr.	Fort Wayne, Ind./South Side
10	Kendra Long	G	5-9	So.	Atlanta, Ga./Mays
24	Sadé Means	G	5-9	R-Jr.	Atlanta, Ga./Appalachian State/Mays
20	Kayla Nolan	G	5-9	Fr.	Duluth, Ga./Duluth
33	Cody Paulk	F/C	6-3	Jr.	Gadsden, Ala./Gadsden City
2	Miranda Smith	G/F	5-9	Fr.	Roanoke, Va./Patrick Henry
13	Victoria Smith	C	6-3	So.	Sydney, Australia/Lake Forest [III] Academy
32	Jerlisa Taylor	G	5-6	Jr.	Douglasville, Ga./Douglas County
23	Ashley Watson	G	5-6	Fr.	San Jose, Calif./Archbishop Mitty

**NUMERICAL ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
2	Miranda Smith	G/F	5-9	Fr.	Roanoke, Va./Patrick Henry
4	Tiffany Anderson	G/F	5-9	Jr.	Albany, Ga./Dougherty
10	Kendra Long	G	5-9	So.	Atlanta, Ga./Mays
12	Chan Harris	F	6-2	Sr.-R	Macon, Ga./Northeast
13	Victoria Smith	C	6-3	So.	Sydney, Australia/Lake Forest [III] Academy
15	Nicole Hargraves	F	6-2	R-Jr.	Charlotte, Ga./Charlotte/Grimsley
20	Kayla Nolan	G	5-9	Fr.	Duluth, Ga./Duluth
22	Alana Beroth	C/F	6-3	Fr.-R	Pfafftown, N.C./Reagan
23	Ashley Watson	G	5-6	Fr.	San Jose, Calif./Archbishop Mitty
24	Sadé Means	G	5-9	R-Jr.	Atlanta, Ga./Appalachian State/Mays
32	Jerlisa Taylor	G	5-6	Jr.	Douglasville, Ga./Douglas County
33	Cody Paulk	F/C	6-3	Jr.	Gadsden, Ala./Gadsden City
41	Brittany Johnson	G	5-9	Fr.	Fort Wayne, Ind./South Side

**COACHING STAFF**

Head Coach: Sharon Baldwin Tener (Georgia, 1991), 2nd Year GSU  
 Assistant Coach: Jonathan Barbaree (Ga. College & State U., 1998)  
 Assistant Coach: Adrienne Shuler (Georgia, 1991)  
 Assistant Coach: Jocelyn Wyatt (Appalachian State, 2006)  
 Director of BB Operations: Megan Darrah (Georgia, 2008)  
 Graduate Manager: Lesley Dickinson (James Madison, 2007)  
 Athletic Trainer: Jessica Peters (Texas A&M-Commerce, 2005)  
 Strength Coach: Melissa Schmitz (Northern Iowa, 2007)

**Pronunciations**

Alana Beroth ..... uh-laneuh Bee-roth  
 Chan Harris ..... Chan (as in hand)  
 Sadé Means ..... shad-day  
 Cody Paulk ..... palk  
 Jerlisa Taylor ..... jur-lisa  
 Baldwin-Tener ..... ten-er



## ROSTER BREAKDOWN

**States Represented: 7**

Alabama: Cody Paulk  
 California: Ashley Watson  
 Georgia: Tiffany Anderson, Chan Harris,  
 Kendra Long, Sade Means Kayla,  
 Nolan, Jerlisa Taylor  
 Indiana: Brittany Johnson  
 North Carolina: Alana Beroth, Nicole Hargraves  
 South Carolina: Traci Haltiwanger  
 Virginia: Miranda Smith

**Other Countries Represented: 1**

Australia: Victoria Smith

## GEORGIA STATE QUICK FACTS

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Name of School.....Georgia State University  
 Location .....Atlanta, Ga.  
 Founded .....1913  
 Enrollment.....32,000  
 Nickname .....Panthers  
 Colors.....Blue & White  
 Arena/Capacity.....Georgia State Sports Arena/3,400  
 Affiliation.....NCAA Division I  
 Conference.....Colonial Athletic Association  
 President.....Dr. Mark P. Becker  
 Athletics Director.....Cheryl L. Levick  
 Women’s Basketball Administrator.....Marvin Lewis  
 Athletic Department Phone.....(404) 413-4000  
 Ticket Office Phone.....(404) 413-4021  
 Website.....GeorgiaStateSports.com

**TEAM INFORMATION**

2010-11 Overall Record ..... 12-19  
 Home: 7-9, Away: 4-9, Neutral: 1-1  
 2010-11 CAA Record/Finish..... 6-12/9th  
 2011 CAA Tourn. Record..... 1-1/Second Round

**HISTORY**

First Year of Basketball ..... 1975-76  
 Overall All-Time Record..... 1,003 games - 506-497 (.504)  
 Years in NCAA Tournament/Last.....3/2003  
 Years in WNIT/Last.....1/2000  
 Last Postseason Opponent.....Duke  
 Result:.....Lost, 66-48, 2003 NCAA 1st Round

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 1** - Number of seniors on roster (Chan Harris).
- 2.5** - Rebound advantage in 2010-11 to rank No. 87 in NCAA.
- 3** - Number of transfers now eligible in 2011-12
- 5** - Number of players on roster six-foot-two or taller in 2011-12
- 10** - Number of steals per game in 2010-11 to rank No. 62 in NCAA.
- 19** - Consecutive wins when GSU scores 70 or more points in a game, including six last year
- 33** - Where GSU ranked in NCAA in blocked shots in 2010-11 (144, 4.6 per game)
- 38** - Number of career double-figure scoring games by senior forward Chan Harris.
- 40.5**- GSU rebound average per game, 4th CAA
- 51** - GSU NCAA ranking in defense in field goal percentage allowed (.367)
- 56** - Number of shots Cody Paulk blocked last year to rank second in the CAA
- 68** - Career three-point baskets by senior guard Traci Haltiwanger.
- 207** -Career wins in 12 years by head coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener.
- 506** - All-time wins in GSU women’s basketball history after getting No. 500 last year