



**Game 9 — November 7, 1998**  
**Furman Paladins (4-4; 2-3 SoCon) vs. Georgia Southern Eagles (9-0; 7-0 SoCon)**  
**Greenville, South Carolina, Paladin Stadium (16,000) — Natural Surface**  
**1:30 P.M. Kickoff (EST)**



**Furman Football SID: Hunter Reid (864) 294-2061**  
**Furman Football Web Site: [www.furman.edu/athletics](http://www.furman.edu/athletics)**

**Ga. Southern Football SID: Tom McClellan (912) 681-0352**  
**Ga. Southern Football Web Site: [www2.sasou.edu/athletics](http://www2.sasou.edu/athletics)**

**THE GAME**

Georgia Southern, the consensus No. 1 ranked team in NCAA I-AA, can clinch the 1998 Southern Conference championship outright this Saturday with a win over Furman on Royal Ambassador Day at Paladin Stadium.

The Eagles, who last week knocked off East Tennessee State, 47-26, in Statesboro, Ga., to improve to 7-0 Southern Conference play, enter Saturday's game sporting a 9-0 overall record and the nation's best rushing attack, averaging 378.0 yards per game. Overall, the Eagles rank second nationally in scoring offense (43.9 ppg) and fourth nationally in total offense (492.1 ypg).

Furman, which was idle last Saturday, heads into the Georgia Southern contest on a three-game losing streak, having dropped a 22-19 overtime decision to East Tennessee State on Oct. 24.

**THE SERIES**

In a series that has featured two games that have decided national championships, Georgia Southern holds a 6-2 series lead over Furman.

Furman and Georgia Southern's first clash came in 1985 in Tacoma, Washington, where the Eagles staged a dramatic second half comeback to claim a 44-42 win and the NCAA I-AA national championship. Furman gained revenge in 1988 when it downed Georgia Southern, 17-12, in Pocatello, Idaho, to become the first Southern Conference school to win the NCAA national crown.

Since then, the Eagles have claimed five of the six series decisions, including a 30-13 verdict last year in Statesboro. Furman's lone win in its last six clashes with Georgia Southern came two years ago in Greenville by a 21-14 score.

1985	L	42-44	Tacoma, WA
1988	W	17-12	Pocatello, ID
1992	L	0-21	GREENVILLE
1993	L	19-31	Statesboro
1994	L	26-31	GREENVILLE
1995	L	20-27	Statesboro
1996	W	21-14	GREENVILLE
1997	L	13-30	Statesboro

**In Greenville: Georgia Southern leads 2-1**  
**In Statesboro: Georgia Southern leads 3-0**  
**Neutral Sites: Tied 1-1**

**THE COACHES**

Furman: Bobby Johnson (Clemson '73)  
 29-25-0 (.537), 5th Year at Furman  
 29-25-0 (.537), 5th Year Overall  
 Johnson vs. Georgia Southern (1-3)

Ga. Southern: Paul Johnson (Western Carolina '79)  
 19-3 (.863), 2nd Year at Ga. Southern  
 19-3 (.863), 2nd Year at Ga. Southern  
 Johnson vs. Furman (1-0)

**THE OFFENSES**

Furman: Multiple I  
 '98 Points/Game — 24.9  
 '98 Yards/Game — 318.8  
 202.3 Rushing  
 116.5 Passing

Ga. Southern: Spread  
 '98 Points/Game — 43.9  
 '98 Yards/Game — 492.1  
 378.0 Rushing  
 114.1 Passing

**THE DEFENSES**

Furman: 43  
 '98 Points/Game — 21.2  
 '98 Yards/Game — 335.0  
 173.0 Rushing  
 162.0 Passing

Georgia Southern: 43  
 '98 Points/Game — 21.8  
 '98 Yards/Game — 326.0  
 132.0 Rushing  
 194.0 Passing

**1998 RESULTS AND SCHEDULE**

Furman (4-4, 2-3 Southern)  
 Sept. 5 Clemson 33, Furman 0  
 Sept. 12 Furman 27, South Carolina State 19  
 Sept. 19 Furman 34, Samford 24  
 Sept. 26 Furman 51, VMI 14  
 Oct. 3 Furman 31, Western Carolina 7  
 Oct. 10 Appalachian State 26, Furman 13  
 Oct. 17 The Citadel 25, Furman 24  
 Oct. 24 E. Tenn. St. 22, Furman 19 (2ot)  
 Nov. 7 GEORGIA SOUTHERN, 1:30  
 Nov. 14 @ Wofford, 2:00  
 Nov. 21 CHATTANOOGA, 1:30

Georgia Southern (9-0; 7-0 SoCon)  
 Sept. 5 GSU 31, Elon 17  
 Sept. 12 GSU 51, Jacksonville State 32  
 Sept. 19 GSU 45, Wofford 10  
 Sept. 26 GSU 42, Chattanooga 25  
 Oct. 3 GSU 63, VMI 7  
 Oct. 10 GSU 28, Western Carolina 21  
 Oct. 17 GSU 37, Appalachian State 24  
 Nov. 24 GSU 51, The Citadel 34  
 Nov. 31 GSU 47, East Tennessee State 26  
 Nov. 14 @ Furman, 1:30  
 Nov. 21 SOUTH FLORIDA

**1998 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS**

Team	SoCon	Overall
Georgia Southern	7 0	9 0
Appalachian State	5 1	7 1
Western Carolina	4 3	4 4
The Citadel	3 3	4 5
<b>FURMAN</b>	<b>2 3</b>	<b>4 4</b>
Chattanooga	2 3	3 5
Wofford	2 4	3 5
East Tennessee State	2 4	2 6
VMI	0 6	1 8

**October 31**

Appalachian State 28, Chattanooga 7  
 The Citadel 32, Hofstra 30  
 Georgia Southern 47, East Tennessee State 26  
 Western Carolina 39, VMI 17  
 Lehigh 26, Wofford 0

**November 5**

Elon at Western Carolina, 1:00  
 Georgia Southern at Furman, 1:30  
 VMI at Appalachian State, 2:00  
 Chattanooga at The Citadel, 2:00  
 Wofford at East Tennessee State, 7:00

**1998 FURMAN PALADINS  
 PRE-SEASON HONORS**

Coaches All-Southern Conference  
 C Mark Foster (1st Team)  
 OG Ben Hall (1st Team)  
 PK Jason Wells (1st Team)  
 LB Orlando Ruff (1st Team)  
 SS John Keith (1st Team)  
 FLK Desmond Kitchings (2nd Team)  
 DT B.J. Pate (2nd Team)

Southern Conference Coaches  
 Defensive Player-of-the-Year  
 LB Orlando Ruff

Sports Network All-America  
 C Mark Foster

Southern Conference Polls  
 Southern Conference Head Coaches (4th)  
 Southern Conference Media (4th)

**1998 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE  
 REGULAR SEASON HONORS**

Players-of-the-Week  
 FB Louis Ivory (Fr.) vs. S.C. State  
 CB Daniel Roberson (Fr.) vs. Samford  
 CB Richie Jackson (Def.) vs. W. Carolina  
 LB Will Bouton (Fr.) vs. W. Carolina

## FURMAN LAST WEEK

FURMAN was idle last Saturday after dropping a 22-19 double overtime decision to East Tennessee State in Johnson City, Tenn., on Oct. 24.

## GEORGIA SOUTHERN LAST WEEK

GEORGIA SOUTHERN, led by freshman running back Adrian Peterson's 209 rushing yards and two touchdowns, maintained its status as the consensus No. 1 team in NCAA I-AA by upending Southern Conference foe East Tennessee State, 47-26, in front of 15,189 fans in Statesboro, Ga.

The Eagles, who at one point late in the second period held a slim 24-19 lead, tallied three straight times to take a 44-19 lead following a 52-yard touchdown run by quarterback Greg Hill with 2:15 left in the third period.

In claiming its ninth straight win on the year, Georgia Southern rolled up 537 yards in total offense, including 452 yards on the ground. Peterson's 209-yard rushing performance, which included a school record 91-yard scoring run in the second quarter, improved his league leading rushing total to 1,657 yards. Peterson's two rushing touchdowns gave him 22 scores on the year, just one shy of the conference single season record.

## LAST MEETING

STATESBORO, GA. (Nov. 8, 1997) — Georgia Southern quarterback Greg Hill rushed for 151 yards and two touchdowns, and the Eagles capitalized on a season high seven Furman turnovers to clinch the 1997 Southern Conference championship with a 30-13 win over the Paladins at Paulson Stadium.

Georgia Southern struck first when, on its second possession, Hill took an option keeper and raced 76 yards for a touchdown with 8:58 left in the first quarter.

Furman answered in the second quarter when quarterback Brent Rickman connected with split end Jody Wade on an 11-yard touchdown pass at the 11:10 mark to knot the game at 7-7.

The Eagles regained the lead early in the second half by covering 74 yards in 15 plays to take a 14-7 advantage following a 15-yard touchdown run by Roderick Russell at the 7:44 juncture of the third period.

Georgia Southern then used a critical Furman mistake to seize control of the game when defensive back Hal Carter intercepted a Brent Rickman pass and returned it 62 yards for a touchdown with 6:15 left in the third quarter.

The homestanding Eagles used another Paladin turnover to stretch their lead to 24-7 on a 47-yard Eric Meng field goal early in the fourth period, and later took advantage of Furman's fifth fumble of the game to tally the game's final score on a 1-yard run by Greg Hill with 0:19 remaining.

Overwhelmed in part by offensive miscues, Furman's defense actually performed well, holding Georgia Southern to only 256 yards in total offense.

<b>FURMAN</b>	0	7	0	6	—	13
<b>GA. SOUTHERN</b>	7	0	13	10	—	30

GS — Greg Hill 76 run (Eric Meng kick) 8:58-1Q
F — Jody Wade 11 pass from Brent Rickman (Jason Wells kick) 11:10-2Q
GS — Roderick Russell 15 run (Eric Meng kick) 7:44-3Q
GS — Hal Carter 62 interception return (rush failed) 6:15-3Q
GS — Eric Meng 47 FG 13:34-4Q
F — Jody Wade 16 pass from Greg Hill (pass failed)
GS — Greg Hill 1 run (Eric Meng kick) 0:19-4Q

**Rushing:** F — Russell 10-79, Crosby 14-33, Moore 3-16, Hill 7-15, Rickman 3-(-21). GS — Hill 29-151, Russell 22-94, Steverson 1-4, Joyner 2-0, C. Johnson 2-(-1).

**Passing:** F — Rickman 5-16-1-74, Hill 4-5-0-33. GS — Hill 3-9-0-8.

**Receiving:** F — Moore 4-46, Wade 3-40, Crosby 1-13, Kitchings 1-8. GS — Joyner 1-8, Cunningham 1-4, Russell 1-(-4).

**Defense:** F — Thier 20, Scott 20, Ruff 11, Dailer 10. GS — Morrell 10, Nighbert 9.

	F	GS
First Downs	15	14
Rushing	37-122	56-248
Passing	107	8
C/A/I	9-21-1	3-9-0
Total Offense	229	256
Fumbles-Lost	6-6	3-1
Penalties	1-10	5-26
Punts	4-35.0	6-34.2
Possession Time	26:04	33:56
Third Down Conversions	4-11	8-18
Sacks By	3	0

## NOTING THE PALADINS

✓ **PLAYING NO. 1...**When Furman takes on Georgia Southern this Saturday in Paladin Stadium, it will mark the first time the Paladins have squared off against the top-ranked team in NCAA I-AA since the Paladins faced then No. 1 ranked Marshall (twice) during the 1996 season. Furman dropped a 42-17 regular season decision to Marshall in Huntington, and later was routed by the top-ranked Thundering Herd, 54-0, in NCAA I-AA quarterfinal playoff action, also in Huntington. Previously, the highest ranked foe Furman has faced in Paladin Stadium in the 1990s was Appalachian State, which was ranked second prior to a 41-28 win over the Paladins during the 1995 season.

✓ **NASTY SKID...**Furman's current three-game losing streak is its longest since the Paladins lost five straight over the course of the 1994 and '95 seasons (last three games in '94 and first two games in '95). If Furman loses to Georgia Southern this Saturday, it will mark the first four-game Southern Conference losing skid since the 1993 and '94 campaigns, when the Paladins dropped

## FURMAN RADIO

Furman football action can be heard throughout the Upstate over the Paladins' radio network, headed up by flagship station WPCI-AM (1490) of Greenville, and affiliates WKDY-AM (1400) of Spartanburg and Greenville's WHYZ-AM (1070). In addition, WPEK-FM (98.1) will carry selected games this year.

Calling the play-by-play action will Chuck Hussion, now in his fifth year year as "Voice of the Paladins." Joining him in the booth for his fifth season of color commentary will be John Ingles. Gordon Higgins will again serve as Furman's sideline reporter, and Dave Cohen will host the pre-game show and again deliver halftime and post-game highlights.

## FURMAN ON TEAMLINE

Furman football radio broadcasts will again be available to fans on the TEAMLINE telephone service. Fans can access Furman games by dialing 1-800-846-4700 and entering Furman's four-digit access code (1109).

## FURMAN ON THE INTERNET

The Furman University sports information office maintains an athletics home page on the Internet. Furman's football web site includes program quick facts, coaches' biographies, season outlook, current roster and two-deep, schedule and game statistics, cumulative statistics, press releases, ticket information, as well as information on Furman's radio network and links to the Southern Conference and NCAA.

Furman's athletics home page address:

<http://www.furman.edu/athletics>.



the last Southern Conference game of the 1993 season and the first three league contests in 1994.

✓ **HILL TO RETURN...** Furman sophomore quarterback Justin Hill (Greer, S.C.) has been cleared to play in this Saturday's game against Georgia Southern, head trainer Brian Reese announced on Monday. Hill, the Paladins' starting quarterback in the first seven games of the year, sustained a sprained ankle late in the third quarter of Furman's 25-24 loss to The Citadel on Oct. 17 and was sidelined the next week in Furman's 22-19 double overtime loss to East Tennessee State in Johnson City. Hill was replaced in the lineup by sophomore Brent Rickman (Rome, Ga.), who threw for 133 yards (11-of-22) in the loss to East Tennessee State.

✓ **KEITH PROBABLE...** Pre-season All-Southern Conference strong safety John Keith (Newnan, Ga.) has been upgraded to probable for this Saturday's game against Georgia Southern after missing the last three games with a sprained foot that he originally hurt late in the Paladins' 34-24 win over Samford on Sept. 19. After sitting out the VMI game the following week (Sept. 26), Keith returned to action against Western Carolina on Oct. 3 but registered only three plays (and an interception) prior to re-injuring his foot. In all, Keith has missed four of the Paladins eight games this year, and his production has been sorely missed. In his three-plus games as a regular in the Paladin lineup, he totaled 36 tackles, three tackles-for-loss, a sack, a fumble recovery, an interception, two pass deflections, and two forced fumbles. In a season opening 33-0 loss at Clemson, Keith racked up a career high 19 tackles. One of only three returning defensive starters this year, Keith totaled 85 tackles and a team leading four interceptions (and two blocked punts) in 1997.

✓ **MOORE QUESTIONABLE...** Sophomore offensive guard Josh Moore (Cross Hill, S.C.) is listed as questionable for the Georgia Southern game after missing the East Tennessee State contest with sprains in both ankles. Moore, a starter at right tackle in the Paladins' first six games, was originally sidelined with a sprained ankle in a 26-13 loss at Appalachian State on Oct. 10. He returned as a backup the next week against The Citadel (Oct. 17) but exited the game early with a sprain of his other ankle.

✓ **ON THE SHELF...** If Furman regains the services of quarterback Justin Hill, strong safety John Keith, and offensive tackle Josh Moore this Saturday against Georgia Southern, it will be a welcome boost for a team that has been hit hard by injuries this year.

While the injuries to Hill, Keith, and Moore have cost the Paladins the services of quality performers for several key games this year, season ending injuries to several other performers, when considered as a group, have been difficult to overcome.

On defense, where the Paladins could least afford injuries following the graduation of eight regulars, including the entire front, two starters — nose guard Luke Kosman (Cincinnati, Ohio) and defensive tackle Faamata Fonoimoana (Jonesboro, Ga.) — were forced into career retirement earlier this season after being diagnosed with health threatening neck conditions. In addition, Furman's two projected starting cornerbacks, sophomores Andre Stroman (Plantation, Fla.) and Bryant Huguley (Valley, Ala.), missed the entire pre-season with hamstring injuries and only returned to practice within the last two weeks. Huguley saw his first action of the season versus East Tennessee State, and Stroman may see his first playing time of the season this Saturday against Georgia Southern.

On offense, starting offensive guard Mark Batluck (Carlisle, Pa.) was lost for the year after sustaining a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his knee in a 34-24 win over Samford on Sept. 19.

✓ **5 + 4 = 9...** Furman nearly doubled its season sacks total in the 22-19 double overtime loss to East Tennessee State on Oct. 24, recording a season high four quarterback takedowns to improve its season total to nine through eight games (1.1/game). Last year Furman, led by Southern Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Year Bryan Dailer (17.5 sacks), led the Southern Conference with 32 sacks in 11 games (2.9/game).

✓ **PICKING UP THE PIECES AT HOME...** The Citadel's shocking 25-24 upset of Furman on Oct. 17 snapped the Paladins' five-game home winning streak and marked only the second loss for Furman in its last 15 games in Paladin Stadium dating back to the 1996 season. Despite the setback to The Citadel, the Paladins still sport an impressive 86-24-1 all-time record (77.9 winning percentage) in Paladin Stadium.

(Furman In Paladin Stadium Since 1996, 13-2)

Opponent	Score	Result	Year
S.C. State	27-13	W	1996
Wofford	33-3	W	1996
Western Carolina	45-30	W	1996
The Citadel	35-25	W	1996
Georgia Southern	21-14	W	1996
Chattanooga	42-21	W	1996
VMI	35-14	W	1997
Appalachian State	24-22	W	1997
East Tennessee State	28-58	L	1997
Elon	38-20	W	1997
Wofford	28-7	W	1997
S.C. State	27-19	W	1998
Samford	34-24	W	1998
Western Carolina	31-7	W	1998
The Citadel	24-25	L	1998

✓ **GSU SUCCESS AT PALADIN STADIUM...** Georgia Southern is the only Southern Conference foe that has forged a winning record against Furman in Paladin Stadium. The Eagles, who are 2-1 versus Furman in Paladin Stadium, also hold the distinction of being one of only two foes to shut out the Paladins in the

## FURMAN ON INFO CONNECTION

Sport Systems Fax-On-Demand is an automated, 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week service that instantly sends the latest information and releases from the Southern Conference to your fax machine. To access Sports Systems Fax-On-Demand, call (201) 461-5726. You must call the system from the handset of your fax machine. Select the information you are interested in from the directory numbers listed below. Once you have made your selection(s), push the start button on your fax machine. Your information is on its way immediately.

File	Furman	SoCon
Directory	2400	3000
Football Stats	2401	3001
Football Facts & Game Notes	2402	3002
Football Previous Game Stats	2403	3003
Football Roster(s)	2404	3004
Football Breaking News	2405	3005
SoCon Football Standings		3006
SoCon Player-of-the-Week		3007
NCAA I-AA Football Statistics		3008
NCAA I-AA Football Polls		3009

## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE COACHES' TELECONFERENCE

The Southern Conference will conduct a weekly teleconference throughout the 1997 season featuring the league's nine football coaches. The weekly teleconference is open to members of the media each Tuesday (September 1 - November 17) from 10:00 a.m. — 11:03 a.m. EST. Each coach will have seven minutes to make an opening statement and answer questions. The number to call is (913) 981-5508.

1998 SoCon Teleconference Schedule
10:00 a.m. — Jerry Moore, Appalachian State
10:07 a.m. — Don Powers, The Citadel
10:15 a.m. — Paul Hamilton, E. Tenn. St.
10:21 a.m. — Bobby Johnson, Furman
10:28 a.m. — Paul Johnson, Ga. Southern
10:35 a.m. — Buddy Green, Chattanooga
10:42 a.m. — Ted Cain, VMI
10:49 a.m. — Bill Bleil, Western Carolina
10:56 a.m. — Mike Ayers, Wofford



beautiful facility, having blanked Furman 21-0 during the 1992 season. South Carolina State (17-0, 1982) is the only other opponent to hold Furman scoreless in Paladin Stadium's 111-game history.

✓ **PENALTIES, TURNOVERS DOWN...**Furman is currently the Southern Conference's least penalized team, having been flagged only 38 times for 294 yards through eight games. The Paladins are also the league leader in turnover margin, with a +0.75 rating. On the year Furman has suffered only 11 turnovers (7 fumbles, 4 interceptions) while forcing opponents into 17 misuces (8 fumbles, 9 interceptions). At one point this year Furman went 20 consecutive quarters without a fumble (recovered or lost). A year ago the Paladins suffered 31 turnovers, including a season high seven misuces in a 30-13 loss at Georgia Southern.

✓ **OVERTIME BLUES...**Furman's 22-19 double overtime loss to East Tennessee State on Oct. 24 marked the third overtime game in Paladin football history and, unfortunately, the third straight loss. Furman, which dropped a 42-35 triple overtime decision to Nevada at Reno in NCAA I-AA quarterfinal round playoff action in 1990, lost the first overtime game in Southern Conference history in 1991 when it fell, 26-23, in triple overtime to Appalachian State in Greenville.

✓ **BERRIAN STEPPING UP...**Junior split end Tyron Berrian (Tallahassee, Fla.), who caught a career high eight passes for 75 yards in Furman's 25-24 loss to The Citadel on Oct. 17, has emerged as a quality receiver in his first season as a starter. Berrian, who ranks as Furman's second leading receiver with 19 catches for 349 yards and two touchdowns this year, recently taken over the team's kickoff return duties from Desmond Kitchings (Wagener, S.C.) after Kitchings sustained a mild ankle sprain against The Citadel.

✓ **RUFF ON THE CHARTS...**Furman senior linebacker **Orlando Ruff (Winnsboro, S.C.)**, who entered the 1998 season ranked seventh on the Paladins' career tackles chart with 391 stops, now stands fourth with 485 tackles following his nine-tackle performance against East Tennessee State.

#### FURMAN CAREER TACKLES LEADERS

Rank	Player	Years	Tackles
1)	Jeff Blankenship	1985-88	580
2)	Kevin Kendrick	1987-90	574
3)	Kota Suttle	1989-92	556
4)	<b>Orlando Ruff</b>	<b>1995-</b>	<b>485</b>
5)	Jay Thier	1994-97	452
6)	Bernard Scott	1993-97	447
7)	Milan Sterling	1990-93	445
8)	Steve O'Neill	1978-81	389
9)	Bruce Gheesling	1978-81	387
10)	Rock Hurst	1981-84	364

✓ **WELLS MAKING HIS MARK...**Junior placekicker **Jason Wells (Lawton, Okla.)** heads into the Georgia Southern game ranked fifth on

Furman's all-time kick scoring chart with 173 points. A pre-season first team All-Southern Conference selection, Wells, who connected on a career high four field goal attempts, including a caer best 46-yarder in the 22-19 double overtime loss to East Tennessee State on Oct. 24, is Furman's leading scorer on the season with 49 points. Wells has made 27-of-46 field goal attempts and 92-of-96 PATs in almost three seasons of action.

#### FURMAN CAREER KICK SCORING LEADERS

Rank	Player	Years	Points
1)	Mike Wood	1986-89	225
2)	Keven Esva	1982-85	214
	Jim Richter	1992-95	214
3)	Glen Connally	1988-90	188
4)	Tim Tanguay	1980-82	177
5)	<b>Jason Wells</b>	<b>1996-</b>	<b>173</b>
6)	Andy Goss	1974-76	125

✓ **BOBBY JOHNSON: YEAR FIVE...**The 1998 season marks Furman head coach Bobby Johnson's fifth year at the helm of a Paladin program and 21st season of service to the university. After suffering through a 3-8 season in 1994 (the program's first losing season since 1979 and worst record since 1972), Furman rebounded in 1995 to finish 6-5. A year later Johnson directed the Paladins to a 9-4 record and into the NCAA I-AA playoffs — the program's first playoff appearance since 1990. Furman went 7-4 last year and finished third in the Southern Conference for the third consecutive year. Johnson's four-year head coaching record is 29-26 (.527), and his last three teams have combined to post a 26-17 slate (.604). Johnson's 21-year tenure at Furman includes work as defensive backs coach, assistant head coach, defensive coordinator, and head coach. The Paladins' record during that span (1976-80; 82-92; 94-present) is 161-78-7 and includes 17 winning seasons, eight Southern Conference championships and one NCAA I-AA title.

✓ **SEVEN PALADINS NAMED PRE-SEASON ALL-SOCON...**In balloting by Southern Conference head coaches, seven Paladins were selected to the pre-season all-league team. They include senior center **Mark Foster (Williamston, S.C.)**, junior offensive guard **Ben Hall (Royston, Ga.)**, junior placekicker **Jason Wells (Lawton, Okla.)**, senior linebacker **Orlando Ruff (Winnsboro, S.C.)**, and junior strong safety **John Keith (Newnan, Ga.)**, who were named to the first team. Named to the second team were junior flanker **Desmond Kitchings (Wagener, S.C.)** and senior defensive tackle **B.J. Pate (Inman, S.C.)**.

✓ **RUFF PRE-SEASON DEFENSIVE POY PICK...**Senior linebacker **Orlando Ruff (Winnsboro, S.C.)** was selected by Southern Conference head coaches as the league's defensive player-of-the-year. If he captures the honor, Ruff, a two-time all-conference selection, will become the second straight Paladin and sixth Furman player to earn Southern Conference Defen-

sive Player-of-the-Year honors since the conference initiated the award in 1986 (prior to 1986 only one "player-of-the-year" award was accorded). Furman's five previous Southern Conference Defensive Player-of-the Year honorees include: LB Jeff Blankenship (1988), DE Kelly Fletcher (1989), LB Kevin Kendrick (1990), NG Allen Edwards (1991), DE Bryan Dailer (1997).

✓ **FOSTER PRE-SEASON ALL-AMERICA...**Furman senior center **Mark Foster (Williamston, S.C.)** was selected to the Sports Network Pre-Season All-America team. A second team All-Southern Conference pick a year ago and pre-season all-league pick this year, Foster earned winning grades in 10 of the Paladins' 11 games a year ago and earned the highest blocking percentage (.841) of any Paladin offensive lineman in 1997. Foster has also served as Furman's long snapper the last three years.

#### INJURY REPORT (for GSU game)

G Mark Batluck, knee (out for season)  
 T Josh Moore, ankle (questionable)  
 NG Luke Kosman, neck (retired)  
 DT Faamata Fonoimoana, neck (retired)  
 SS John Keith, foot (probable)

## FURMAN PALADINS VS. GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLES DEPTH CHART

### FURMAN OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
FLK	4	DESMOND KITCHINGS	5-9	180	Jr.
	87	Kevin Stewart	6-2	198	Gr.
LT	71	DONNIE LITTLEJOHN	6-3	265	R-Fr.
	60	Ryan Kineard	6-3	258	Jr.
LG	75	MARTY PRIORE	6-0	278	R-Fr.
	54	Chris Stewart	6-0	271	R-Fr.
C	73	MARK FOSTER	6-2	290	Sr.
	54	Chris Stewart	6-0	271	R-Fr.
RG	59	BEN HALL	6-4	274	Jr.
	65	Tye Crews	6-2	282	R-Fr.
RT	77	JOSH MOORE (or)	6-4	290	So.
	60	Ryan Kineard	6-3	258	Jr.
TE	85	MICHAEL OWINGS	6-3	248	Jr.
	89	Trent Sansbury	6-3	234	R-Fr.
SE	2	TYRON BERRIAN	5-7	147	Jr.
	33	Zach Smerdzinski	5-10	182	So.
QB	15	JUSTIN HILL	6-0	190	So.
	17	Brent Rickman	6-4	182	So.
FB	34	LOUIS IVORY	5-8	194	Fr.
	23	Derek Russell	6-0	233	So.
TB	21	STUART RENTZ	5-8	186	Jr.
	5	Quinton Burton	5-10	188	So.

### FURMAN DEFENSE

RUE	55	BOBBY HUBBARD	6-3	226	Jr.
	99	Hershal Pleasant	6-2	230	So.
ST	90	B.J. PATE	6-5	287	Sr.
	64	Steve DeBeer	6-5	291	Fr.
NG	18	KENYA FOUCH	6-5	296	Sr.
	78	Ryan Spencer	6-3	290	R-Fr.
WT	48	BRIAN CONNER	6-2	257	Jr.
	97	Steve Kupchinsky	6-4	246	So.
OLB	46	COLIN ROGERS	6-2	228	Sr.
	11	Brad Redmond	6-0	207	R-Fr.
SLB	47	ORLANDO RUFF	6-3	262	Sr.
	9	John Thrift	6-1	217	R-Fr.
WLB	20	WILL BOUTON	6-2	219	R-Fr.
	9	John Thrift	6-1	217	R-Fr.
LCB	8	RICHIE JACKSON	6-0	175	R-Fr.
	32	Rodney Johnson	5-9	171	Fr.
RCB	28	DANIEL ROBERSON	5-9	171	R-Fr.
	31	Andre Stroman	5-8	181	So.
SS	29	ROCCO ADRIAN (or)	6-2	202	Sr.
	10	John Keith	6-0	212	Jr.
FS	24	WALTER BOOTH	5-11	184	Jr.
	25	Joey Espinosa	5-10	173	Gr.

### FURMAN SPECIALISTS

P	80	LEE WILLIS	5-10	154	R-Fr.
PK	16	JASON WELLS	6-2	200	Jr.
HO	21	STUART RENTZ	5-8	186	Jr.
SSN	73	MARK FOSTER	6-2	290	Sr.
LSN	73	MARK FOSTER	6-2	290	Sr.
KO	35	DAVID BURTON	6-0	208	Sr.
KOR	2	TYRON BERRIAN	5-7	147	Jr.
PR	33	ZACH SMERDZINSKI	5-10	182	So.

### GEORGIA SOUTHERN OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
WR	83	DEDRIC PARHAM	6-4	203	Jr.
	82	Demond Brown	5-11	195	Jr.)
LT	62	RICH MCGRATH	6-2	283	Jr.)
	75	Anthony Scott	6-2	253	So.)
LG	74	STEVE DILL	6-3	277	Sr.)
	66	Marvin James	6-0	293	Sr.)
C	59	MATT WINSLETTE	5-10	242	Sr.)
	70	Tom Jiles	6-2	251	Jr.
RG	68	MARK WILLIAMS	6-1	312	Jr.
	73	Michael Anderson	6-0	260	So.
RT	64	GRANT CHESTNUT	6-3	250	Sr.
	70	Tom Jiles	6-2	251	Jr.
WR	85	TITUS JOHNSON	6-0	176	So.
	81	Ashley Morgan	6-1	181	Sr.
QB	10	GREG HILL	5-11	163	Jr.
	9	J.R. Revere	5-11	189	Fr.
FB	3	ADRIAN PETERSON	5-10	207	Fr.
	35	Jevon Sullivan	5-10	203	Sr.
SB	1	COREY JOYNER	5-9	183	Sr.
	34	Audrell Grace	5-9	178	Fr.
SB	19	CHERARD FREEMAN	5-9	197	Jr.
	36	Bennie Cunningham	5-11	199	Jr.

### GEORGIA SOUTHERN DEFENSE

LE	44	BENJY HARRIS	6-3	238	Sr.
	97	Jamar Jones	6-2	226	Fr.
LT	93	BRIAN WILSON	6-2	269	Jr.
	91	Eugene Phillips	6-3	245	Jr.
RT	99	VONCELLIES ALLEN	6-0	286	Jr.
	88	Robert LeBlanc	6-2	244	Fr.
RE	94	ERIC DAVIS	6-3	260	Sr.
	90	Matt Williams	6-2	243	So.
OLB	40	DARYL MORRELL	5-9	180	So.
	41	Michael Youngblood	6-3	225	Fr.
MLB	33	JOSH SMITHERS	6-0	216	Jr.
	52	Cortez Robinson	6-0	225	Jr.
OLB	50	LARRY ROGERS	6-1	238	Sr..
	31	Jason Neese	6-0	213	Fr.
CB	2	KIWAUKEE THOMAS	5-11	178	Jr.
	27	Chris Blount	5-9	178	Fr.
FS	5	ARKEE THOMPSON	6-0	179	Fr.
	37	Derrick Williams	5-10	180	Fr.
SS	22	ANDRAE ROGERS	5-10	179	Sr.
	14	John Davis	5-11	192	So.
CB	4	EARTHWIND MORELAND	5-10	175	Jr.
	25	Cordell Benton	5-7	181	Jr.

### GEORGIA SOUTHERN SPECIALISTS

P	39	KENNY WOROB	5-11	216	Jr.
PK	45	CHRIS CHAMBERS	5-9	177	Jr.
HO	39	KENNY WOROB	5-11	216	Jr.
SN	57	JONATHAN FRANKLIN	6-3	227	Jr.
KO	45	CHRIS CHAMBERS	5-9	177	Jr.
KOR	35	JEVON SULLIVAN	5-10	203	Sr.
	1	COREY JOYNER	5-9	183	Sr.
PR	1	COREY JOYNER	5-9	183	Sr.