



ncaa tournament » fgcu vs. georgetown



GETTING READY FOR GEORGETOWN

Eagles happy to head to Philadelphia

Coach Enfield feels location will act as a neutral site for game.

By Carl Bleich
Special to The News-Press

Being a young Division I team from a smaller conference making its first NCAA tournament appearance, the FGCU men's basketball team did not quite know what to expect from the NCAA tournament selection committee.

The Eagles got their answer fairly quickly on Sunday night when it was announced on CBS' Selection Show that they would play in the South Region as a No. 15 seed against No. 2 seed Georgetown in Philadelphia at 6:50 p.m. on Friday.

There seemed to be a consensus among coach Andy Enfield and some of his players that, all things considered, FGCU's draw

appears to be somewhat favorable.

"I'm very happy," Enfield said. "Since we have to travel a little further than they do having the extra day probably helps. It just gives us an extra day of preparation."

Enfield was relieved that FGCU's opponent was not playing a "virtual home game" as he described it. The Eagles could have been forced to play Michigan or Michigan State in Auburn Hills, Kansas or Kansas State in Kansas City or Ohio State in Dayton.

That could have potentially created a situation that Enfield endured when he was an assistant coach at Florida State. In 2011, No. 10 seed Florida State was forced to play No. 2 seed Notre Dame at the United Center in Chicago in an NCAA tournament third-round game.

"They had 20,000 fans and we had 1,000 or 500," Enfield said. "Fortunately we were able to win that game. I think, in our case, Philadelphia is more of a neutral site."

Georgetown, located in Washington DC, is roughly two hours from Philadelphia by bus.

The Hoyas typically like to slow teams down and they excel in their halfcourt sets, which typically feature some variation of the Princeton offense.

That is a far cry from what the Eagles like to do on offense as FGCU tries to push the tempo and use its quickness to beat teams to the basket on fast breaks.

The contrast in styles is seen firsthand in the teams' points per game averages. The Eagles score 73.1 points per game while the Hoyas score 64.6.

"They like to slow down and we play a very fast style of play,"

junior forward Chase Fieler said of Georgetown. "If we can get them in our style of play...I think that will be good for us. I think we are one of the best teams in the country at (our style)."

The name that was mentioned multiple times by Enfield and Eagles players on Sunday was Otto Porter. Porter, a 6-foot-8 sophomore forward, was the Big East Player of the Year this season.

Porter averages 16.3 points per game and 7.4 rebounds for the Hoyas. He is currently projected to be the No. 3 overall pick in the 2013 NBA Draft by nba-draft.net.

"He is so versatile," said Fieler, who will spend time covering him on Friday. "He can do everything. We will run schemes to try to slow him down."

The Eagle coaching staff wasted no time preparing for the Hoyas. As the NCAA Selection

UPSETTING TREND

Fifteen seeds are 6-106 all-time against No. 2 seeds in the NCAA tournament. Here's a list of the upset winners:

- 2012 Lehigh 75, Duke 70
- 2012 Norfolk St. 86, Missouri 84
- 2001 Hampton 58, Iowa State 57
- 1997 Coppin St. 78, S. Carolina 65
- 1993 Santa Clara 64, Arizona 61
- 1991 Richmond 73, Syracuse 69

Show watch party ended on Sunday, Enfield and his staff headed upstairs to their offices to start breaking down Georgetown's film.

"Big East basketball is as good as it gets," Enfield said. "We have our hands full. We're looking forward to the opportunity to compete against them."



FGCU's Sherwood Brown celebrates after FGCU was selected to play Georgetown for their first game of the NCAA tournament during a selection party at Alico Arena on Sunday. JACK HARDMAN/THE NEWS-PRESS

FGCU KEY FACTS

- » **RPI:** 95
- » **Record against top 100 RPI:** 1-4
- » **Quality wins:** Miami (No. 2), Loyola, Md. (101), FIU (114), Mercer twice (139)
- » **Bad losses:** at Maine (267), at East Tennessee State (275), Lipscomb twice (239), at Stetson (219)
- » **Offense efficiency rank:** 150 (Kenpom.com)
- » **Defense efficiency rank:** 119 (Kenpom.com)
- » **Coach:** Andy Enfield
- » **Colors:** Old gold, cobalt blue, emerald
- » **Location:** Fort Myers
- » **Enrollment:** 12,600 (11,279 undergraduate, 1,376 graduate)
- » **NCAA record:** First appearance

2012-2013 STATISTICS

NO	Name	HT	GP	GS	MPG	PPG	RPG	APG	SPG
0	Brett Comer	6-3	34	34	26.7	7.9	3.1	6.2	1.5
2	Bernard Thompson	6-3	34	34	29.7	14.0	4.4	1.7	2.8
5	Christophe Varidel	6-2	34	1	16.3	6.1	1.9	0.6	0.5
12	Eric McKnight	6-9	34	31	20.8	6.7	4.6	0.3	0.3
14	Alexander Blessig	6-2	13	0	5.1	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3
15	Filip Cvjeticanin	6-9	32	0	13.8	3.9	2.3	0.2	0.2
20	Chase Fieler	6-8	34	34	27.3	12.2	5.4	1.5	1.0
21	Leonard Livingston	6-10	14	0	4.9	1.9	0.9	0	0.1
23	Eddie Murray	6-8	34	3	17.2	3.8	3.0	0.3	0.3
24	Marcus Blake	6-7	12	0	3.4	0.3	0.7	0.1	0
25	Sherwood Brown	6-4	34	33	33	15.3	6.4	1.2	1.4
35	Dajuan Graf	6-0	34	0	13.4	2.5	1.6	1.4	0.7

GEORGETOWN KEY FACTS

- » **RPI:** 10
- » **Record against top 100 RPI:** 13-5
- » **Quality wins:** Syracuse twice, Cincinnati twice, UCLA, Tennessee, Notre Dame, Louisville, Marquette, Connecticut
- » **Bad losses:** South Florida
- » **Offense efficiency rank:** 62 (Kenpom.com)
- » **Defense efficiency rank:** 4 (Kenpom.com)
- » **Coach:** John Thompson III
- » **Colors:** Blue and gray
- » **Location:** Washington, D.C.
- » **Enrollment:** 17,130
- » **NCAA record:** 46-27

2012-2013 STATISTICS

NO	Name	HT	GP	GS	MPG	PPG	RPG	APG	SPG
2	Greg Whittington	6-8	13	13	35.2	12.1	7.0	2.0	1.3
3	Mikael Hopkins	6-9	31	31	20.3	6.0	2.9	1.3	0.9
4	D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera	6-3	31	0	25.2	9.0	3.0	1.4	0.8
5	Markel Starks	6-2	31	31	34.1	12.5	1.8	2.9	0.5
12	David Allen	6-2	4	0	1.3	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
21	Brandon Bolden	6-10	4	0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
22	Otto Porter Jr.	6-8	30	30	35.3	16.3	7.4	2.7	1.9
23	Aaron Bowen	6-6	23	0	6.8	1.6	1.0	0.3	0.1
25	John Caprio	6-6	13	0	2.4	0.6	1.1	0.3	0.2
31	Stephen Domingo	6-6	19	0	5.8	1.1	0.3	0.5	0.2
32	Moses Ayegba	6-9	27	0	9.5	1.4	2.5	0.4	0.1
34	Nate Lubick	6-8	31	31	29.6	7.2	5.4	2.8	0.7
42	Bradley Hayes	7-0	9	0	1.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
55	Jabril Trawick	6-5	31	19	26.3	5.7	2.8	2.0	1.1

A-SUN NCAA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

YEAR	RESULT
2012	No. 3 Georgetown 74, No. 14 Belmont 59
2011	No. 4 Wisconsin 72, No. 13 Belmont 58
2010	No. 1 Kentucky 100, No. 16 ETSU 71
2009	No. 1 Pittsburgh 72, No. 16 ETSU 62
2008	No. 2 Duke 71, No. 15 Belmont 70
2007	No. 2 Georgetown 80, No. 15 Belmont 55
2006	No. 2 UCLA 78, No. 15 Belmont 44
2005	No. 2 Connecticut 77, No. 15 UCF 71
2004	No. 3 Pittsburgh 53, No. 14 UCF 44
2003	No. 3 Xavier 71, No. 14 Troy 59
2002	No. 2 Alabama 86, No. 15 FAU 78
2001	No. 11 Georgia State 50, No. 6 Wisconsin 49 No. 3 Maryland 79, No. 11 Georgia State 60
2000	No. 4 Syracuse 79, No. 13 Samford 65
1999	No. 3 St. John's 69, No. 14 Samford 43
1998	No. 3 Stanford 67, No. 14 College of Charleston 57
1997	No. 12 College of Charleston 75, No. 5 Maryland 66 No. 4 Arizona 73, No. 12 College of Charleston 69
1996	No. 1 UMass 92, No. 16 UCF 70
1995	No. 1 UCLA 92, No. 16 FIU 56
1994	No. 5 Wake Forest 68, No. 12 College of Charleston 58 No. 1 Purdue 98, No. 16 UCF 67
1992	No. 2 Oklahoma State 100, No. 15 Georgia Southern 73
1991	No. 1 Arkansas 117, No. 16 Georgia State 76
1990	No. 1 UNLV 102, No. 16 Arkansas-Little Rock 72
1989	No. 4 Louisville 76, No. 13 Arkansas-Little Rock 71
1988	No. 3 Louisville 76, No. 14 Texas-San Antonio 72
1987	No. 2 Syracuse 79, No. 15 Georgia Southern 73
1986	No. 14 Arkansas-Little Rock 90, No. 3 Notre Dame 83 No. 6 N.C.State 80, No. 14 Arkansas-Little Rock 66, 20T
1985	No. 2 Georgia Tech 65, No. 15 Mercer
1984 †	Alcorn State 79, Houston Baptist 60
1983 ‡	Robert Morris 64, Georgia Southern 54
1982	No. 6 Iowa 70, No. 11 La.-Monroe 63
1981	No. 5 Arkansas 73, No. 12 Mercer 67

† 53-team field; winner seeded in final 48
‡ 52-team field; winner seeded in final 48
Note: The A-Sun did not meet NCAA conference "continuity" rules in 1993.

UPSTART SEEKING UPSET

FGCU IS DANGEROUS FOE

Experts impressed by NCAA newcomers

By Seth Soffian
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FGCU coach Andy Enfield laughed Sunday evening at the next outlet in his endless parade of media duties.

"Ironically, I think John Thompson Sr. is supposed to interview me. He has a show in Washington D.C.," Enfield said of the former Georgetown coach and father of current Hoyas boss John Thompson III, whose Hoyas will play Enfield's Eagles in the NCAA tournament Friday night in Philadelphia.

"I'm going to tell him we play a slow-down game, we play 40 minutes of zone, and that we don't guard anyone."

For once in his life, Enfield fired up an airball.

Before even being drawn to face second-seeded Georgetown (25-6) in a South Region opener, 15th seeded FGCU (24-10) was already a trendy pick of March Madness prognosticators to pull an upset for reasons exactly opposite of what Enfield joked that he'd tell Thompson.

Long, quick and athletic, FGCU plays an up-tempo, open-ended offensive game predicated on the success of its defense, which doesn't use much trapping but is still 18th in the country with 9.0 steals per game.

Sophomore guard Bernard Thompson, the Atlantic Sun Conference Defensive Player of the Year, is fifth in the nation with 2.82 steals per game. Sophomore point guard Brett Comer and senior wing Sherwood Brown were third and seventh in the A-Sun with 1.6 and 1.4 steals per game, respectively.

"Based on our athleticism and our up-tempo style, we can score with the majority of teams in the country," said Enfield, who has embraced a similar recipe for his roster as has been used by Florida State's Leonard Hamilton, under whom Enfield coached for five seasons before joining FGCU in 2011.

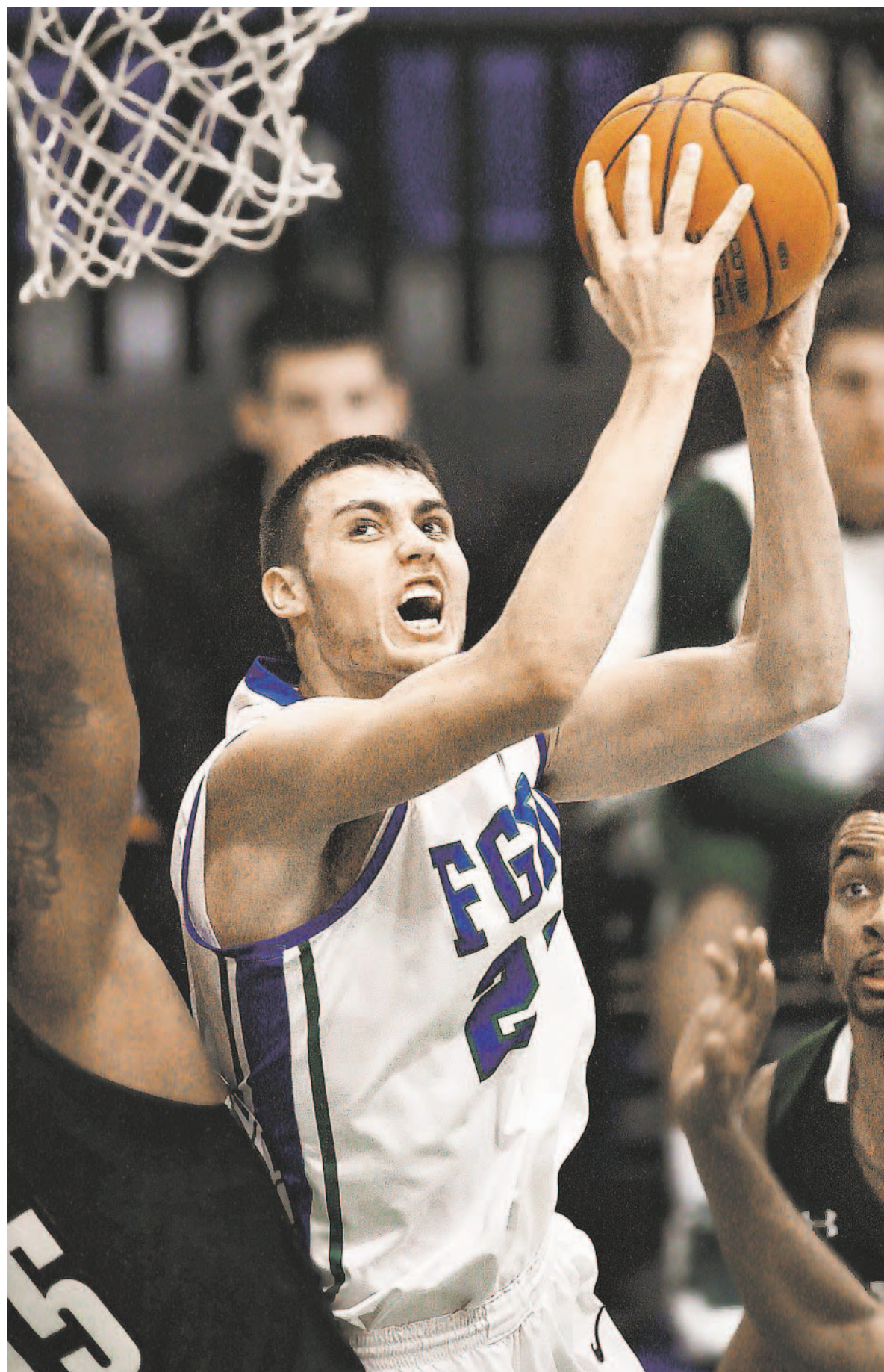
"I think we're playing well enough and we have enough talent to compete. Whether that's good enough to win a game or two or three, we have to go prove that."

FGCU rarely operates out of sets on offense. Rather, the Eagles try to use their quickness and athleticism on defense to create easy offense. FGCU's 73.1 points a game led the A-Sun and is 53rd in the nation. Its A-Sun-best 46 percent field-goal accuracy is 50th in the country.

Comer led the A-Sun and is 17th in the nation with 6.3 assists per game. As a final weapon, FGCU features four players shooting at least 34 percent on 3-pointers and two more shooting at least 25 percent.

It's been a potent enough combination to contend with several of the top teams in the country this season.

"They're good," Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, who was familiar with Enfield from his time at Florida State, said after the Blue



FGCU's Chase Fieler pulls down a rebound against Loyola Maryland earlier in the season at Alico Arena. KINFAY/MOROTI/THE NEWS-PRESS

Devils trailed most of the first half against FGCU in November on national television in Cameron Indoor Stadium in Raleigh, N.C., before pulling away, 88-67.

"He's a good coach, and he's got a really good team. They're going to do very well."

After his team was thrashed 87-61 last month by Miami, North Carolina coach Roy Williams marveled at FGCU's 63-51 win in November over Miami, which was made a No. 2 seed but was playing without ACC Defender of the Year Durant Scott at the time.

"They've beaten some pretty good basketball teams," Williams said of Miami. "I know they lost to Florida Gulf Coast. I'd hate to hell to have to play Florida Gulf Coast."

Fifteen seeds are only 6-106 all-time against No. 2 seeds since the NCAA tournament was expanded to 64 teams in 1985, with two of those upsets happening last year.

While FGCU will be giving away height and weight to the Eagles from having success against bigger teams already

this season, as pundits have noticed.

"I think our style is much different than Georgetown," Enfield said. "We like to push the ball down the court. They're more controlled. They're more methodical. They're physical. They're big."

"They're very good. Whether we're a trendy pick I don't know. All I know is we're going to try to play our best and play our style and see what we can do."

— Follow Seth Soffian on Twitter @News-PressSeth.

GEORGETOWN'S BEST PLAYER

Porter emerges as one of nation's best

By Nicole Auerbach
USA TODAY



Georgetown's Otto Porter takes a shot as Ioannis Papapetrou of Texas defends during the Jimmy V Classic earlier this season at Madison Square Garden in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

Indiana's Cody Zeller was the preseason favorite, then Mason Plumlee of Duke was an early frontrunner. Then Michigan's Trey Burke and Zeller's teammate, Victor Oladipo, entered the race.

Now, a name being brought up in the national player of the year discussion isn't someone necessarily predicted to be there heading into the season.

The latest to emerge? Georgetown's Otto Porter.

Georgetown (25-6, 14-4 Big East) won the Big East regular-season title and are ranked No. 5, missed out on a No. 1 seed after losing to Syracuse in the conference tournament semifinal. Georgetown is seeded second in the South Region and will play FGCU at 6:50 p.m. Friday in Philadelphia.

Porter carried the Hoyas down the stretch especially while without the services of sophomore forward Greg Whittington, who hasn't played since Jan. 8 because of academic ineligibility. The Hoyas won 12 of their final 13 regular-season games minus Whittington, who averaged 12.1 points, with Porter emerging as Georgetown's go-to guy.

"His productivity increased dramatically when Greg Whittington went out," former Wake Forest coach and current ESPN analyst Dino Gaudio said. "The loss of Whittington thrust him into the limelight. A lot of kids can't handle that, but, boy, he's handled that marvelously."

The sophomore forward nearly single-handedly led the Hoyas past Syracuse on Feb. 23 and did the same thing against Connecticut in double overtime on Feb. 27.

He followed those performances with this stat line March 2 against Rutgers: 28 points, eight rebounds, four steals, three blocks, two assists — and just one turnover.

He's even won over opposing coaches. Syracuse's Jim Boeheim said after Porter's 33-point performance against the Orange on Feb. 23 that Porter was the best player in the country, and there was "no question" about it. Georgetown coach John Thompson III was asked how he defined a player of the year. "O-T-O," he said, smiling.

QUICK ANALYSIS: 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GEORGETOWN

» Coach John Thompson III is the son of John Thompson, who coached the Hoyas from 1972-99 and led them to three Final Fours and one national championship in 1984. Thompson's son was named Big East Coach of the Year this season. Coach of the Hoyas since 2004, he led them to the Final Four in 2007.

» Sophomore forward Otto Porter was Big East Player of the Year. The 6-foot-8 Porter ranked in the top 10 in the Big East in scoring (eighth at 16.4 points), rebounding (fifth at 7.5 points), field goal percentage (eighth at 50.2), steals (sixth at 2.0), 3-point percentage (second at 44) and minutes played (ninth at 34.8).

» After starting 2-3 in the Big East, including a 28-point home loss to Pittsburgh and a defeat to lowly South Florida, Georgetown won 11 straight, including wins over Louisville, Marquette, Syracuse and Connecticut in double overtime on the road. The Hoyas (26-5, 14-4) won the regular-season title.

» After this season, Georgetown will form a new conference with teams from the Big East, also known as the Catholic 7, which includes St. John's, Seton Hall, Villanova, Providence, Marquette, and DePaul. Butler, Xavier and Creighton also are expected to join.

» Center Patrick Ewing led Georgetown to national title game in 1982, 1984 and 1985. The Hoyas lost close games in the national championship to Michael Jordan and North Carolina (63-62) in 1982 and Villanova (66-64) in 1985 when the Wildcats shot 78.6 percent (22-of-28).