

206/281-2772 voice | 206/281-2266 fax | frmaccdon@spu.edu | www.spu.edu/falconsonline

End Of The Road: No. 12 SPU Alaska-Bound

Falcons Needs Wins To Remain In Hunt For GNAC Title

Longest trip is last. The longest road trip of the season will also be the last one on the schedule for Seattle Pacific University's 12th-ranked men's basketball team. The Falcons (12-2, 20-3) make the 3100-mile round trip north to Alaska this week, needing pair of wins to remain in contention for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference championship. They begin with Alaska Anchorage (8-6, 8-15) Thursday night (Feb. 21) and play their fifth straight away game Saturday (Feb. 23) at Alaska Fairbanks (1-13, 3-20). The final two regular season games at are home, beginning Feb. 28 with Western Oregon.

Once every dozen years. Having fallen behind Humboldt State in the standings following last week's loss at Western Washington, the Falcons can ill-afford another setback, lest they lose control of their own destiny in the conference and region. They will host the Lumberjacks in the final game of the regular season Mar. 2. But sweeping Anchorage and Fairbanks is something SPU has not accomplished in 11 years (since **Ken Bone's** first Alaska trip as head coach), and it has never won a two-game season series with Alaska Anchorage. Seattle Pacific will likely remain at No. 3 in the West Region this week, but it must win its remaining four games to have a chance to earn one of the top two seeds and, thus, a bye in the first round of the NCAA Division II tournament. Only the top six teams from the region will qualify for the playoffs.

No snow, just really cold. While the Mariners begin to limber-up amid temperatures in the mid-80s in Arizona, Seattle Pacific is bound for the ice box. Forecasts call for thermometers to stay below 20 degrees during their trip, including an overnight low of minus-7 in Fairbanks. Fortunately the games will be played inside and where the Falcons are warm, if not hot. They feature a sharpshooting cast which shoots 49.2 percent from the field (first in the GNAC, 13th in the NCAA) and 76 percent (first and 12th, respectively) at the foul line. SPU has finished above 50 percent from the floor in seven of the last 10 games, however it's coming off an uncharacteristic poor night (40 percent, 27 in the second half) at Western Washington.

Top marksman. Fairbanks may be the home of the NCAA championship rifle team each of the last three years. But on the basketball court, few marksmen in the GNAC can compare with **Nick Johnson** (Sr., 6-3, Burlington, Wa./Burlington-Edison), who hits 54.7 percent from the field and could have a go at the school record for free throw accuracy. Johnson's hitting 89.4 percent at the foul line (12th in the nation) whereas the record is 90.2. The Falcons are well ahead of the record pace as a team of .741, set in 1966-67.

More and more B.S. After pacing the team with 16 points against Western, **Brannon Stone** (Sr., 6-9, Oak Harbor, Wa.) is now No. 5 on the school's career scoring list, surpassing Dave Wortman (1958-62) and it's likely he'll remain there, needing 194 points for No. 3. But he could climb elsewhere. With 10 more steals he becomes the all-time leader and he's 40 rebounds from No. 3. Stone, who has owned every blocked shot record since midway through his sophomore season, leads the team in assists (4.3), rebounds (6.1), 3-pointers (43) and blocked shots (1.35) and is No. 3 in scoring (10.6).

Yuey almost did it again. Seattle Pacific nearly pulled out another last-minute comeback against the Vikings, lopping an 18-point deficit to four

2001-02 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2001-02 Season Record—20-3 (12-2 GNAC)

Coach—Ken Bone, 12th year

Coach's SPU Record— 247-95

Coach's Career Record— 254-116

This Week's Schedule

Thr., Feb. 21, 8 p.m. PST

at Alaska Anchorage (8-6, 8-15)

UAA Sports Center, Anchorage, Ak.

Sat., Feb. 23, 4 p.m. PST

at Alaska Fairbanks (1-13, 3-20)

Patty Center, Fairbanks, Ak.

Last Weeks' Results

at Western Washington 88, SPU 80

Streaks & Such

The Falcons have gone 11 years (nine trips) with sweeping an Alaska road trip with wins in both Anchorage and Fairbanks

Stat de jour

Seattle Pacific leads the GNAC in shooting from the field (.492) and foul line (.769) and is 17-1 in games when hitting 45 percent or better from the floor

NCAA Division II Poll

1. Kentucky Wesleyan
 2. Northeastern State (Ok.)
 3. Cal State San Bernardino
- also*
5. Humboldt State
 12. Seattle Pacific
 13. Cal State Bakersfield

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Humboldt State	13	1	22	1
Seattle Pacific	12	2	20	3
Western Washington	11	3	17	6
Alaska Anchorage	8	6	8	15
Saint Martin's	8	7	10	13
Central Washington	7	8	14	9
Western Oregon	5	9	8	15
Northwest Nazarene	5	11	8	16
Seattle University	3	13	4	21
Alaska Fairbanks	1	13	3	20

points before falling 88-80. The chief culprit, as it was a week earlier at Northwest Nazarene, was **Yusef Aziz** (Jr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster-Highline CC). He again overcame a subpar shooting performance with dogged determination. Aziz struck for four straight points, making it 82-78 with 30 seconds left. He finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds—his second double-double of the season—but is due for an even bigger game after going 8-25 from the field in the last two outings. Aziz, a top candidate for newcomer of the year, is eighth in GNAC scoring (16.0) and field-goal percentage (.556) and seventh in steals (1.74).

Put-backs. Seattle Pacific has hit at least 50 percent from the floor in seven of the last 10 games. In the five games in which it has shot under 45 percent, the record is only 3-2...The Falcons trail Cal State San Bernardino and Humboldt in the region. Montana State Billings, Cal State Bakersfield and Hawaii Pacific rounded out the top six in the West last week but Western Washington could replace Billings in the top six later this week...Defensively, SPU leads the GNAC in all three statistical categories: scoring (65.7), field-goal percentage (.408) and 3-point percentage (.339). It is 9-0 when holding foes's shooting to 40 percent or less and it's 17-1 when forcing more turnovers. Western was the first foe in nine games to shoot 45 percent or better...Seattle Pacific also leads the conference in scoring margin (+15.1) and is second in rebounding margin (+4.7) and steals (9.1)...**Daniel Sandrin** (Jr., 6-7, Bothell, Wa./Bothell-Portland) is fourth in field-goal percentage (.580). Johnson is third in free throw accuracy and ninth in field goal percentage. Stone is fifth in assists and blocks. He swatted a season-high four WWU shots last week.

Opponent & series notes. Alaska Anchorage is in the throes of its first losing season in 19 years but the Seawolves have won six of their last seven at home. The Falcons are just 2-18 at the UAA Sports Center and have lost eight straight there since 1990-91. The Seawolves are led by forward Peter Bullock (18.5 points, 9.0 boards) and lead the series 24-13, despite a 95-64 loss in Seattle Jan. 19. Thursday's game can be heard live on the Internet at <http://www.goseawolves.com/index.cfm?fuseAction=audiovideo...> SPU leads Alaska Fairbanks in the series 37-8, winning eight of the last 10, including an 81-56 victory Jan. 17. The Nanooks, who feature forward John Early (16.7 points, 7.9 rebounds), have lost four in a row and 11 of 12 dating back to Jan. 3.

SPU Coaches. In his 11 years as coach of his alma mater, **Ken Bone** has directed the Falcons to seven NCAA tournament berths, five conference titles and 11 consecutive winning records. His winning percentage of .712 is the best in school history, surpassing even the legendary Les Habegger. From 1995-2000 Bone's teams advanced to the regional championship game five times, including a record 27 wins and Final Four appearance in 2000. **Jeff Hironaka** is in his 11th year as associate head coach.

2001-02 Men's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Yr	Exp	Hometown (High School/Last Coll.)
1	Jordan Lee	G	6-2	Fr	RS	Tacoma, Wa. (Life Christian)
3	Maurice Cato	G	6-0	Jr	TR	Fairfield, Ca (Fairfield/Skyline)
4	Mike Bushmaker	F	6-7	Fr	HS	Yakima, Wa (Eisenhower)
10	Adam Harris	G	6-0	Sr	3V	Fox Island, Wa. (Gig Harbor)
11	Aaron Bellessa	G	6-2	Jr	2V	Federal Way, Wa. (Decatur)
15	Jeff Knudson	F	6-6	Fr	HS	Mukilteo, Wa (Kamiak)
20	Yusef Aziz	F	6-4	Jr	TR	Tukwila, Wa (Foster/Highline)
21	Brannon Stone	F	6-9	Sr	3V	Oak Harbor, Wa. (Oak Harbor)
22	Jesse Keely	F/C	6-7	Jr	1V	Fircrest, Wa. (Bellarmine/Portland)
23	Nick Johnson	G	6-3	Sr	3V	Burlington, Wa. (Burlington-Edison)
30	Gene Woodard	F	6-4	Jr	2V	Edmonds, Wa. (O'Dea)
32	Joe Sundberg	G	6-1	Jr	TR	Longview, Wa (M. Morris/Skagit Valley)
34	Eric Sandrin	C	6-10	Sr	1V	Bothell, Wa. (Shorecrest/Portland)
40	Daniel Sandrin	F	6-7	Jr	1V	Bothell, Wa. (Bothell/Portland)
42	Chris Cohen	F	6-8	So	1V	Saint Helens, Or. (Saint Helens)

Head Coach: Ken Bone

Associate Head Coach: Jeff Hironaka

Assistant Coaches: Jarrett Mentink, George Parker, Reggie Paul

2001-02 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 6	BLUE ANGELS (ex.)	W, 86-67
Nov. 9	NW ALL-STARS (ex.)	W, 90-68
Nov. 16-17	VITAMILK TIP-OFF CLASSIC	
Nov. 16	SPU v INDIANAPOLIS	L, 67-68
Nov. 17	SPU v LOCK HAVEN	W, 87-59
Nov. 24	at Seattle University	W, 64-49
Nov. 27	NORTHWEST COLL.	W, 103-66
Dec. 1	HAWAII PACIFIC	W, 86-56
Dec. 6	at Central Washington*W,	101-100 ot
Dec. 8	at Saint Martin's*	W, 73-46
Dec. 15	Henderson St. (at Las Vegas)	W, 68-63
Dec. 16	Ashland, Oh. (at Las Vegas)W,	76-63
Dec. 28-29	OAK HARBOR FREIGHT LINES CL.	
Dec. 28	TEXAS A&M COMMERCE	W, 78-62
Dec. 29	LEWIS-CLARK ST.	W, 80-64
Jan. 3	NORTHWEST NAZARENE*W,	85-64
Jan. 5	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY*W,	72-67
Jan. 12	WESTERN WASH.*	W, 96-89
Jan. 17	ALASKA FAIRBANKS*	W, 81-56
Jan. 19	ALASKA ANCHORAGE*W,	95-64
Jan. 24	at Humboldt State*	L, 78-84
Jan. 26	at Western Oregon*	W, 73-57
Jan. 31	SAINT MARTIN'S*	W, 74-59
Feb. 2	CENTRAL WASH.*	W, 84-59
Feb. 7	at Seattle University*	W, 72-46
Feb. 9	at Northwest Nazarene*	W, 86-83
Feb. 16	at Western Washington*	L, 80-88
Feb. 21	at Alaska Anchorage*	8:05
Feb. 23	at Alaska Fairbanks*	4:00
Feb. 28	WESTERN OREGON*	7:00
Mar. 2	HUMBOLDT STATE*	7:00
Mar. 7-9	NCAA West Regional	
Mar. 21-23	NCAA Elite Eight at Evansville, In.	

*Great Northwest Athletic Conference games
All times are Pacific

2001-02 Season Leaders

Scoring

Yusef Aziz	16.1
Nick Johnson	13.0
Brannon Stone	10.8
Maurice Cato	10.6
Eric Sandrin	10.1

Rebounds

Brannon Stone	6.1
Eric Sandrin	5.7
Yusef Aziz	5.7

Assists

Brannon Stone	4.3
Maurice Cato	2.9

Steals

Yusef Aziz	1.74
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Blocked Shots

Brannon Stone	1.35
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Field Goal Percentage

Daniel Sandrin	.580
Yusef Aziz	.556

Three Point Percentage

Brannon Stone	(43-116) .371
Maurice Cato	(39-107) .364

Free Throw Percentage

Nick Johnson	(59-66) .894
Maurice Cato	(53-65) .815

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	80.8	35.8	.492	.769	.353
Opp.	65.7	31.1	.408	.727	.339

Seattle Pacific University
2001-02 Men's Basketball Statistics
Record: 20- 3/ 12- 2 GNAC

Date	Opponent	Score	Site	Attend	Record	Leading Scorer	Leading Rebounder
11/16	Indianapolis	67- 68 L	H Seattle ,Wa.	675	0- 1	17- Nick Johnson	8- Nick Johnson
11/17	Lock Haven	W 87- 59	H Seattle, Wa.	565	1- 1	17- Yusef Aziz	9- Yusef Aziz
11/24	Seattle University	W 64- 49	A Seattle, Wa.	310	2- 1	12- Eric Sandrin	5-Stn/E. San./Kly/John.
11/27	Northwest College	W 103- 66	H Seattle, Wa.	575	3- 1	19- Nick Johnson	8- Aziz/Johnson
12/ 1	Hawaii Pacific	W 86- 56	H Seattle, Wa.	425	4- 1	15- Yusef Aziz	8- Yusef Aziz
12/ 6	* Central Washington	W 101-100 (OT)	A Ellensburg, Wa.	2100	5- 1	28- Maurice Cato	12- Eric Sandrin
12/ 8	* Saint Martin's	W 73- 46	A Lacey, Wa.	662	6- 1	11- Nick Johnson	9- Nick Johnson
12/15	Henderson State	W 68- 63	N Las Vegas, Nv.	106	7- 1	25- Yusef Aziz	7- Eric Sandrin
12/16	Ashland	W 76- 63	N Las Vegas, Nv.	200	8- 1	18- Brannon Stone	8- Brannon Stone
12/28	Tx. A&M Commerce	W 78- 62	H Seattle, Wa.	325	9- 1	18- Yusef Aziz	8- Yusef Aziz
12/29	Lewis-Clark St.	W 80- 64	H Seattle ,Wa.	475	10- 1	19- Yusef Aziz	8- Stone/Johnson
1/ 3	* Northwest Nazarene	W 85- 64	H Seattle, Wa.	675	11- 1	21- Yusef Aziz	7- Eric Sandrin
1/ 5	* Seattle University	W 72- 67	H Seattle, Wa.	1275	12- 1	18- Yusef Aziz	11- Yusef Aziz
1/12	* Western Wash.	W 96- 89	H Seattle, Wa.	1875	13- 1	28- Nick Johnson	6- Nick Johnson
1/17	* Alaska Fairbanks	W 81- 56	H Seattle, Wa.	550	14- 1	17- Brannon Stone	10- Brannon Stone
1/19	* Alaska Anchorage	W 95- 64	H Seattle, Wa.	1150	15- 1	17- Yusef Aziz	8- Eric Sandrin
1/24	* Humboldt State	78- 84 L	A Arcata, Ca.	1632	15- 2	23- Nick Johnson	8- Yusef Aziz
1/26	* Western Oregon	W 73- 57	H Monmouth, Or.	650	16- 2	25- Yusef Aziz	7- Yusef Aziz
1/31	* Saint Martin's	W 74- 59	H Seattle, Wa.	775	17- 2	19- Maurice Cato	11- Brannon Stone
2/ 2	* Central Washington	W 84- 59	H Seattle, Wa.	2675	18- 2	16- Maurice Cato	16- Brannon Stone
2/ 7	* Seattle University	W 72- 46	A Seattle, Wa.	540	19- 2	16- Cato/Stone	11- Eric Sandrin
2/ 9	* Northwest Nazarene	W 86- 83	A Nampa, Id.	763	20- 2	19- Nick Johnson	10- Brannon Stone
2/16	* Western Washington	80- 88 L	A Bellingham, Wa.	2222	20- 3	16- Brannon Stone	11- Yusef Aziz

* - GNAC Game

	GP-GS	— All FG —			— 3 Pt FG —			— FT —			— Rebounds —				— Blocks —				— Points —					
		M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	A	TOT	BLK	STL	PF	D	Min-	Avg	Pts	Avg
Seattle Pacific	23-20	134-	241	55.6	14-	40	35.0	89-	124	71.8	52	78	130	5.7	44	34	12	40	40-	1	645-	28.0	371	16.1
Yusef Aziz	23-20	134-	241	55.6	14-	40	35.0	89-	124	71.8	52	78	130	5.7	44	34	12	40	40-	1	645-	28.0	371	16.1
Aaron Bellessa	20- 0	7-	14	50.0	1-	1	100.0	2-	3	66.7	4	16	20	1.0	28	19	0	6	20-	0	226-	11.3	17	0.9
Maurice Cato	23-22	76-	185	41.1	39-	107	36.4	53-	65	81.5	6	32	38	1.7	66	52	0	31	63-	1	537-	23.3	244	10.6
Chris Cohen	17- 0	9-	19	47.4	0-	0	0.0	5-	8	62.5	7	14	21	1.2	6	6	0	2	6-	0	65-	3.8	23	1.4
Adam Harris	15- 1	8-	16	50.0	7-	13	53.8	13-	14	92.9	5	8	13	0.9	12	13	1	8	19-	0	160-	10.7	36	2.4
Nick Johnson	23-23	111-	203	54.7	17-	49	34.7	59-	66	89.4	40	68	108	4.7	49	28	2	22	36-	1	682-	29.7	298	13.0
Jesse Keely	21- 0	11-	38	28.9	1-	2	50.0	7-	7	100.0	16	18	34	1.6	4	18	4	7	21-	0	142-	6.8	30	1.4
Jordan Lee	23- 0	21-	50	42.0	12-	32	37.5	3-	6	50.0	4	10	14	0.6	14	12	0	8	15-	0	217-	9.4	57	2.5
Daniel Sandrin	23- 1	58-	100	58.0	9-	25	36.0	45-	58	77.6	20	51	71	3.1	26	29	6	13	43-	0	409-	17.8	170	7.4
Eric Sandrin	23-21	86-	177	48.6	8-	37	21.6	52-	68	76.5	37	93	130	5.7	35	53	15	11	74-	3	518-	22.5	232	10.1
Brannon Stone	23-23	85-	189	45.0	43-	116	37.1	35-	43	81.4	32	108	140	6.1	99	49	31	34	50-	1	676-	29.4	248	10.8
Joe Sundberg	14- 0	1-	8	12.5	0-	2	0.0	2-	6	33.3	3	3	6	0.4	3	3	1	1	4-	0	46-	3.3	4	0.3
Gene Woodard	23- 2	43-	82	52.4	3-	12	25.0	40-	59	67.8	21	32	53	2.3	15	21	1	22	24-	0	327-	14.2	129	5.6
Team											27	19	46			0								0
Seattle Pacific	23-23	650-	1322	49.2	154-	436	35.3	405-	527	76.9	274	550	824	35.8	401	337	73	205	415-	7			1859	80.8
Opponents	23-23	529-	1297	40.8	158-	466	33.9	296-	407	72.7	259	456	715	31.1	314	388	56	173	464-	21			1512	65.7

	— First Half —			— Second Half —			— Game —		
All FG	325-	672	48.4%	325-	650	50.0%	650-	1322	49.2%
3 Pt FG	87-	242	36.0%	67-	194	34.5%	154-	436	35.3%
FT	133-	169	78.7%	272-	358	76.0%	405-	527	76.9%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 85, Opponents 49
Opponent Team Rebounds: 59 — (Offense: 29 Defense: 30)
Technical Fouls: Seattle Pacific 1 — Bench 1; Opponents 3Bench 1