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## Ready To Rumble: SPU Opens NCAA Play

### No. 9 Falcons face BYU Hawaii In 1st Round Thursday

**California, here we come.** Making the NCAA tournament is nothing new, but to earn a trip to the Elite Eight will require an unprecedented feat by Seattle Pacific University's men's basketball team this week. The 9th-ranked Falcons (23-4), a playoff participant for eight of the last nine years, face the tall order of winning three games in three nights on an out-of-state floor if they are to advance to the Division II championships in Evansville, In. Seeded No. 3, SPU will face BYU Hawaii (19-9) in the first game of the West Regional Thursday night (Mar. 7) in San Bernardino, Calif. The winner advances to play Humboldt State (24-3) in the semifinal round Friday night (Mar. 8). The winner of the West will be decided Saturday (Mar. 9). The Elite Eight is Mar. 20-23.

**Mission: Possible?** Rarely has the West been won by anyone but the host, let alone a team from a distant state. In fact, the home team has prevailed in 10 of the last 12 years. Seattle Pacific's two Elite Eight appearances (1965 and 2000) were secured before the home crowd. Cal State San Bernardino (26-1), the nation's No. 2 team and top seed in the West, was the last team to manage the task, beating Central Washington in the semifinal and SPU in the title game of the 1999 tournament in Ellensburg. The Coyotes, like Humboldt State, have a first-round bye and await the winner of the first-round game between Cal State Bakersfield (23-4) and Montana State Billings (21-6). Western Washington, which defeated Cal State San Bernardino for the West title a year ago, did not make the playoffs despite earning a share of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference crown along with SPU and Humboldt State.

**Deja vu? Not again.** This marks the second year in a row that the Falcons are seeded No. 3 but they don't wish to repeat history beyond that. Sixth seed Central Washington eliminated them in an overtime outing, 101-95, last year in Bellingham. Before that, Coach **Ken Bone's** program had won its postseason opener in five consecutive tournaments. Overall, SPU is 9-7 in NCAA tournament play under Bone and has advanced to the regional championship game five times in the last seven years. This year's squad features players with a combined 29 games of NCAA postseason experience. In fact, Seattle Pacific is the only program in the West and one of four teams in Division II to make the playoffs each of the last five years.

**Special team play.** This is no run-of-the-mill playoff team. Besides taking a share of the GNAC title, the Falcons matched their best-ever regular season win total, won a school-record 15 straight games at one point and did so while epitomizing team play. All five starters average in double figures scoring and each has been selected as conference player of the week on at least one occasion. **Yusef Aziz** (Jr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster-Highline CC) this week was named first team all-region, GNAC newcomer of the year and second team all-GNAC after leading the squad in scoring (16.4) and playing the game in a Charles Barkley-esque fashion, using his unique combination of strength and quickness. Two of the holdovers from the Elite Eight team also rate among the best in the GNAC if not the West. **Nick Johnson** (Sr., 6-3, Burlington, Wa./Burlington-Edison) and **Brannon Stone** (Sr., 6-9, Oak Harbor, Wa.) have won more games (94) than any other previous players. Johnson is coming off a pair of games in which he totaled 40 points (earning co-player of the week) and is among the top percentage shooters in the region, ranking fourth nationally in free throws (.895) and ninth in the GNAC from the field (.537). He finished third in player of the year balloting and was a first team all-GNAC selection. Stone, a second team all-GNAC choice, leads the team in rebounding (6.3), assists (4.7) and blocked shots (1.44) and ranks among the top five career leaders in those categories as well as scoring and steals.

## 2001-02 MEN'S BASKETBALL

### SPU Quick Facts

2001-02 Season Record—23-4 (15-3 GNAC)

Coach—Ken Bone, 12th year

Coach's SPU Record—250-96

Coach's Career Record—257-117

### This Week's Schedule

*NCAA Division II West Regional*

*Coussoulis Arena, San Bernardino, Ca.*

*First Round • Thur., Mar. 7, 5:30 & 7:30*

Seattle Pacific v BYU Hawaii

Cal St. Bakersfield v Mont. St. Billings

*Semifinals • Fri., Mar. 8, 5:30 & 7:30*

Humboldt St. v Game 1 Winner

Cal St. San Bernardino v Game 2 Winner

*Championship • Sat., Mar. 9, 7 p.m.*

### Last Weeks' Results

Western Oregon 77, at SPU 74

at SPU 81, Humboldt State 78

### Streaks & Such

SPU is the only team in West and one of four in Div. II to make the NCAA tourney each of the last five years

### Stat de jour

Only twice in last 12 years has the West host failed to win the regional title

### NCAA Division II Poll

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

### Final GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Humboldt State	15	3	24	3
Seattle Pacific	15	3	23	4
Western Washington	15	3	21	6
Central Washington	9	9	16	10
Alaska Anchorage	9	9	9	18
Saint Martin's	8	10	10	16
Western Oregon	7	11	10	17
Northwest Nazarene	6	12	10	18
Seattle University	4	14	6	23
Alaska Fairbanks	2	16	4	23

**But wait, there's Mo.** Two of the biggest wins this season have been delivered via the icy veins of point guard **Maurice Cato** (Jr., 6-0, Fairfield, Ca.), the team's only native Californian. It was Cato who connected on a pull-up, 22-foot 3-pointer at the buzzer to beat Humboldt State 81-78 last week. He also scored the winning points at Central Washington in December. The Falcons were able to defeat the Lumberjacks despite the absence of center **Eric Sandrin** (Sr., 6-10, Bothell, Wa./Shorecrest), who was resting an ankle sprain. Sandrin is expected to start Thursday. In his place, younger brother **Daniel Sandrin** (Jr., 6-7, Bothell, Wa./Bothell), coming back from his own ankle injury, started and scored 13 points on 5-6 shooting. Another key reserve, **Gene Woodard** (Jr., 6-4, Edmonds, Wa./O'Dea) came off the bench for 21 points and 10 rebounds in two games last week.

**Put-backs.** Johnson, Stone, Daniel Sandrin, **Adam Harris** (Jr., 6-0, Fox Island, Wa./Gig Harbor) and **Chris Cohen** (So., 6-8, Saint Helens, Or.) are all members of the academic all-GNAC team. Johnson and Stone are three-time selections and were earlier voted to the Academic All-District VIII team...Before spraining his ankle, Eric Sandrin played just two minutes of the 77-74 home loss to Western Oregon. That snapped a 12-game home win streak. Prior to the injury he averaged 15.8 points and shot 69 percent from the field over four games...Daniel Sandrin has shot 67 percent from the field (12-18) since January...With three more steals Stone becomes the all-time leader and he's currently tied for No. 3 in rebounding. He has owned every blocked shot record since his sophomore season and is No. 5 in scoring and No. 6 in assists. Stone has scored in double figures only once in the final four games but averaged 7.0 assists...Stone leads the team with five double-doubles while Aziz has three...Defensively, SPU leads the GNAC in the two major statistical categories: scoring (67.2) and field-goal percentage (.416). It is 9-0 when holding foes's shooting under 40 percent and it's 19-1 when forcing more turnovers...In the six games in which it has shot under 45 percent, the record is only 3-3...Seattle Pacific also leads the conference in field-goal percentage (.492), free throw accuracy (.767) and scoring margin (+14.5) and is second in rebounding margin (+4.9) and steals (9.0)...**Jesse Keely** (Jr., 6-7, Fircrest, Wa./Bellarmine) has 19 points and nine boards in his last three games...Aziz is eighth in GNAC scoring (16.4), seventh in field-goal percentage (.563) and eighth in steals (1.78). Stone is third in assists, fifth in blocks and 12th in rebounding...SPU is 5-2 in games decided by five or fewer points and 20-1 when out-rebounding opponents.

**Opponent & series notes.** The Falcons have won all three previous meetings with BYU Hawaii, a fellow member of the Pacific West Conference from 1998-01. The Seaside's edged Western Washington for the sixth and final regional spot by winning nine of their last 11 and defeating two D-I teams earlier. Alexis Foyle leads BYUH, averaging 20.4 points...Seattle Pacific has won 17 of 19 meetings with Humboldt State but the teams split two closely-contested games this season. The 'Jacks, who average 90.1 points, feature sophomores Austin Nichols, the NCAA's No. 5 scorer (22.2), and Fred Hooks, the country's No. 3 rebounder (11.9). After winning 10 straight they lost their final two regular season games and are making only their second NCAA appearance...Cal State San Bernardino comes into the postseason a nine-game win streak. Its sole loss was at home. SPU is 2-2 with the Coyotes, including a road win in the 1999-00 season.

### 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)
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)
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-STAR (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* ot	W, 95-86
Feb. 23	at Alaska Fairbanks*	W, 97-62
Feb. 28	WESTERN OREGON*	L, 74-77
Mar. 2	HUMBOLDT STATE*	W, 81-78
Mar. 7-9	West Regional at San Bernardino, Ca.	
Mar. 20-23	NCAA Elite Eight at Evansville, In.	

\*Great Northwest Athletic Conference games  
All times are Pacific

### 2001-02 Season Leaders

#### Scoring

Yusef Aziz	16.4
Nick Johnson	13.5
Brannon Stone	10.6
Maurice Cato	10.4
Eric Sandrin	10.3

#### Rebounds

Brannon Stone	6.3
Yusef Aziz	5.9
Eric Sandrin	5.5

#### Assists

Brannon Stone	4.7
Maurice Cato	2.9

#### Steals

Yusef Aziz	1.78
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#### Blocked Shots

Brannon Stone	1.44
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#### Field Goal Percentage

Daniel Sandrin	.589
Yusef Aziz	.555

#### Three Point Percentage

Nick Johnson	(24-63) .381
Brannon Stone	(52-145) .359

#### Free Throw Percentage

Nick Johnson	(77-86) .895
Maurice Cato	(61-73) .836

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	81.7	35.7	.492	.767	.349
Opp.	67.2	30.9	.416	.746	.359

Seattle Pacific University  
2001-02 Men's Basketball Statistics  
Record: 23- 4/ 15- 3 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	at Seattle Univ.	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	* at Central Wash.	W 101-100 (OT)	A Ellensburg, Wa.	2100	5- 1	28- Maurice Cato	12- Eric Sandrin
12/ 8	* at 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	* at Humboldt St.	78- 84 L	A Arcata, Ca.	1632	15- 2	23- Nick Johnson	8- Yusef Aziz
1/26	* at 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	* at Seattle Univ.	W 72- 46	A Seattle, Wa.	540	19- 2	16- Cato/Stone	11- Eric Sandrin
2/ 9	* at N'west Nazarene	W 86- 83	A Nampa, Id.	763	20- 2	19- Nick Johnson	10- Brannon Stone
2/16	* at Western Wash.	80- 88 L	A Bellingham, Wa.	2222	20- 3	16- Brannon Stone	11- Yusef Aziz
2/21	* at Ak. Anchorage	W 95- 86 (OT)	A Anchorage, Ak.	792	21- 3	26- Yusef Aziz	12- Eric Sandrin
2/23	* at Ak. Fairbanks	W 97- 62	A Fairbanks, Ak.	350	22- 3	22- Brannon Stone	6- Yusef Aziz
2/28	* Western Oregon	74- 77 L	H Seattle, Wa.	625	22- 4	25- Nick Johnson	11- Brannon Stone
3/ 2	* Humboldt State	W 81- 78	H Seattle, Wa.	1975	23- 4	21- Yusef Aziz	11- Yusef Aziz

\* - GNAC Game

	— All FG —										— 3 Pt FG —			— FT —			— Rebounds —									
	GP-GS	M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	A	TO	BLK	STL	PF	D	Min-	Avg	Pts	Avg		
Seattle Pacific	27-24	161-	290	55.5	14-	43	32.6	107-	148	72.3	66	93	159	5.9	52	39	13	48	49-	1	772-	28.6	443	16.4		
Yusef Aziz	27-24	161-	290	55.5	14-	43	32.6	107-	148	72.3	66	93	159	5.9	52	39	13	48	49-	1	772-	28.6	443	16.4		
Aaron Bellessa	23- 0	8-	17	47.1	1-	2	50.0	8-	12	66.7	4	18	22	1.0	31	19	0	7	22-	0	249-	10.8	25	1.1		
Maurice Cato	27-25	87-	218	39.9	46-	130	35.4	61-	73	83.6	7	38	45	1.7	78	61	0	38	67-	1	644-	23.9	281	10.4		
Chris Cohen	19- 0	11-	22	50.0	0-	0	0.0	5-	8	62.5	10	15	25	1.3	7	6	0	2	7-	0	73-	3.8	27	1.4		
Adam Harris	19- 2	9-	18	50.0	8-	15	53.3	15-	16	93.8	6	11	17	0.9	14	16	1	9	22-	0	196-	10.3	41	2.2		
Nick Johnson	27-27	132-	246	53.7	24-	63	38.1	77-	86	89.5	44	76	120	4.4	60	30	2	25	45-	1	810-	30.0	365	13.5		
Jesse Keely	25- 0	19-	49	38.8	1-	2	50.0	12-	15	80.0	22	22	44	1.8	9	21	5	8	30-	0	193-	7.7	51	2.0		
Jordan Lee	27- 0	27-	62	43.5	13-	37	35.1	3-	7	42.9	5	10	15	0.6	14	14	0	9	20-	0	252-	9.3	70	2.6		
Daniel Sandrin	26- 2	63-	107	58.9	9-	25	36.0	48-	64	75.0	21	53	74	2.8	30	31	7	14	51-	0	454-	17.5	183	7.0		
Eric Sandrin	26-24	100-	198	50.5	8-	38	21.1	59-	77	76.6	45	99	144	5.5	42	60	18	14	79-	3	578-	22.2	267	10.3		
Brannon Stone	27-27	99-	228	43.4	52-	145	35.9	37-	45	82.2	35	134	169	6.3	127	60	39	42	60-	1	819-	30.3	287	10.6		
Joe Sundberg	15- 0	3-	11	27.3	2-	4	50.0	2-	6	33.3	3	5	8	0.5	3	3	2	1	4-	0	52-	3.5	10	0.7		
Gene Woodard	27- 2	56-	109	51.4	3-	14	21.4	41-	62	66.1	31	37	68	2.5	17	25	3	23	27-	0	383-	14.2	156	5.8		
Team											33	20	53			0								0		
Seattle Pacific	27-27	775-	1575	49.2	181-	518	34.9	475-	619	76.7	332	631	963	35.7	484	385	90	240	483-	7			2206	81.7		
Opponents	27-27	633-	1521	41.6	194-	540	35.9	355-	476	74.6	299	535	834	30.9	377	454	67	195	538-	23			1815	67.2		

	— First Half —			— Second Half —			— Game —		
All FG	382-	792	48.2%	393-	783	50.2%	775-	1575	49.2%
3 Pt FG	94-	278	33.8%	87-	240	36.2%	181-	518	34.9%
FT	149-	192	77.6%	326-	427	76.3%	475-	619	76.7%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 95, Opponents 61  
Opponent Team Rebounds: 69 — (Offense: 33 Defense: 36)  
Technical Fouls: Seattle Pacific 1 — Bench 1; Opponents 4Bench 2