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Next Season Marks New Era For Falcons

Seniors Leave Void, Legacy; Aziz Likely Focal Point

Time to reload. For the first time in three years the Seattle Pacific University men's basketball program finds itself searching for more than just a couple starters in the offseason. The Falcons, who went 24-5 and advanced to the second round of the playoffs, will be seeking an NCAA tournament berth for the sixth year in a row in 2002-03. To do so they must replace three graduated starters, two of them all-conference performers at least the past two years.

Quite a season. Although they were stopped short of the NCAA Sweet 16 for only the third time in the last eight seasons, the Falcons accomplished some remarkable feats. The final national ranking of No. 9 equals the best in 59 years of varsity play (the '66 squad was the other), the 24 victories ranks No. 2 all-time (the 2000 team notched 27) and from Nov. 17-Jan. 24 SPU won a school-record 15 consecutive games. They were co-champions of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and an opening-round, 82-57 playoff win over BYU Hawaii was largest margin of victory in NCAA play since 1965. In addition, the team established a new record for free throw accuracy (.773).

A class act. Without a doubt, an 89-82 loss to Humboldt State in the second round of the West Regional Mar. 8 marked the end of an era. Completing their respective careers were center **Eric Sandrin** (Sr., 6-10, Bothell, Wa./Shorecrest), forward **Brannon Stone** (Sr., 6-9, Oak Harbor, Wa.) and guard **Nick Johnson** (Sr., 6-3, Burlington, Wa./Burlington-Edison). In fact, that game was perhaps Sandrin's finest of his two-year stay; he matched his career-high with 23 points (8-12 FGs) and also grabbed 10 rebounds. Stone and Johnson, who played a part in 95 wins during their four-year careers, also had outstanding regional performances. Johnson scored 27 points in the BYU Hawaii contest and passed for a career-high nine assists vs. Humboldt. Stone snared 16 rebounds in the two games and fired five three-pointers over the Lumberjacks.

A solid start. Coach **Ken Bone** must replace two all-conference performers in Johnson and Stone, but he's already got a solid foundation in place. **Yusef Aziz** (Jr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster-Highline CC) was the newcomer of the year in the GNAC and the Falcons' leader in scoring (16.2), steals (1.7) and field goal percentage (.548). Point guard **Maurice Cato** (Jr., 6-0, Fairfield, Ca.) is also due back after averaging 10.4 points, 2.8 assists and hitting 51 treys. The team's two top reserves—forwards **Daniel Sandrin** (Jr., 6-7, Bothell, Wa./Bothell) and **Gene Woodard** (Jr., 6-4, Edmonds, Wa./O'Dea)—are capable of stepping into starting roles as seniors. Together, they averaged 12.3 points, 5.5 rebounds and shot 55 percent.

Two down, two to go. Bone got a head start on his rebuilding by redshirting a couple freshmen and by signing two recruits last fall. **Tony Binetti** (6-1, Enumclaw, Wa.) was an all-state point guard who led his team to third place in the state 4A tournament. Another early signing was **Dustin Bremerman** (6-4, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower). Binetti scored 18.2 points this past season while Bremerman averaged 21.2 and 6.5 rebounds as a senior in 2001. They join redshirts **Jeff Knudson** (6-6, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak) and **Mike Bushmaker** (6-7, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower) as freshmen on next year's squad. Bone expects to sign one or two more recruits after the spring signing period begins Apr. 10.

For the record. Stone will long be remembered for his role in four of the finest teams ever to represent SPU. A four-year starter with a complete package of skills, he was a three-time all-conference selection and led the team in assists, rebounds and blocked shots each of his four seasons. The record book lists him as the all-time leader in blocks (272), No. 2 in steals (191), No. 3 in rebounds

2001-02 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2001-02 Final Record—24-5 (15-3 GNAC)

Final Ranking—No. 9, NCAA Div. II

Coach—Ken Bone, 12th year

Coach's SPU Record—251-97

Coach's Career Record—258-118

Coming Up

National Letter of Intent Signing Period

April 10-May 15

Vitamilk Tip-Off Classic

Nov. 15-16, 2002

NCAA West Regional Results

First Round (all at San Bernardino, Ca.)

SPU 82, BYU Hawaii 57

Cal State Bakersfield 84, MSU Billings 81

Semifinals

Humboldt State 89, SPU 82

CS San Bernardino 66, CS Bakersfield 62

Championship

CS San Bernardino 80, Humboldt St. 65

Note: Metro State defeated Cal State San Bernardino 65-48 en route to the national championship at the Elite Eight

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

The Falcons set a new record for free throw accuracy as a team, and were No. 4 in the NCAA, hitting 77.3 percent

Final GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Humboldt State	15	3	25	4
Seattle Pacific	15	3	24	5
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

(840), No. 5 in scoring (1394) and No. 6 in assists (433). His 221 three-pointers are No. 2, behind only Jeff McBroom (259). Johnson (.891) just missed breaking the season standard (.902) for free throw accuracy and tied for No. 7 (.827) career-wise. His 50-percent three-point shooting as a junior rates No. 3 all-time.

Summer camps coming up. The Falcons will offer basketball day camps for boys from ages 5-17 at the pavilion this summer. Sessions are July 8-11 and July 15-18, the cost is \$95 and includes a ball and t-shirt. Registration forms are available by calling (206) 281-2085 or at The Falcons Online (www.spu.edu/falconsonline).

Put-backs. Bone said next season's non-conference scheduling is taking shape. Minnesota-Duluth will be among the teams for the 11th annual Vitamilk Tip-Off Classic in November. Rather than Las Vegas, the team will play a pre-Christmas tournament in San Antonio Dec. 16-17...Bone could become the school's all-time leader in coaching victories next season. He trails the legendary Les Habegger (1957-74) by a count of 267-251. Bone has averaged 20.9 wins per season over 12 years and his teams have won 72 percent of their games. SPU was one of only four teams in Div. II to make the NCAA tournament for the fifth year in a row this season and the only team to do so in the West Region...The five losses equaled the fewest in team history...For the 11th time in the last 13 years the host of the West Regional advanced to the Elite Eight. Cal State San Bernardino defeated Humboldt State 80-65 in the championship game. The Coyotes were beaten by Metro State in the national quarterfinal round, and Metro State went on to defeat Kentucky Wesleyan in the nationally-televised NCAA championship game, 80-72 Mar. 23...In the final statistical reports, Johnson led the GNAC and was eighth in NCAA free throw accuracy. Stone was third in conference assists and fifth in blocked shots. Cato (.835) was seventh in GNAC free throw percentage and Aziz was seventh in field goal percentage, eighth in scoring and ninth in steals. His nine steals vs. Northwest College was the most in the conference this season and ranks No. 2 in SPU records. The team's 19 steals vs. Lock Haven equaled a school record...This marked only the third time since 1984 that five players finished averaging 10 or more points per game...The Falcons led the GNAC in free throw and field goal percentage (.492), scoring (67.6) and field-goal percentage (.415) defense and scoring margin (+14.1). Nationally, Seattle Pacific was fourth in free throw percentage and 13th in field goal percentage. Incidentally, in conference games only, SPU shot .505 from the field...Seattle Pacific finished up 20-1 when leading at the half, with 10 minutes left and with 5 minutes to go. It was 21-2 when out-rebounding opponents and 21-1 when shooting 45 percent or higher...Stone came within one steal of tying Scott Campbell (1990-93) for the career mark...Stone led the team with five double-doubles while Eric Sandrin and Aziz had three...Bone is due to have his largest senior class in 2003 with eight returning for their final year. That group includes Cato, Aziz, Woodard, Daniel Sandrin, **Jesse Keely** (Jr., 6-7, Fircrest, Wa./Bellarmine), **Adam Harris** (Jr., 6-0, Fox Island, Wa./Gig Harbor), **Aaron Bellessa** (Jr., 6-2, Federal Way, Wa./Decatur) and **Joe Sundberg** (Jr., 6-1, Longview, Wa./Mark Morris-Skagit Valley CC). There were seven seniors in 2000.

2001-02 Men's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Yr	Exp	Hometown (High School/Last Coll.)
1	Jordan Lee	G	6-2	Fr	1V	Tacoma, Wa. (Life Christian)
3	Maurice Cato	G	6-0	Jr	1V	Fairfield, Ca (Fairfield/Skyline)
4	Mike Bushmaker	F	6-7	Fr	RS	Yakima, Wa (Eisenhower)
10	Adam Harris	G	6-0	Sr	3V	Fox Island, Wa. (Gig Harbor)
11	Aaron Bellessa	G	6-2	Jr	3V	Federal Way, Wa. (Decatur)
15	Jeff Knudson	F	6-6	Fr	RS	Mukilteo, Wa (Kamiak)
20	Yusef Aziz	F	6-4	Jr	1V	Tukwila, Wa (Foster/Highline)
21	Brannon Stone	F	6-9	Sr	4V	Oak Harbor, Wa. (Oak Harbor)
22	Jesse Keely	F/C	6-7	Jr	2V	Fircrest, Wa. (Bellarmine/Portland)
23	Nick Johnson	G	6-3	Sr	4V	Burlington, Wa. (Burlington-Edison)
30	Gene Woodard	F	6-4	Jr	3V	Edmonds, Wa. (O'Dea)
32	Joe Sundberg	G	6-1	Jr	1V	Longview, Wa (M. Morris/Skagit Valley)
34	Eric Sandrin	C	6-10	Sr	2V	Bothell, Wa. (Shorecrest/Portland)
40	Daniel Sandrin	F	6-7	Jr	2V	Bothell, Wa. (Bothell/Portland)
42	Chris Cohen	F	6-8	So	2V	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* 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	BYU Hawaii (NCAA)	W, 82-57
Mar. 8	Humboldt St. (NCAA)	L, 82-89

*Great Northwest Athletic Conference games
All times are Pacific

2001-02 Season Leaders

Scoring

Yusef Aziz	16.2
Nick Johnson	13.9
Eric Sandrin	10.9
Brannon Stone	10.6
Maurice Cato	10.4

Rebounds

Brannon Stone	6.4
Yusef Aziz	6.0
Eric Sandrin	5.7

Assists

Brannon Stone	4.7
Maurice Cato	2.8

Steals

Yusef Aziz	1.69
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Blocked Shots

Brannon Stone	1.45
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Field Goal Percentage

Yusef Aziz	.548
Nick Johnson	.538

Three Point Percentage

Nick Johnson	(26-65) .400
Maurice Cato	(51-141) .362

Free Throw Percentage

Nick Johnson	(90-101) .891
Maurice Cato	(66-79) .835

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	81.7	35.8	.492	.773	.352
Opp.	67.6	31.1	.415	.745	.351

Seattle Pacific University
2001-02 Men's Basketball Statistics
Record: 24- 5/ 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
3/ 7	BYU Hawaii (NCAA)	W 82- 57	N San Bernardino, Ca.	66724-	4	27- Nick Johnson	8-Aziz/Stone
3/ 8	Humboldt St. (NCAA)	82- 89 L	N San Bernardino, Ca.	133724-	5	23- Eric Sandrin	10- Eric Sandrin

* - 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	29-26	172- 314	54.8	14- 45	31.1	113-154	73.4	70	103	173	6.0	56	40	13	49	55- 2	834-	28.8	471	16.2	
Yusef Aziz	29-26	172- 314	54.8	14- 45	31.1	113-154	73.4	70	103	173	6.0	56	40	13	49	55- 2	834-	28.8	471	16.2	
Aaron Bellessa	25- 0	8- 17	47.1	1- 2	50.0	8- 12	66.7	4	19	23	0.9	32	21	0	7	24- 0	264-	10.6	25	1.0	
Maurice Cato	29-27	92- 233	39.5	51-141	36.2	66- 79	83.5	7	40	47	1.6	81	65	0	38	70- 1	690-	23.8	301	10.4	
Chris Cohen	20- 0	12- 23	52.2	0- 0	0.0	7- 10	70.0	10	16	26	1.3	7	7	0	2	7- 0	75-	3.8	31	1.5	
Adam Harris	21- 2	9- 18	50.0	8- 15	53.3	17- 18	94.4	6	12	18	0.9	15	18	1	11	24- 0	215-	10.2	43	2.0	
Nick Johnson	29-29	143- 266	53.8	26- 65	40.0	90-101	89.1	47	80	127	4.4	73	34	2	27	49- 2	879-	30.3	402	13.9	
Jesse Keely	27- 0	20- 50	40.0	1- 2	50.0	12- 15	80.0	22	22	44	1.6	9	21	5	8	30- 0	199-	7.4	53	2.0	
Jordan Lee	29- 0	27- 63	42.9	13- 38	34.2	3- 7	42.9	5	10	15	0.5	14	15	0	9	21- 0	266-	9.2	70	2.4	
Daniel Sandrin	28- 2	66- 114	57.9	9- 26	34.6	52- 68	76.5	22	61	83	3.0	32	33	7	14	57- 0	491-	17.5	193	6.9	
Eric Sandrin	28-26	115- 221	52.0	8- 39	20.5	67- 88	76.1	52	108	160	5.7	46	63	18	15	88- 4	622-	22.2	305	10.9	
Brannon Stone	29-29	105- 246	42.7	57-158	36.1	39- 49	79.6	36	149	185	6.4	136	63	42	43	65- 1	881-	30.4	306	10.6	
Joe Sundberg	16- 0	4- 12	33.3	2- 4	50.0	2- 6	33.3	3	5	8	0.5	4	3	2	4	4- 0	54-	3.4	12	0.8	
Gene Woodard	29- 2	57- 111	51.4	3- 14	21.4	41- 62	66.1	32	40	72	2.5	17	26	3	23	28- 0	405-	14.0	158	5.4	
Team								36	22	58		0								0	
Seattle Pacific	29-29	830-1688	49.7	2193-	549	35.2	517-669	77.3	352	687	1039	35.8	224	09	93	250	522-10			2370	81.7
Opponents	29-29	683-1646	41.5	203-578	35.1	392-526	74.5	324	579	903	31.1	406	471	72	207	577-25			1961	67.6	

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 98, Opponents 67

Opponent Team Rebounds: 74 — (Offense: 34 Defense: 40)

Technical Fouls: Seattle Pacific 1 — Bench 1; Opponents 5Bench 2