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Birds Get Together: Turkey, Falcons, Redhawks SPU Hosts Seattle U. Saturday Before Leaving For Next 5

Afternoon matinee. Local basketball fans can get their fill of turkey for Thanksgiving but they had better leave plenty of room for birds of a different feather come Saturday afternoon (Nov. 30). Seattle Pacific University hosts crosstown rival Seattle University in the final men's basketball home game for the next 33 days. The Falcons (3-0) are coming off three strong outings and this non-conference encounter with the Redhawks (2-0) will be the final game prior to the commencement of Great Northwest Athletic Conference play at Central Washington Dec. 5. That's the first of five consecutive games on the road.

Baker's dozen? Not so fast. For the past seven years the Falcons have made a regular meal out of the Redhawks and their predecessors, the Chieftains. SPU has won 12 straight games in the series but last season Seattle U. began closing the gap, trimming the average margin from 25.5 points in 2000-01 to 15.3, with one game being decided by just five points. Seattle Pacific was picked fourth in the GNAC preseason poll and the Redhawks—believed to be one of the league's most improved teams—were sixth.

A Hiro sandwich. As coaching debuts go, **Jeff Hironaka** can't complain. Despite his squad being shorthanded due to a couple suspensions, Hironaka earned a win in his first game at the helm, 80-70 over Minnesota-Duluth. Following victories over Central Washington (84-81) and Warner Pacific (71-66), he has an opportunity to become only the second SPU coach to start his watch with four straight wins. Of the nine other headmasters, only Jim Poteet (1981-84) started 4-0.

Taking a Yuey. Without question, Hironaka is heaping a great deal of responsibility on the shoulders of **Yusef Aziz** (Sr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster-Highline CC). If the Falcons are to make a run at the GNAC and a sixth straight trip to the NCAA Division II tournament, they need a big season from their all-region forward and go-to guy. Duluth apparently knew that and consequently defended Aziz to the hilt in the first game, resulting in him shooting just 4-15 from the floor. The next night Yuey made a U-turn, summoning perhaps the best game of his career by scoring a career-high 32 points, including five in the decisive final three minutes. He hit inside and outside, sinking 10 of 13 baskets, and 12 of 16 free throws, and against Warner Pacific Aziz was especially tough inside, shooting 9-13 and scoring 19 points. His weekend work earned him far and away the most votes on the Vitamilk Tip-Off Classic all-tournament team.

Roles with relish. The big picture calls for Aziz to command attention while a supporting cast quietly nibbles away at the opponent's defense. Only in the opener, it was Seattle Pacific's role players who rose to the occasion. **Jordan Lee** (So., 6-0, University Place, Wa./Life Christian) and **Jeff Knudson** (Fr., 6-7, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak) came off the bench to score 15 points apiece and hit a combined 6-8 three-pointers as the SPU bench outscored the UMD reserves 39-18. Another key figure was backup center **Chris Cohen** (Jr., 6-8, Saint Helens, Or.), who did a yeoman's job inside, hauling in eight rebounds and scoring nine points (both career-highs) in 15 minutes. Against Central, **Daniel Sandrin** (Sr., 6-7, Bothell, Wa.) came off the bench and hit the go-ahead shot with 1 minute to go, Knudson nailed a pair of treys and **Gene Woodard** (Sr., 6-4, Edmonds, Wa./O'Dea) had six rebounds.

Changing of the guards. Next to Aziz, the Falcons' depth may be their best asset. They received solid performances from all four guards over the weekend, with fifth-year veteran **Adam Harris** (Sr., 6-0, Fox Island, Wa./Gig Harbor) earning a place on the all-tournament team. Going according to script,

2002-03 MEN'S BASKETBALL SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Record—3-0

Coach—Jeff Hironaka, 1st year

Coach's Career Record— 3-0

This Week

Sat., Nov. 30, 2 p.m.

vs. Seattle University (2-0)

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Last Week's Results

at SPU 80, Minnesota-Duluth 70

at SPU 84, Central Washington 81

at SPU 71, Warner Pacific 66

Streaks & Such

SPU has won the last 12 games in the Seattle University series, dating back to 1995

Stat de jour

Jeff Hironaka is bidding to become only the second SPU head coach to win his first four games

GNAC Preseason Poll

1. Humboldt State (9)
2. Western Washington
3. Central Washington (1)
4. Seattle Pacific
5. Alaska Anchorage
6. Seattle University
7. Western Oregon
8. Saint Martin's
9. Northwest Nazarene
10. Alaska Fairbanks

Note: First-place votes in parentheses

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Alaska Fairbanks	0	0	5	0
Seattle Pacific	0	0	3	0
Seattle University	0	0	2	0
Humboldt State	0	0	1	0
Western Washington	0	0	1	1
Western Oregon	0	0	1	1
Central Washington	0	0	1	1
Alaska Anchorage	0	0	1	1
Saint Martin's	0	0	0	2
Northwest Nazarene	0	0	0	2

Harris wasn't particularly flashy but very effective in scoring 20 points, shooting 6-10 from the floor (4-7 treys) and making four steals. Rookie **Tony Binetti** (Fr., 6-1, Enumclaw, Wa./Enumclaw) got the starting call against Duluth and played his 30 minutes with poise, scoring eight points but, more importantly, making only one turnover while handling the ball most of the time. **Maurice Cato** (Sr., 6-0, Fairfield, Ca.) was back in the lineup vs. Central and scored 10 points while Lee finished the weekend with 21 points and four assists.

Shiver me Chivers. The scary thing is that, with only a year and a half or organized basketball in his blood, **Jason Chivers** (So., 6-8, Palmdale, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech) is only going to get stronger. Chivers started and played only 34 minutes in the first two games but when he was on the court, he was a big factor. He clutched 12 rebounds, blocked three shots and hit a couple big free throws late against Central. Chivers played one year in high school before embarking on a pro baseball career. Following four years in the minor leagues, he played 16 games last season at Los Angeles Trade Tech junior college before suffering a season-ending knee injury.

Put-backs. **Jesse Keely** (Sr., 6-7, Fircrest, Wa./Bellarmine), plagued with foul trouble in the first two games, scored a career-high 13 points and had eight boards vs. WPC. That effort resembled the promise of the two preseason games, when Keely scored 28 points and shot over 80 percent...Aziz not only leads the team in scoring (21.3 ranks fifth in the GNAC) but assists (3.3) and blocked shots (1.7)...The Falcons shot 56 and 49 percent in the first two games, respectively. They were 10-18 outside the arc in the opener. In the GNAC, they own the best field-goal percentage (.512) and are No. 2 in three-point accuracy (.423). Opponents, however, are shooting .489 from the field...Aziz set a tournament record with 12 free throws vs. Central...Knudson is 7-12 on treys and Binetti 5-12 to begin the season...Chivers and Cohen each have seven offensive rebounds and are overall team leaders at 5.0 and 4.7, respectively. Oddly, they've averaged only 13.3 and 10.7 minutes of play...Sandrin and Cato each missed the UMD game, serving suspensions after a breach of team rules.

Opponent & series notes. Seattle University won its own tournament, defeating both Biola (71-60) and North Carolina Central (62-60) but the Redhawks face Division I Oregon State at Corvallis Tuesday night. Darnell Lyons averaged 11.5 points in the first two games but the more telling statistic was that opponents shot only 35 percent. Saturday's game features two teams which have commanded the boards in their first few games. Seattle U. leads the series 42-32 but since dropping from Division I the series has gone 26-10 in favor of the Falcons.

Tickets, please. Reserved tickets for all SPU home games are priced \$7 and \$6. General admission is \$5 with youth, students and senior citizens \$3 with proper identification. Groups can qualify for discounts by calling (206) 281-2085 in advance.

Missing links. For the latest and best information on Seattle Pacific University athletics, click on the Falcons Online (www.spu.edu/falconsonline). For updated standings and statistics, see the Great Northwest Athletic Conference web site at www.gnacsports.com.

2002-03 Men's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Yr	Exp	Hometown (High School/Last Coll.)
1	Jordan Lee	G	6-2	So	1V	Tacoma, Wa. (Life Christian)
3	Maurice Cato	G	6-0	Sr	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	Tony Binetti	G	6-1	Fr	HS	Enumclaw, Wa. (Enumclaw)
15	Jeff Knudson	F	6-7	Fr	RS	Mukilteo, Wa (Kamiak)
20	Jordan Beede	G	6-1	Fr	HS	Bellingham, Wa. (Squalicum)
21	Yusef Aziz	F	6-4	Sr	1V	Seattle, Wa (Foster/Highline)
22	Jesse Keely	F/C	6-7	Sr	2V	Fircrest, Wa. (Bellarmine/Portland)
23	Tim Gabelein	F	6-6	Fr	HS	Langley, Wa. (South Whidbey)
30	Gene Woodard	F	6-4	Sr	3V	Edmonds, Wa. (O'Dea)
32	Dustin Bremerman	F	6-4	Fr	HS	Yakima, Wa. (Eisenhower)
34	Jason Chivers	C	6-8	So	TR	Palmdale, Ca. (Highland/LA Trade)
40	Daniel Sandrin	F	6-7	Sr	2V	Bothell, Wa. (Bothell/Portland)
50	Chris Cohen	C	6-8	Jr	2V	Saint Helens, Or. (Saint Helens)

Head Coach: Jeff Hironaka

Assistant Coaches: Keith Cooper, George Parker, Rich King, Michael Johnson

2002-03 Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 8	NW ALL-STARS (Ex.)	W, 108-77
Nov. 15	BLUE ANGELS (Ex.)	W, 117-96
Nov. 22-23	VITAMILK TIP-OFF CLASSIC	
Nov. 22	SPU v MINN. DULUTH	W, 80-70
Nov. 23	SPU v CENTRAL WASH.	W, 84-81
Nov. 25	WARNER PACIFIC	W, 71-66
Nov. 30	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY	2:00
Dec. 5	at Central Washington*	7:00
Dec. 7	at Saint Martin's*	7:00
Dec. 16-17	River City Shootout (at San Antonio)	
Dec. 16	SPU v Missouri Western	3:00
Dec. 17	Seattle Pacific v Pittsburg State	3:00
Dec. 19	at Nevada	7:05
Jan. 3-4	OAK HARBOR FREIGHTLINES CL.	
Jan. 3	Seattle Univ. v Rocky Mountain	5:00
	SPU v UC SANTA CRUZ	7:00
Jan. 4	Seattle Univ. v UC Santa Cruz	2:00
	SPU v ROCKY MOUNTAIN	7:00
Jan. 11	WESTERN WASHINGTON*	7:00
Jan. 16	ALASKA ANCHORAGE*	7:00
Jan. 18	ALASKA FAIRBANKS*	7:00
Jan. 23	at Western Oregon*	7:00
Jan. 25	at Humboldt State*	7:00
Jan. 30	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY*	7:30
Feb. 1	NORTHWEST NAZARENE*	3:30
Feb. 8	at Western Washington*	7:00
Feb. 13	at Alaska Fairbanks*	8:00
Feb. 15	at Alaska Anchorage*	9:05
Feb. 20	HUMBOLDT STATE*	7:30
Feb. 22	WESTERN OREGON*	7:00
Feb. 27	at Northwest Nazarene*	6:00
Mar. 1	at Seattle University*	7:00
Mar. 6	SAINT MARTIN'S*	7:30
Mar. 8	CENTRAL WASHINGTON*	7:00
Mar. 15-18	NCAA West Regional	
Mar. 28-31	NCAA Elite Eight (at Lakeland, Fl.)	

*Great Northwest Athletic Conference games
All times are Pacific

2002-03 Season Leaders

Scoring

Yusef Aziz	21.3
Maurice Cato	10.5
Jeff Knudson	9.7
Adam Harris	7.7
Tony Binetti	7.7

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	5.0
Chris Cohen	4.7
Yusef Aziz	4.3

Assists

Yusef Aziz	3.3
Daniel Sandrin	3.0

Steals

Adam Harris	1.30
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Blocked Shots

Yusef Aziz	1.67
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Field Goal Percentage

Jeff Knudson	.588
Adam Harris	.583
Yusef Aziz	.561

Three Point Percentage

Jeff Knudson	(7-12) .583
Tony Binetti	(5-12) .417

Free Throw Percentage

Jesse Keely	(9-10) .900
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Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	78.3	34.0	.512	.703	.423
Opp.	72.3	28.0	.489	.643	.439

Seattle Pacific University
2002-03 Men's Basketball Statistics
Record: 3- 0/ 0- 0 GNAC

Date	Opponent	Score	Site	Attend	Record	Leading Scorer	Leading Rebounder
11/22	Minn.-Duluth	W 80- 70	H Seattle, Wa.	1075	1- 0	15- 2 Players Tied	8- Chris Cohen
11/23	Central Washington	W 84- 81	H Seattle, Wa.	875	2- 0	32- Yusef Aziz	8- Jason Chivers
11/25	Warner Pacific	W 71- 66	H Seattle, Wa.	415	3- 0	19- Yusef Aziz	8- Jesse Keely

	GP-GS	-- All FG --			-- 3 Pt FG --			--- FT ---				---- Rebounds ----												
		M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	A	TOBLK	STL	PF-D	Min-	Avg	Pts	Avg		
Seattle Pacific	3- 3	23-	41	56.1	0-	2	0.0	18-	28	64.3	5	8	13	4.3	10	9	5	0	3- 0	91-	30.3	64	21.3	
Yusef Aziz	3- 1	9-	18	50.0	5-	12	41.7	0-	0	0.0	1	6	7	2.3	2	5	3	3	6- 0	62-	20.7	23	7.7	
Tony Binetti	2- 0	0-	0	0.0	0-	0	0.0	0-	1	0.0	0	2	2	1.0	0	1	0	0	1- 0	8-	4.0	0	0.0	
Mike Bushmaker	2- 2	9-	20	45.0	2-	8	25.0	1-	2	50.0	1	1	2	1.0	5	2	0	3	4- 0	46-	23.0	21	10.5	
Maurice Cato	3- 3	3-	12	25.0	0-	0	0.0	2-	3	66.7	7	8	15	5.0	0	2	3	0	7- 0	40-	13.3	8	2.7	
Jason Chivers	3- 0	6-	9	66.7	0-	0	0.0	2-	5	40.0	7	7	14	4.7	1	3	0	0	4- 0	32-	10.7	14	4.7	
Chris Cohen	3- 3	7-	12	58.3	4-	9	44.4	5-	5	100.0	1	4	5	1.7	7	8	0	4	6- 0	77-	25.7	23	7.7	
Adam Harris	3- 2	5-	6	83.3	0-	0	0.0	9-	10	90.0	3	9	12	4.0	4	2	1	3	9- 1	53-	17.7	19	6.3	
Jesse Keely	3- 0	10-	17	58.8	7-	12	58.3	2-	3	66.7	2	9	11	3.7	5	4	1	0	8- 0	70-	23.3	29	9.7	
Jeff Knudson	3- 0	8-	14	57.1	3-	7	42.9	2-	2	100.0	0	1	1	0.3	4	1	0	1	3- 0	50-	16.7	21	7.0	
Jordan Lee	2- 0	3-	9	33.3	0-	1	0.0	2-	2	100.0	2	1	3	1.5	6	5	1	0	6- 0	36-	18.0	8	4.0	
Daniel Sandrin	3- 0	1-	6	16.7	1-	1	100.0	2-	3	66.7	2	9	11	3.7	3	4	1	0	4- 0	35-	11.7	5	1.7	
Gene Woodard	Team										3	3	6										0	
Seattle Pacific	3- 3	84-	164	51.2	22-	52	42.3	45-	64	70.3	34	68	102	34.0	47	46	15	14	61- 1				235	78.3
Opponents	3- 3	86-	176	48.9	18-	41	43.9	27-	42	64.3	32	52	84	28.0	46	43	9	17	63- 1				217	72.3

	--- First Half ---					--- Second Half ---					----- Game -----													
All FG	47-	88	53.4%	37-	76	48.7%	84-	164	51.2%															
3 Pt FG	12-	27	44.4%	10-	25	40.0%	22-	52	42.3%															
FT	21-	31	67.7%	24-	33	72.7%	45-	64	70.3%															

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 10, Opponents 8
Opponent Team Rebounds: 7 — (Offense: 4 Defense: 3)
Technical Fouls: None