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## SPU Men: They'll Be Home (After Christmas)

**5-Game Stand Begins With Oak Harbor Freight Lines Classic New Year's tourney.** They have more than two weeks to think about it and then two opportunities to *do* something about it. Seattle Pacific University will resume play in men's basketball on the first weekend of the New Year, hosting the eighth annual Oak Harbor Freight Lines Holiday Classic. The Falcons (5-4), coming off three consecutive losses and five games in a row on the road, face UC Santa Cruz (0-9) Friday night (Jan. 3) and Montana's Rocky Mountain College (9-3) the following Saturday night (Jan. 4). Great Northwest Athletic Conference play will be restarted Jan. 11 versus Western Washington.

**Streaks, breaks of the game.** Rarely does an SPU squad spend the holidays idle and mired in a slump such as this. The 15-day break from action is the longest in 18 seasons and not since 1997-98 have the Falcons suffered three straight losses. Before last week they had won 24 consecutive December games and history supports a resumption of such dominance and soon. Seattle Pacific owns a record of 11-1 in previous Oak Harbor Freight Lines tournaments and has not lost a home game to a Division III or NAIA team such as UC Santa Cruz or Rocky Mountain since November of 1997.

**Resolutions? They've got a few.** All things considered, **Jeff Hironaka's** first nine games as head coach have gone all right. His 5-1 start was the best ever by a new SPU coach and his team has battled each game, often against strong opposition. Defensively, Hironaka's club has improved immensely but for Seattle Pacific to get back on track, the players must resolve to shoot the ball better, particularly from the foul line. The Falcons are hitting only 64 percent of their free throws. They converted only 60 percent last week and made just 43 percent of their field goals after making 50 percent in the first six games. The four losses, including the last outing, an 89-80 defeat at Division I Nevada, have been by an average of 6.5 points. In fact, eight of the nine games have been decided by 10 points or less.

**And little bit Mo.** As non-conference schedules go, last week's rated among the most difficult of the past decade. Missouri Western and Pittsburg State are a combined 15-2 and both teams earned close decisions over SPU at the River City Shootout in San Antonio. But they also found that **Maurice Cato** (Sr., 6-0, Fairfield, Ca.) can be a handful. Cato was all over the place during the road trip, scoring 43 points, hitting seven (of 15) three-pointers and making eight steals. For the season, Cato leads the Falcons in thefts (1.88) and is No. 2 in scoring (12.6) and assists (2.7). His No. 1 resolution is to bring his free throw percentage—currently 68 percent—back to last year's level of 84 percent.

**At ease, Aziz.** **Yusef Aziz** (Sr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster-Highline CC) once considered playing for Nevada and the Wolf Pack were reminded of his talents firsthand in Reno. Aziz scored a game-high 21 points, grabbed nine rebounds and had four assists as the upset-minded Falcons confounded their D-I hosts for the first 23 minutes. He scored 12 first-half points and his dunk gave Seattle Pacific a 51-47 lead early in the second half. Nevada then regrouped and launched a 26-5 run to seize control. Aziz, after a tepid start at the foul line, made 10 of 14 free throws last week. He goes into the break as the team leader in scoring (17.6) and assists (3.3) and is No. 2 in field-goal percentage (.500).

## 2002-03 MEN'S BASKETBALL

### SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Record—5-4 (GNAC 2-0)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka, 1st year

Coach's Career Record— 5-4

### Upcoming Games

*Oak Harbor Freight Lines Holiday Classic  
Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.*

*Fri., Jan. 3*

Rocky Mountain v Seattle U., 5 p.m.

SPU v UC Santa Cruz, 7 p.m.

*Sat., Jan. 4*

UC Santa Cruz v Seattle U., 2 p.m.

SPU v Rocky Mountain, 7 p.m.

### Last Week's Results

Missouri Western 70, SPU 65

Pittsburg State 70, SPU 64

at Nevada 89, SPU 80

### Streaks & Such

The Falcons have lost three in a row—their longest such streak since 1997-98

### Stat de jour

Seattle Pacific owns an overall record of 11-1 in the previous Oak Harbor Freight Lines Classics, dating back to 1995

### GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Alaska Fairbanks	2	0	7	2
Seattle Pacific	2	0	5	4
Humboldt State	1	0	7	0
Western Washington	1	1	5	4
Seattle University	1	1	6	3
Central Washington	1	1	7	2
Alaska Anchorage	1	1	3	6
Western Oregon	0	1	6	3
Northwest Nazarene	0	2	1	7
Saint Martin's	0	2	0	10

### NCAA West Region Poll

1. Humboldt State
2. Alaska Fairbanks
3. Cal State Bakersfield
4. Hawaii Hilo
5. **Seattle Pacific**
6. Montana State Billings
7. Seattle University
8. Central Washington

**A hero every night.** For the Falcons to extend their string of six consecutive NCAA Division II tournament appearances, they'll need Aziz and Cato to make big contributions and a bit of a "different hero each night." That formula was evident in the team's five wins and during last week's games a few more individuals showed they are capable of filling that third role. Backup center **Chris Cohen** (Jr., 6-8, Saint Helens, Or.) served up two his best career performances thus far in the last two outings, totaling 15 points (7-12 FGs) and eight rebounds in 25 minutes. That included nine points and his first trey at Reno. Starting pivot **Jason Chivers** (So., 6-8, Palmdale, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech) posted his second double-double of the season (10 points, 10 boards) versus Pittsburg State and **Adam Harris** (Sr., 6-0, Fox Island, Wa./Gig Harbor) connected on 6 of 8 treys, including 3-3 at Nevada.

**Put-backs.** SPU was No. 5 in the first NCAA West Region poll last week. Humboldt State, currently ranked No. 1 in the nation, was first in the region, followed by Alaska Fairbanks, Cal State Bakersfield, and Hawaii Hilo. The regional poll determines which eight teams make the playoffs in March...The Falcons rate No. 2 in GNAC 3-point accuracy (.432), No. 3 in field goal accuracy (.476) but No. 9 at the foul line...**Jeff Knudson** (Fr., 6-7, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak) continues to lead the conference in three-point shooting (.571) but played only 16 minutes and was just 2-6 on the trip. Aziz ranks No. 7 in GNAC scoring and assists. Cato is sixth in steals and Chivers is No. 5 in rebounding (6.8)...Nevada out-rebounded SPU 45-30, including 13 offensive boards in the second half.

**Opponent & series notes.** UC Santa Cruz has gained notoriety for its nickname, the Banana Slugs. Unfortunately, the mollusks have yet to win a game this season, going into the Christmas break at 0-9. They have three road games prior to arriving in Seattle...Rocky Mountain, located in Billings, has won seven in a row, including an impressive 122-111 double overtime home victory over perennial D-II power Charleston (WV) last week. The Battlin' Bears are 9-3 with two home games remaining before playing Seattle U. Jan. 3 in the first round of the Oak Harbor Freight Lines Classic. This will be the first meeting between SPU and Rocky Mountain since the 1976-77 season. The Falcons lead the series 2-0.

**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.

**SPU Coaches.** The longest-serving assistant in program history, **Jeff Hironaka** was selected to succeed Ken Bone as head coach Apr. 30, 2002. A former aide at Idaho State and The Master's, Hironaka joined Bone in 1991 and from there the Falcons won 236 of 253 games, claimed five outright or shared conference championships and qualified for the NCAA tournament eight of the last nine years, including a Final Four advancement in 2000. Hironaka is the second Japanese-American head coach of a four-year collegiate program. **Keith Cooper**, an alumnus of Seattle Pacific, is the staff's top assistant. Cooper previously was an assistant at Central Washington and Pacific Lutheran, and head coach at Federal Way's Decatur High School. **George Parker** who first served as an assistant in 1986, returns for his 14th year on the staff. Others who are new to the staff are **Rich King**, former Nebraska and Seattle SuperSonics center, and **Michael Johnson**, an all-state selection from nearby Ballard and four-year letterman at Washington.

## 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)
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)
30	Gene Woodard	F	6-4	Sr	3V	Edmonds, Wa. (O'Dea)
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)

√ projected starter

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	MINN. DULUTH	W, 80-70
Nov. 23	CENTRAL WASH.	W, 84-81
Nov. 25	WARNER PACIFIC	W, 71-66
Nov. 30	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY	L, 64-70
Dec. 5	at Central Washington*	W, 81-71
Dec. 7	at Saint Martin's*	W, 79-56
Dec. 16-17	River City Shootout (at San Antonio)	
Dec. 16	Missouri Western	L, 65-70
Dec. 17	Pittsburg State	L, 64-70
Dec. 19	at Nevada	L, 80-89
Jan. 3-4	OAK HARBOR FREIGHTLINES CL.	
Jan. 3	Seattle U. 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	at 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	17.6
Maurice Cato	12.6
Jason Chivers	7.4
Adam Harris	7.9

### Rebounds

Jason Chivers	6.8
Yusef Aziz	5.9

### Assists

Yusef Aziz	3.4
Maurice Cato	2.9

### Steals

Maurice Cato	1.88
Adam Harris	1.33

### Blocked Shots

Yusef Aziz	0.78
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### Field Goal Percentage

Jason Chivers	.509
Yusef Aziz	.500

### Three Point Percentage

Jeff Knudson	(15-26) .571
Adam Harris	(14-25) .560

### Free Throw Percentage

Jesse Keely	(15-20) .750
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Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	74.2	34.4	.476	.640	.432
Opp.	71.4	33.1	.449	.687	.374

Seattle Pacific University  
2002-03 Men's Basketball Statistics  
Record: 5- 4/ 2- 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- Lee/Knudson	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
11/30	Seattle University	64- 70 L	H Seattle, Wa.	575	3- 1	21- Yusef Aziz	11- Yusef Aziz
12/ 5	Central Washington	W 81- 71	H Ellensburg, Wa.	1328	4- 1	22- Jason Chivers	12- Jason Chivers
12/ 7	Saint Martin's	W 79- 56	H Lacey, Wa.	253	5- 1	18- Yusef Aziz	7- Jason Chivers
12/16	Missouri Western St.	65- 70 L	N San Antonio, Tx.	24	5- 2	17- Yusef Aziz	6- Daniel Sandrin
12/17	Pittsburgh St.	64- 70 L	N San Antonio, Tx.	105	5- 3	15- Maurice Cato	10- Jason Chivers
12/19	Nevada	80- 89 L	A Reno, Nv.	4801	5- 4	21- Yusef Aziz	9- Yusef Aziz

— 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	9- 9	59-	118	50.0	6-	15	40.0	34-	56	60.7	16	37	53	5.9	31	24	7	6	21-	1	293-	32.6	158	17.6
Yusef Aziz	9- 1	15-	39	38.5	5-	24	20.8	4-	7	57.1	5	11	16	1.8	7	10	4	6	20-	0	133-	14.8	39	4.3
Tony Binetti	5- 0	1-	4	25.0	0-	0	0.0	0-	3	0.0	1	6	7	1.4	0	3	0	0	3-	0	29-	5.8	2	0.4
Mike Bushmaker	8- 8	37-	81	45.7	14-	34	41.2	13-	19	68.4	4	13	17	2.1	23	20	1	15	16-	0	212-	26.5	101	12.6
Maurice Cato	9- 9	28-	55	50.9	0-	0	0.0	11-	18	61.1	21	40	61	6.8	1	8	4	4	20-	0	184-	20.4	67	7.4
Jason Chivers	8- 0	14-	25	56.0	1-	1	100.0	2-	7	28.6	10	15	25	3.1	2	8	0	2	13-	0	79-	9.9	31	3.9
Chris Cohen	9- 9	23-	42	54.8	14-	25	56.0	11-	13	84.6	4	12	16	1.8	17	15	0	12	20-	0	213-	23.7	71	7.9
Adam Harris	9- 4	17-	27	63.0	2-	2	100.0	15-	20	75.0	6	18	24	2.7	9	11	2	6	21-	1	128-	14.2	51	5.7
Jesse Keely	9- 0	20-	35	57.1	15-	26	57.7	2-	3	66.7	6	11	17	1.9	10	6	1	5	17-	0	130-	14.4	57	6.3
Jeff Knudson	9- 0	15-	37	40.5	6-	17	35.3	4-	6	66.7	8	4	12	1.3	9	5	0	3	9-	0	145-	16.1	40	4.4
Jordan Lee	8- 5	16-	40	40.0	0-	1	0.0	10-	13	76.9	10	18	28	3.5	14	17	4	7	18-	0	169-	21.1	42	5.2
Daniel Sandrin	9- 0	2-	16	12.5	1-	3	33.3	4-	7	57.1	3	16	19	2.1	5	6	1	5	6-	0	85-	9.4	9	1.0
Gene Woodard																								
Team											9	6	15		0									0
Seattle Pacific	9- 9	247-	519	47.6	64-	148	43.2	110-	172	64.0	103	207	310	34.4	128	133	24	71	184-	2			668	74.2
Opponents	9- 9	233-	519	44.9	52-	139	37.4	125-	182	68.7	108	190	298	33.1	118	137	31	63	163-	3			643	71.4

— First Half — — Second Half — — Game —

All FG	123-	261	47.1%	124-	258	48.1%	247-	519	47.6%
3 Pt FG	31-	66	47.0%	33-	82	40.2%	64-	148	43.2%
FT	49-	81	60.5%	61-	91	67.0%	110-	172	64.0%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 35, Opponents 34  
Opponent Team Rebounds: 15 — (Offense: 10 Defense: 5)  
Technical Fouls: None