

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

Anxious To Exit Deep Freeze, SPU Hosts Alaskans Struggling Falcons Face 2 Of Top 3 Teams In GNAC At Home

It's rally time. Gut-check time has come awfully early this season. Faced with a must-win situation to salvage both its conference and postseason hopes, the Seattle Pacific University men's basketball team will receive no handouts as two of the top three teams in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference standings come calling. The Falcons (2-1, 6-6), who have lost five of their last six, host Alaska Anchorage (3-1, 6-7) Thursday night (Jan. 16) and GNAC leader Alaska Fairbanks (4-0, 11-2) to complete the five-game home stand Saturday night (Jan. 18). Next week SPU visits Western Oregon and top-ranked Humboldt State.

The odds of March. Already saddled with six losses, Seattle Pacific cannot afford to lose again at home. The Falcons, 10th in last week's West Region rankings, have qualified for the NCAA Division II playoffs eight of the last nine years and even though the playoff bracket has expanded from six to eight teams per region, it's unlikely that teams with less than 17 wins will be considered. To reach that plateau, SPU would need to go 11-4 the rest of the way. Historically, Brougham Pavilion is the best place to stage a turnaround. The team is 40-4 in conference home games the past three seasons and has not lost back-to-back league games in the pavilion since 1988. This is the first time it has lost three home games in 15 years.

It's always something. It's got to be frustrating for first-year Coach **Jeff Hironaka**. As soon a fix is found for one facet of the Falcons' game, another problem arises. The only similarity that all six losses share is that the team trailed at halftime (it is 6-0 when leading at the break). Four have been by seven or fewer points. Poor shooting, both from the foul line and the field, have plagued SPU in five of its losses. Against Western Washington last week, Seattle Pacific began to snap out of its slump at the foul line, making 11 of 15, but shot just 37 percent from the field in the second half and 44 percent overall. The Vikings, despite committing 24 turnovers and not sinking a single three-pointer, were victorious by attacking the basket. They shot 60 percent and made 18 more free throws.

It only takes a spark. In the words of Smokey the Bear (or was it simply a lyric from a campfire song?), it only takes a spark to get a fire going. Perhaps the Falcons, now in their darkest hour, are just a game away from going on a roll. Some of the better stretch runs by SPU teams have started under similar circumstances and Hironaka, as an assistant, was an eye witness to three such revivals. In 1997-98, the team was just 6-5 before reeling off seven wins in a row and resuscitate its playoff hopes (it advanced to the regional championship game). Three years earlier, in 1994-95, another 6-5 team won six in a row (again coming within one playoff win of the Elite Eight), and in 1992-93 the Falcons won 11 straight after starting 5-5.

A fine line. Just as Hironaka is feeling the pressure, so too is **Yusef Aziz** (Sr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster-Highline CC). Defenses are designed to stop him and force the Falcons' supporting cast to step up. Hironaka and Aziz are walking a fine line, trying to get the star forward sufficient scoring opportunities while not becoming predictable. Aziz is the team leader in scoring (16.8) and assists (3.8). The last time an SPU led the squad in both categories was 1987 (Ritchie McKay). While Aziz's statistics are virtually the same, win or lose, his supporting cast has been able to hit the open shot (53 percent overall, 42 percent on treys) in the six victories.

2002-03 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Record—6-6 (GNAC 2-1)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka, 1st year

Coach's Career Record— 6-6

This Week

Thr., Jan. 16, 7 p.m.

vs. Alaska Anchorage (3-1, 6-7)

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Sat., Jan. 18, 7 p.m.

vs. Alaska Fairbanks (4-0, 11-2)

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Last Week's Results

Western Washington 83, at SPU 76

Streaks & Such

Since starting 5-1, the Falcons have lost five of their last six

Stat de jour

Seattle Pacific is 6-0 when leading at halftime and 0-6 when trailing

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Alaska Fairbanks	4	0	11	2
Humboldt State	3	0	12	0
Alaska Anchorage	3	1	6	7
Western Washington	2	1	8	4
Seattle Pacific	2	1	6	6
Seattle University	2	2	9	4
Western Oregon	1	2	9	4
Central Washington	1	3	7	6
Northwest Nazarene	0	4	1	10
Saint Martin's	0	4	0	14

NCAA West Region Poll

1. Humboldt State
2. Hawaii Pacific
3. Cal State Bakersfield
4. Cal Poly Pomona
5. Alaska Fairbanks
6. BYU Hawaii
7. Cal State San Bernardino
8. Hawaii Hilo
9. Western Washington
10. **Seattle Pacific**

Put-backs. Jesse Keely (Sr., 6-7, Fircrest, Wa./Bellarmine) continued his New Year's surge with 15 points, six rebounds and career-high five assists in a reserve role vs. Western. In his last four games, Keely has averaged 11.8 points and shot 60 percent from the floor...Also on the upswing is **Gene Woodard** (Sr., 6-4, Edmonds, Wa./O'Dea), who has 26 points and 12 rebounds in his last three outings. Since starting the season in a 2-16 shooting slump, Woodard is 12-21 this month... Struggling since the holidays is **Maurice Cato** (Sr., 6-0, Fairfield, Ca.). In his first eight games Cato scored in double figures seven times but has only 17 points (7-21 FGs) in games this month...In the six losses, SPU has made only 42 percent of its field goals and 61 percent of its free throws, compared to 49 and 75 percent for the opponents...**Jason Chivers** (So., 6-8, Palmdale, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech) remains the team leader in field-goal percentage (.521) and rebounding (6.3) despite averaging just 18.8 minutes...Back-up center **Chris Cohen** (Jr., 6-8, Saint Helens, Or.) is out another 2-4 weeks with a sprained left ankle...SPU is No. 2 in GNAC 3-point accuracy (.407), No. 4 in field goal accuracy (.475) but still No. 10 at the foul line (.635)...**Adam Harris** (Sr., 6-0, Fox Island, Wa./Gig Harbor) is No. 3 (.515) and **Jeff Knudson** (Fr., 6-7, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak) No. 4 (.514) in three-point accuracy (17-32/.531). Aziz ranks No. 8 in GNAC scoring and sixth in assists (3.6). Cato is No. 8 in steals (1.91) and Chivers is ninth in rebounding.

Opponent & series notes. Alaska Anchorage is led by forward Peter Bullock (19.6 points, 9.9 boards, 2.9 blocks) and leads the series 24-14 despite being swept by SPU last season. The Seawolves beat Montana at the Great Alaska Shootout and have won three of their last four. They are looking for their first win at Seattle Pacific since 1991, having lost by an average of 17.3 in the last eight trips...Alaska Fairbanks is the surprise team of Division II, bouncing back from a 4-23 season to beat three D-Is in November and earn a national ranking. SPU leads the series 38-8, winning four in a row and nine of the last 11. The last UAF win in the pavilion was in 1985 (15 straight losses). The Nanooks, who feature guard Brad Oleson (17.7 points, 3.8 steals), are the top defensive team in the GNAC, allowing just 65.7 points and 42 percent shooting.

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.

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.

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	UC SANTA CRUZ	W, 95-60
Jan. 4	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	L, 67-83
Jan. 11	WESTERN WASH.*	L, 76-83
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*	9:00
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	16.8
Maurice Cato	10.7
Jesse Keely	7.4
Adam Harris	7.1
Jason Chivers	7.1

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	6.3
Yusef Aziz	6.0

Assists

Yusef Aziz	3.8
Maurice Cato	2.8

Steals

Maurice Cato	1.9
Yusef Aziz	1.3

Blocked Shots

Yusef Aziz	0.73
------------	------

Field Goal Percentage

Jason Chivers	.521
Yusef Aziz	.474

Three Point Percentage

Adam Harris	(17-33) .515
Jeff Knudson	(19-37) .514

Free Throw Percentage

Yusef Aziz	(46-72) .639
------------	--------------

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	75.5	34.5	.475	.635	.407
Opp.	72.4	33.7	.461	.701	.364

Seattle Pacific University
2002-03 Men's Basketball Statistics
Record: 6-6/ 2- 1 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
1/ 3	UC Santa Cruz	W 95- 60	H Seattle, Wa.	425	6- 4	13- Gene Woodard	6- 3 Players Tied
1/ 4	Rocky Mountain	67- 83 L	H Seattle, Wa.	725	6- 5	19- Yusef Aziz	6- 2 Players Tied
1/1	* Western Washington	76- 83 L	H Seattle, wa.	1625	6- 6	16- Yusef Aziz	7- 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	12-12	74-	156	47.4	7-	20	35.0	46-	72	63.9	24	48	72	6.0	45	29	8	16	27-	1	377-	31.4	201	16.8
Yusef Aziz	12- 1	23-	53	43.4	9-	31	29.0	7-	12	58.3	5	14	19	1.6	21	16	4	10	27-	0	186-	15.5	62	5.2
Tony Binetti	8- 0	2-	7	28.6	0-	0	0.0	0-	3	0.0	6	8	14	1.8	2	6	0	2	5-	0	45-	5.6	4	0.5
Mike Bushmaker	11-11	44-	102	43.1	17-	47	36.2	13-	19	68.4	5	16	21	1.9	31	28	1	21	26-	0	274-	24.9	118	10.7
Maurice Cato	12-12	37-	71	52.1	0-	0	0.0	11-	20	55.0	29	47	76	6.3	1	12	7	9	25-	0	226-	18.8	85	7.1
Jason Chivers	10- 0	18-	32	56.2	1-	2	50.0	4-	11	36.4	10	20	30	3.0	2	9	0	2	16-	0	96-	9.6	41	4.1
Chris Cohen	12-12	26-	50	52.0	17-	33	51.5	16-	20	80.0	6	15	21	1.8	27	21	0	14	29-	1	277-	23.1	85	7.1
Adam Harris	12- 4	32-	54	59.3	4-	5	80.0	21-	28	75.0	10	27	37	3.1	17	14	5	9	32-	1	192-	16.0	89	7.4
Jesse Keely	12- 0	24-	47	51.1	19-	37	51.4	2-	3	66.7	8	14	22	1.8	13	9	1	6	19-	0	167-	13.9	69	5.8
Jeff Knudson	12- 0	19-	48	39.6	7-	22	31.8	4-	6	66.7	9	7	16	1.3	14	9	0	6	10-	0	197-	16.4	49	4.1
Jordan Lee	11- 8	28-	61	45.9	1-	3	33.3	11-	15	73.3	14	25	39	3.5	19	21	6	11	25-	1	224-	20.4	68	6.2
Daniel Sandrin	12- 0	14-	37	37.8	1-	4	25.0	6-	13	46.2	7	24	31	2.6	11	10	1	10	9-	0	139-	11.6	35	2.9
Gene Woodard	Team										10	6	16		0									0
Seattle Pacific	12-12	341-	718	47.5	83-	204	40.7	141-	222	63.5	143	271	414	34.5	203	184	33	116	250-	4			906	75.5
Opponents	12-12	314-	681	46.1	63-	173	36.4	178-	254	70.1	135	269	404	33.7	172	199	42	89	216-	5			869	72.4

— First Half — — Second Half — — Game —

All FG	173-	353	49.0%	168-	365	46.0%	341-	718	47.5%
3 Pt FG	42-	94	44.7%	41-	110	37.3%	83-	204	40.7%
FT	57-	96	59.4%	84-	126	66.7%	141-	222	63.5%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 42, Opponents 41
Opponent Team Rebounds: 19 — (Offense: 10 Defense: 9)
Technical Fouls: Seattle Pacific 0; ; Opponents 1