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Falcons Back In First But Face Tough Road

Hot Shooting Equals Wins; Keely, Cato & Aziz Heat-Up

Going south. What a difference a week makes. Not only back on track following a pair of wins, Seattle Pacific University finds itself holding a share of first place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference going into this week's southbound excursion. The Falcons (4-1, 8-6) venture to Western Oregon (2-3, 10-5) Thursday night (Jan. 23) and then visit GNAC co-leader and No. 2-ranked Humboldt State (4-1, 13-1) Saturday night (Jan. 25). Next week SPU returns to Brougham Pavilion for homecoming week and bouts with Seattle University and Northwest Nazarene.

Formula is simple. Based on a quick look at the numbers, there's a couple components which weigh heavily on whether the Falcons succeed or fail. It seems this squad rises and falls on its shooting and whether it goes in front early. Seattle Pacific is 8-0 when shooting better than 49 percent from the field and is also 8-0 when leading at halftime. In snapping out of a slump in which it lost five of six, SPU shot a season-best 60 percent against Alaska Anchorage (86-68) and then matched its highest point total in replacing Alaska Fairbanks atop the standings with a 95-71 victory to close-out a five-game home stand.

Lessons learned. Coach **Jeff Hironaka** introduced a new, more structured offensive set last week and the result was better movement off the ball, more crisp passes and greater confidence exhibited in all phases of the game. Not only was last week their best back-to-back offensive games, but the Falcons finished a plus-24 in rebounds and finally found their stroke at the foul line, sinking 34 of 41 (83 percent, compared to 64 percent previously). Hironaka, who watched his squad's halfcourt execution falter during the slump, now has SPU back in contention for a playoff berth with 13 games remaining in the regular season. The aim is to come home with at least a split on this trip although the opponents own a combined home record of 11-2 this season.

Helping hands. Demonstrating that it's not a one-man team, Seattle Pacific spread the scoring wealth last week, with nine different players scoring at least seven points in a game. Forward **Jesse Keely** (Sr., 6-7, Fircrest, Wa./Bellarmine) and point guard **Maurice Cato** (Sr., 6-0, Fairfield, Ca.) consistently connected on open shots. Cato canned 10-15 field goals, including 3-5 three-pointers. Keely, whose power surge began six games ago, came off the bench to hit 10-14 for the week, including career-highs of 16 points and six assists vs. Anchorage. He has averaged 11.8 points and shot 62 percent since Dec. 18.

Just be Yu self. For the first time in over a month, **Yusef Aziz** (Sr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster-Highline CC) appeared to be his old self against the Alaskans. No longer forcing the issue on offense, he took his opportunities and made the most of them, converting 15-26 shots from closer range than past weeks and totaling a team high of 34 points. Aziz had shot just 41 percent from the floor in his previous six outings. The team scoring leader this season (16.8) and as a junior, he is now approaching 2000 career points (including junior college), needing 171 to hit that plateau.

Every lil bit helps. It's been the case all along, that when the supporting cast comes through, the Falcons are much more formidable. In addition to Cato and Keely, **Daniel Sandrin** (Sr., 6-7, Bothell, Wa./Bothell) and **Adam Harris** (Sr., 6-0, Fox Island, Wa./Gig Harbor) caught fire last week. Sandrin posted four

2002-03 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Record—8-6 (GNAC 4-1)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka, 1st year

Coach's Career Record— 8-6

This Week

Thr., Jan. 23, 7 p.m.

at Western Oregon (2-3, 10-5)

P.E. Building, Monmouth, Or.

Sat., Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

at Humboldt State (4-1, 13-1)

East Gym, Arcata, Ca.

Last Week's Results

at SPU 86, Alaska Anchorage 68

at SPU 95, Alaska Fairbanks 71

Streaks & Such

When shooting 49 percent or better from the field, the Falcons have won 14 in a row, dating back to last season

Stat de jour

Seattle Pacific is 8-0 when leading at halftime and 0-6 when trailing

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Humboldt State	4	1	13	1
Seattle Pacific	4	1	8	6
Alaska Fairbanks	4	2	11	4
Alaska Anchorage	4	2	7	8
Seattle University	3	2	10	4
Western Washington	3	2	9	5
Central Washington	3	3	9	6
Western Oregon	2	3	10	5
Northwest Nazarene	0	5	1	11
Saint Martin's	0	6	0	16

NCAA Division II Poll

1. Tarleton State (Tx.)
2. Humboldt State
3. Massachusetts-Lowell
4. Michigan Tech

also

25. Cal Poly Pomona

career-highs during the week, scoring 16 points (5-7 FGs, 2-2 treys) vs. Fairbanks and nine rebounds, three blocks and 34 minutes (to go with 10 points and four assists) against Anchorage. Meanwhile, Harris, who had made only three three-pointers in his previous four games, swished three treys, scored 12 points and had career-bests of six assists and three steals vs. Fairbanks.

Put-backs. When shooting 49 percent or higher, the Falcons have won 14 in a row, dating back to last season...Defensively, SPU held the Alaskans to 33 and 44 percent shooting...**Gene Woodard** (Sr., 6-4, Edmonds, Wa./O'Dea) has 40 points and has shot 19-32 from the floor in five games this month...Back-up center **Chris Cohen** (Jr., 6-8, Saint Helens, Or.) made a somewhat surprising return from an ankle sprain to play in both games last week and contribute nine points in six minutes vs. Fairbanks...**Jordan Lee** (So., 6-0, University Place, Wa./Life Christian) scored nine points, his highest total since opening night, vs. Fairbanks...After hitting 11-20 outside the arc last week, SPU is No. 1 in GNAC 3-point accuracy (.420) and No. 4 in field goal accuracy (.489). It is still No. 10 at the foul line (.665)...Now with a sufficient number of attempts, Keely is No. 2 in GNAC field-goal accuracy (.618). Harris is the new leader in three-point accuracy (.541) and **Jeff Knudson** (Fr., 6-7, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak) is No. 3 (.514). Aziz ranks No. 7 in GNAC scoring (16.8) and sixth in assists (3.8). Cato is No. 3 in steals (2.00) and **Jason Chivers** (So., 6-8, Palmdale, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech), who had nine boards vs. Fairbanks, is sixth in rebounding (6.5).

Opponent & series notes. Western Oregon's Sean Kelly (24.4) and Robert Day (23.1), both 6-foot-5 juniors, represent the nation's top 1-2 scoring punch and rank 1-2 in the GNAC (Kelly is fifth nationally). The Wolves trail the series 6-3 but have won two of three in Monmouth. A year ago Day scored 26 points in a 77-74 road upset in Seattle...Humboldt State fell from the unbeaten ranks and the No. 1 spot in the rankings with an 85-69 loss at Central Washington Jan. 18. The Lumberjacks still own a 25-game home win streak going into Thursday's game with Western Washington. That skein dates back to a 77-76 loss to SPU two years ago in which Hironaka acted as coach for the final 24 minutes after Ken Bone was ejected. Austin Nichols is tied with Day for second in GNAC scoring (23.1) while Fred Hooks leads the conference in rebounding (11.8). HSU trails the series 16-3 but won two of three meetings last year, including an 89-82 win in the second round of the NCAA tourney.

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*W	86-68
Jan. 18	ALASKA FAIRBANKS*W	95-71
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	16.8
Maurice Cato	11.2
Jesse Keely	8.1
Adam Harris	7.4
Daniel Sandrin	7.2
Jason Chivers	7.1

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	6.5
Yusef Aziz	6.1

Assists

Yusef Aziz	3.8
Maurice Cato	2.8

Steals

Maurice Cato	2.0
Yusef Aziz	1.3
Adam Harris	1.3

Blocked Shots

Yusef Aziz	0.69
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Field Goal Percentage

Jesse Keely	.618
Yusef Aziz	.489

Three Point Percentage

Adam Harris	(20-37) .541
Jeff Knudson	(19-37) .514

Free Throw Percentage

Adam Harris	(24-30) .800
Daniel Sandrin	(20-25) .800

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	77.6	35.4	.489	.665	.420
Opp.	72.0	33.0	.447	.701	.339

Seattle Pacific University
2002-03 Men's Basketball Statistics
Record: 8-6/ 4- 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-Aziz/B'maker/W'dard
1/ 4	Rocky Mountain	67- 83 L	H Seattle, Wa.	725	6- 5	19- Yusef Aziz	6- Aziz/Chivers
1/1 *	Western Washington	76- 83 L	H Seattle, wa.	1625	6- 6	16- Yusef Aziz	7- Yusef Aziz
1/16 *	Alaska Anchorage	W 86- 68	H Seattle, Wa.	425	7- 6	20- Yusef Aziz	9- Sandrin/Chivers
1/18 *	Alaska Fairbanks	W 95- 71	H Seattle, Wa.	575	8- 6	16- Daniel Sandrin	9- Yusef Aziz

* - GNAC Game

— All FG — — 3 Pt FG — — FT — — Rebounds —

Seattle Pacific	GP-GS	M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	A	T	B	L	K	S	T	L	P	F	D	Min-	Avg	Pts	Avg	
Yusef Aziz	14-14	89-	182	48.9	7-	22	31.8	50-	76	65.8	26	59	85	6.1	53	36	8	18	31-	1	443-	31.6	235	16.8						
Tony Binetti	14- 1	24-	58	41.4	9-	32	28.1	7-	12	58.3	7	18	25	1.8	24	19	4	10	30-	0	208-	14.9	64	4.6						
Mike Bushmaker	9- 0	2-	7	28.6	0-	0	0.0	0-	3	0.0	7	8	15	1.7	2	6	0	2	5-	0	47-	5.2	4	0.4						
Maurice Cato	13-13	54-	117	46.2	20-	52	38.5	17-	24	70.8	7	20	27	2.1	37	34	1	26	30-	0	333-	25.6	145	11.2						
Jason Chivers	14-14	43-	83	51.8	0-	0	0.0	12-	22	54.5	34	57	91	6.5	7	14	8	9	33-	1	266-	19.0	98	7.0						
Chris Cohen	12- 0	23-	42	54.8	1-	2	50.0	7-	15	46.7	15	21	36	3.0	3	10	0	2	17-	0	112-	9.3	54	4.5						
Adam Harris	14-14	30-	57	52.6	20-	37	54.1	24-	30	80.0	6	19	25	1.8	36	24	0	18	31-	1	328-	23.4	104	7.4						
Jesse Keely	14- 4	42-	68	61.8	5-	7	71.4	24-	32	75.0	13	32	45	3.2	26	20	5	11	38-	1	229-	16.4	113	8.1						
Jeff Knudson	13- 0	24-	47	51.1	19-	37	51.4	2-	3	66.7	8	15	23	1.8	13	10	1	6	19-	0	170-	13.1	69	5.3						
Jordan Lee	14- 0	22-	54	40.7	8-	23	34.8	6-	8	75.0	10	7	17	1.2	17	10	0	6	10-	0	219-	15.6	58	4.1						
Daniel Sandrin	13- 9	35-	74	47.3	4-	7	57.1	20-	25	80.0	14	37	51	3.9	24	26	9	13	29-	1	280-	21.5	94	7.2						
Gene Woodard	14- 0	21-	48	43.8	1-	5	20.0	6-	13	46.2	8	28	36	2.6	13	13	1	11	11-	0	165-	11.8	49	3.5						
Team											11	9	20		0															
Seattle Pacific	14-14	409-	837	48.9	94-	224	42.0	175-	263	66.5	166	330	496	35.4	255	222	37	132	284-	5						1087	77.6			
Opponents	14-14	365-	816	44.7	76-	224	33.9	202-	288	70.1	163	299	462	33.0	198	230	46	108	253-	6						1008	72.0			

— First Half — — Second Half — — Game —

All FG	189-	379	49.9%	220-	458	48.0%	409-	837	48.9%
3 Pt FG	44-	97	45.4%	50-	127	39.4%	94-	224	42.0%
FT	65-	105	61.9%	110-	158	69.6%	175-	263	66.5%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 47, Opponents 48
Opponent Team Rebounds: 24 — (Offense: 15 Defense: 9)
Technical Fouls: Seattle Pacific 0; ; Opponents 2