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Will Hot Spell Follow Falcons To Alaska?

SPU's Stock Continues To Rise; Aziz Is GNAC Player of Week

Hot meets cold. Red-hot and on a roll, Seattle Pacific University leaves the lower 48 this week to road test two of the other top four teams in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. The Falcons (8-2, 12-7), winners in six of their last seven and likely to be among the top four in this week's regional rankings, face fellow postseason contender Alaska Fairbanks (8-3, 15-5) Thursday night (Feb. 13), followed by a visit to resurgent Alaska Anchorage (7-4, 10-10) Saturday night (Feb. 15). SPU returns home next week, facing No. 4-ranked Humboldt State Feb. 20.

A tough place to play. There are precious few friendly places to play on the road in the GNAC, and that goes double for Alaska. The Nanooks and Seawolves have combined to knock off four Division I teams at home this season, and Alaska Fairbanks is unbeaten (10-0) on its home court, including a victory over nationally-ranked Humboldt State Feb. 1. Seattle Pacific earned its first two-game Alaska sweep in 18 years last season but Coach **Jeff Hironaka** would probably feel fortunate to arrive home with a split. Fairbanks is on the verge of its best season since 1989 and Anchorage enters the week on a season-best three-game win streak.

Mercury rising. Forecasts call for snow showers and temperatures no higher than 22 degrees when the Falcons land in Fairbanks. But that's outside. Inside gyms throughout the GNAC, SPU is generating considerable heat. In conference play, Seattle Pacific leads its peers in virtually every statistical category, leaving little wonder as to why it enters the final four weeks of the regular season in a virtual first-place tie with Humboldt. In a turnaround which began Jan. 16 against Anchorage, they have played solid team basketball on both ends of the court. In the last seven games SPU has shot 56 percent from the floor, 75 percent at the foul line and 45 percent beyond the arc while holding opponents to 70.3 points and 43 percent shooting. Last weekend's road win (80-72) at Western Washington marked the first time the team shot below 50 percent (.488) in seven games. Seattle Pacific is 12-1 when hitting 49 percent or higher.

A look toward March. Four weeks ago, the Falcons found themselves at 6-6 and missing from the all-important NCAA Division II West Region poll. Now they are likely to break into the top four by Wednesday's new ranking. SPU was fifth behind Cal State San Bernardino, Humboldt State, BYU Hawaii and Cal Poly Pomona, and the latter lost last weekend. The top eight teams in the region will earn postseason berths. Fairbanks was sixth last week.

Man of the moment. The victory at Western Washington was vital to Seattle Pacific's postseason hopes and Hironaka's stated need to win two of three before returning home. Yet early in the second half at Bellingham the situation seemed dire as the Falcons trailed by nine. Cue **Yusef Aziz** (Sr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster). A league MVP and All-America candidate, Aziz pummeled the Vikings inside, scoring 13 of his 28 points in the final 13 minutes, including 11 during a decisive 20-6 run which put his team ahead to stay. Aziz tied a school record by hitting all 12 of his free throws, finished 8-12 from the floor and added seven rebounds and three steals to earn co-player of the week in the GNAC. In the last seven games he has averaged 20.7 points and shot 60 percent.

When games count. Aziz and several other key players have lifted the level of their game when it counts most, in conference. In GNAC games, Aziz

2002-03 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Record—12-7 (GNAC 8-2)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka, 1st year

Coach's Career Record— 12-7

This Week

Thr., Feb. 13, 9 p.m. PST

at Alaska Fairbanks (8-3, 15-5)

Patty Center, Fairbanks, Ak.

Sat., Feb. 15, 9:05 p.m. PST

at Alaska Anchorage (7-4, 10-10)

UAA Sports Center, Anchorage, Ak.

Last Week's Results

SPU 80, at Western Washington 72

Streaks & Such

The Falcons have won six of their last seven, shooting 56 percent from the field and 75 percent from the foul line during that span

Stat de jour

Jason Chivers is averaging 14.4 points, 6.6 rebounds and shooting 71 percent from the floor in five GNAC road games

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Humboldt State	9	2	18	2
Seattle Pacific	8	2	12	7
Alaska Fairbanks	8	3	15	5
Alaska Anchorage	7	4	10	10
Seattle University	6	5	13	7
Central Washington	6	5	12	8
Western Washington	5	5	11	8
Western Oregon	4	7	11	9
Northwest Nazarene	1	10	3	16
Saint Martin's	0	11	0	21

NCAA West Region Poll

1. Cal State San Bernardino
2. Humboldt State
3. BYU Hawaii
4. Cal Poly Pomona
5. Seattle Pacific
6. Alaska Fairbanks
7. Hawaii Hilo
8. Sonoma State

averages 18.7 points (compared to 18.2 overall). The secondary offensive threat, point guard **Maurice Cato** (Sr., 6-0, Fairfield, Ca.) is hitting 54 percent of his field goals compared to 42 in non-league games. And so it goes. Across the board Seattle Pacific's numbers are stronger in conference contests, from scoring (83.0) and shooting (54 percent) to defense (allowing 70.2, 43 percent shooting). The most remarkable difference is free throw accuracy; SPU is eighth at .681 for all games and leads the GNAC (.731) in conference.

A frontline force. Next season the Falcons will have a new go-to guy, and based on glimpses so far, center **Jason Chivers** (So., 6-8, Palmdale, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech) could be a candidate. Chivers, with only a year and a half of organized play behind him, has earned his keep in the starting lineup largely as a result of his rebounding. But once more last week, he proved he could contribute offensively, scoring 19 points and hitting 6-8 shots. In fact, Chivers apparently thrives on the road in the GNAC; in five road conference games he's averaging 14.4 points, 6.6 boards and shooting 71 percent from the field and 78 percent from the line.

Put-backs. The nine-point deficit at Western Washington was the largest in a Falcon win this season...SPU is 12-0 when leading or tied at halftime...Seattle Pacific is No. 1 in both GNAC 3-point (.420) and overall (.504) field goal accuracy. It moved up from 10th to eighth at the foul line (.681) by making 35 of 40 (.875) at Western...**Adam Harris** (Sr., 6-0, Fox Island, Wa./Gig Harbor) continues to lead the conference in trey accuracy (.500/26-52) while **Jeff Knudson** (Fr., 6-7, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak) is fourth (.488/21-43). Aziz ranks No. 6 in GNAC scoring (18.2) and steals (1.63), No. 8 in assists (3.6) and ninth in rebounding (6.2). Cato is No. 5 in steals (1.78). Chivers is No. 5 in shooting (.557) and No. 6 in rebounding (6.4).

Opponent & series notes. Alaska Fairbanks is the surprise team of the GNAC, bouncing back from a 4-23 season. The Nanooks had a four-game win streak snapped at Central Washington. They feature guard Brad Oleson (18.3 points, 3.3 steals) and are among the top defensive teams in the GNAC, allowing 71.1 points and 44 percent shooting. SPU leads the series 39-8, winning five in a row and 10 of the last 12. The 95-71 loss Jan. 18 equaled the largest margin in a UAF defeat this season...Alaska Anchorage is led by forward Peter Bullock (19.5 points, 10.2 boards, 2.5 steals, 2.9 blocks), who drew three early fouls in the 86-68 drubbing in Seattle Jan. 16. UAA leads the series 24-15 despite losing three in a row to SPU. The Seawolves have won three straight since an overtime home loss to Humboldt State.

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. Saturday's game will be broadcast live on the internet at goseawolves.com (see link to audio/video).

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.

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*	W, 88-77
Jan. 25	at Humboldt State*	L, 70-80
Jan. 30	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY*W	80-66
Feb. 1	N'WEST NAZARENE*W	95-58
Feb. 8	at Western Washington*	W, 80-72
Feb. 13	at Alaska Fairbanks*	9:00
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. 14-17	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	18.2
Maurice Cato	11.3
Jason Chivers	8.4
Daniel Sandrin	7.7
Jesse Keely	7.4

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	6.4
Yusef Aziz	6.2

Assists

Yusef Aziz	3.6
Maurice Cato	3.1

Steals

Maurice Cato	1.78
Yusef Aziz	1.63

Blocked Shots

Jason Chivers	0.63
Daniel Sandrin	0.61

Field Goal Percentage

Jason Chivers	.557
Yusef Aziz	.521

Three Point Percentage

Adam Harris	(26-52) .500
Jeff Knudson	(21-43) .488

Free Throw Percentage

Jesse Keely	(30-38) .789
Daniel Sandrin	(33-44) .750

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	78.9	34.6	.504	.680	.420
Opp.	71.6	32.9	.447	.681	.347

Seattle Pacific University
2002-03 Men's Basketball Statistics
Record: 12-7/ 8-2 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
1/23 *	Western Oregon	W 88- 77	A Monmouth, Or.	625	9- 6	27- Yusef Aziz	6- Yusef Aziz
1/25 *	Humboldt State	70- 80 L	A Arcata, Ca.	1468	9- 7	24- Yusef Aziz	9- Yusef Aziz
1/31 *	Seattle University	W 80- 66	H Seattle, Wa.	890	10- 7	20- Cato/Aziz	9- Jason Chivers
2/ 1*	N'west Nazarene	W 95- 58	H Seattle, Wa.	2225	11- 7	12- Aziz/Cohen	7- Jason Chivers
2/ 8*	Western Wash.	W 80- 72	A Bellingham, Wa.	2020	12- 7	28- Yusef Aziz	8- Daniel 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	19-19	134-	257	52.1	10-	33	30.3	68-	99	68.7	34	83	117	6.2	68	47	9	31	44-	1	607-	31.9	346	18.2
Yusef Aziz	19- 1	28-	66	42.4	12-	37	32.4	7-	13	53.8	7	24	31	1.6	34	19	4	13	35-	0	269-	14.2	75	3.9
Tony Binetti	11- 0	4-	10	40.0	0-	0	0.0	0-	3	0.0	8	9	17	1.5	2	7	0	2	6-	0	54-	4.9	8	0.7
Mike Bushmaker	18-18	74-	155	47.7	29-	71	40.8	27-	37	73.0	7	24	31	1.7	55	46	1	32	45-	0	473-	26.3	204	11.3
Maurice Cato	19-19	68-	122	55.7	0-	0	0.0	23-	38	60.5	45	76	121	6.4	20	18	12	12	45-	1	382-	20.1	159	8.4
Jason Chivers	17- 0	33-	63	52.4	1-	2	50.0	10-	20	50.0	20	30	50	2.9	4	17	0	4	23-	0	162-	9.5	77	4.5
Chris Cohen	19-19	37-	76	48.7	26-	52	50.0	28-	36	77.8	9	28	37	1.9	44	29	0	22	37-	1	446-	23.5	128	6.7
Adam Harris	19- 4	52-	86	60.5	6-	9	66.7	30-	38	78.9	17	38	55	2.9	31	28	6	14	53-	1	298-	15.7	140	7.4
Jesse Keely	17- 0	26-	53	49.1	21-	43	48.8	2-	3	66.7	10	20	30	1.8	14	10	1	7	20-	0	196-	11.5	75	4.4
Jeff Knudson	19- 0	29-	67	43.3	11-	27	40.7	8-	10	80.0	11	8	19	1.0	21	10	0	8	14-	0	280-	14.7	77	4.1
Jordan Lee	18-14	50-	104	48.1	6-	15	40.0	33-	44	75.0	17	54	71	3.9	36	36	11	15	40-	1	393-	21.8	139	7.7
Daniel Sandrin	19- 0	29-	60	48.3	2-	6	33.3	12-	23	52.2	15	32	47	2.5	21	20	3	16	18-	0	240-	12.6	72	3.8
Gene Woodard	Team										16	16	32		0									0
Seattle Pacific	19-19	564-	1119	50.4	124-	295	42.0	248-	364	68.1	216	442	658	34.6	350	287	47	176	380-	5			1500	78.9
Opponents	19-19	490-	1095	44.7	109-	314	34.7	272-	400	68.0	230	396	626	32.9	268	303	59	140	346-	6			1361	71.6

— First Half — — Second Half — — Game —

All FG	288-	553	52.1%	276-	566	48.8%	564-	1119	50.4%
3 Pt FG	64-	141	45.4%	60-	154	39.0%	124-	295	42.0%
FT	97-	151	64.2%	151-	213	70.9%	248-	364	68.1%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 57, Opponents 63
Opponent Team Rebounds: 40 — (Offense: 21 Defense: 19)
Technical Fouls: Seattle Pacific 0; ; Opponents 2