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SPU Poised For Nation's No. 1 Ranking This Week 3-Game Stand Begins With Central Testing 28-Game Streak

Perfectly poised. Perfect record still intact, Seattle Pacific University is poised to become the No. 1 women's basketball team in the nation this week, yet it will have precious little time to savor the moment before making preparations to defend that distinction. The new NCAA Division II coaches poll will be announced Wednesday and the Falcons (11-0, 20-0) will swing back into action Saturday night (Feb. 15) when they host Central Washington (6-5, 11-7) in a critical Great Northwest Athletic Conference contest. It's the first date of a three-game home stand, which continues next week with bouts versus rivals Seattle University and Western Washington.

Streaks alive. Not only is Seattle Pacific the last remaining unbeaten team in the nation, but it also owns the fourth-longest home winning streak. Going into Saturday's game, the Falcons have won 28 straight at Brougham Pavilion, dating back a Jan. 18, 2001, loss to Central. Following road wins over Saint Martin's (73-62) and Northwest Nazarene (81-74), SPU has now been victorious in 26 straight regular season games.

A view from the top. While the Falcons were doing their part, North Dakota opened the door to the nation's top spot by blasting No. 1-ranked and previously undefeated South Dakota State 86-62 Feb. 8. The Jackrabbits, who rebounded by beating North Dakota State 77-47, had been the top-rated team since Dec. 18, when the Falcons rose to No. 2. Prior to this season, the highest national ranking was No. 6. The last SPU team to receive a midseason No. 1 ranking was men's soccer in 1994.

Enjoy, then get to work. With a ranking comes added recognition, adulation, celebration and—most of all—pressure. Coach **Gordy Presnell** will no doubt congratulate his players and fellow coaches. Yet he will also remind them that the grand prize is to be No. 1 at the end of the season, and that's still six weeks away. In the meantime, there is a GNAC title and regional top seed to be determined, and the Falcons hold the slimmest of leads in both areas. Western Washington enters the week trailing by one game in the conference and the No. 2 team in the West Region, Cal State Bakersfield, has won 15 in a row. What's more, Central Washington believes it can win Saturday, based on the narrow 63-60 outcome in Ellensburg Jan. 18, and because the 'Cats were the last visitor to escape with a victory in the pavilion.

Formula for success. While Presnell certainly has a couple candidates for GNAC player of the year, the stats alone don't begin to tell the story. Night in, night out, the coach gets solid leadership and contributions from his three senior starters: center **Kelley Berglund** (Sr., 6-3, Port Angeles, Wa./Washington State), point guard **Kerie Hughes** (Sr., 5-6, Mount Vernon, Wa./Mount Vernon) and wing **Stephanie Urrutia** (Sr., 5-9, Sunnyside, Wa./Sunnyside). Berglund attracts the most defensive attention, and still leads the team in scoring (13.1) and rebounding (8.4). She has six double-doubles this season. The visibly intense Hughes has come on strong since Christmas, reaching double figures in scoring eight straight games, including a season-high 23 points at Northwest Nazarene. She came within one free-throw of equaling the program's single game record of 14 and also had six assists. Urrutia is the No. 2 scorer (12.8) behind Berglund, and perhaps the team's best pure scorer. She recently surpassed 1000 career points and is 56 away from breaking into the school's top 10 leaders.

2002-03 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Record—20-0 (GNAC 11-0)

Coach—Gordy Presnell, 16th year

Coach's Career & SPU Record— 327-122

This Week

Sat., Feb. 15, 7 p.m.

vs. Central Washington (6-5, 11-7)

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Last Week's Results

SPU 73, at Saint Martin's 62

SPU 81, at Northwest Nazarene 74

Streaks & Such

SPU has won 28 straight home games, dating back to a Jan. 18, 2001 loss to Central Washington

Stat de jour

Kerie Hughes has reached double-figures in scoring in eight straight games and 10 of the last 11 dating back to Dec. 27

NCAA Div. II Rankings (Feb. 5)

1. South Dakota State
2. Seattle Pacific
3. Bentley (Ma.)
4. California (Pa.)
5. North Dakota State
6. Cal State Bakersfield

also

21. Western Washington

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Seattle Pacific	11	0	20	0
Western Washington	9	1	16	3
Northwest Nazarene	6	5	12	7
Central Washington	6	5	11	7
Saint Martin's	6	5	10	10
Western Oregon	5	6	10	10
Alaska Anchorage	3	7	8	10
Humboldt State	3	8	8	12
Alaska Fairbanks	2	7	7	11
Seattle University	2	9	7	12

NCAA West Region Poll (Feb. 5)

1. Seattle Pacific
2. Cal State Bakesfield
3. Western Washington
4. Montana State Billings
5. Northwest Nazarene
6. Central Washington

The not-so-good news. The season has not been total joyride, however. Presnell has not had his full squad together for a single game due to injuries. It's possible that forward **Kristin Poe** (Jr., 5-8, Enumclaw, Wa.), a starter in the first six games, will return this weekend. Poe tore the MCL in her left knee in mid-December, but is expected to participate in full practice this week. **Trisha Hermanson** (So., 5-6, Buckley, Wa./White River), the top guard off the bench, is also questionable this week. Hermanson injured her knee late in the Saint Martin's contest after scoring a career-high 19 points, and she did not play at NNU. The silver lining to the injury woes is that Presnell has been able to give more playing time to emerging talents such as **Michelle Beaumont** (So., 5-11, Bellingham, Wa./Sehome), **Carli Smith** (Fr., 5-11, Spokane, Wa./Valley Christian) and **Mandy Wood** (Fr., 5-6, Port Angeles, Wa.). Beaumont set a GNAC record with 35 points earlier this season and both she and Wood are among the top three-point shooters in the conference. Smith is a candidate for freshman of the year, having come off the bench for five double-doubles since Jan. 9, including 12 points and 10 boards at Saint Martin's.

Put-backs. The Falcons lead the GNAC in eight categories, including scoring (83.2), scoring defense (60.8), scoring margin (+22.4), free-throw percentage (.760), rebounding (+8.3), steals (13.6) and three-point accuracy (.392)...Nationally, SPU is No. 5 in scoring offense and three-point accuracy, 11th in field-goal percentage and 12th in free throw accuracy...Individually, **Valerie Gustafson** (Jr., 6-0, Olympia, Wa./Black Hills) is first in field-goal percentage (.586). Wood is first (.543) and Beaumont third (.462) in three-point percentage. Hughes is second in assists (5.47), eighth in three-point (.421) and free-throw accuracy (.790). Smith is third in free-throw percentage (.846), and fifth in rebounding (7.7) and field-goal accuracy (.556). **Brittney Kroon** (Fr., 6-4, Wasilla, Ak./Wasilla) is third in blocks (1.05). Berglund is fourth in rebounding (8.4), sixth in field-goal shooting (.547) and sixth in blocked shots (0.85). Urrutia is seventh in assists (3.75) and sixth in free-throw percentage (.800)...The only other SPU team to win 20 consecutive contests was women's volleyball in 2000.

Opponent & series notes. The Falcons are 14-9 versus Central Washington under Presnell but overall the Wildcats lead the series 27-23. SPU has won eight of the last nine meetings at the pavilion. Central actually owns a better record on the road (7-2) than at home (2-3) but lost to Saint Martin's 70-56 after winning three in a row. Three players average in double figures, led by forward Alayna Vincent at 12.9.

Tickets, please. General admission for all SPU home games are \$5 with students, youth and senior citizens \$3 with proper identification. Reserved tickets for doubleheaders are priced at \$7 and \$6. Teams or groups can qualify for discount rates 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 Women's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Yr	Exp	Hometown (High School/Last Coll.)
4	Carli Smith	F	5-11	Fr	HS	Spokane, Wa. (Valley Christian)
11	Trisha Hermanson	G	5-6	So	1V	Buckley, Wa. (White River)
12	Mandy Wood	G	5-6	Fr	HS	Port Angeles, Wa. (Port Angeles)
20	Kerie Hughes	G	5-6	Sr	3V	Mount Vernon, Wa. (Mt. Vernon)
21	Autumn Garis	G	5-8	Fr	HS	Redmond, Wa. (Redmond)
22	Demecia Casimir	G	5-7	Fr	HS	Spokane, Wa. (Northwest Christian)
23	Michelle Beaumont	G	5-11	So	1V	Bellingham, Wa. (Sehome)
24	Stephanie Urrutia	G	5-9	Sr	3V	Sunnyside, Wa. (Sunnyside)
30	Stacie Lukkes	C	6-0	Sr	3V	Kent, Wa. (Kentwood)
31	Kristin Poe	F	5-8	Jr	2V	Enumclaw, Wa. (Enumclaw)
32	Kelley Berglund	C	6-3	Sr	1V	Port Angeles, Wa. (Pt. Angeles/WSU)
33	Brittney Kroon	C	6-4	Fr	HS	Wasilla, Ak. (Wasilla)
42	Valerie Gustafson	F-C	6-0	Jr	2V	Olympia, Wa. (Black Hills)

Head Coach: Gordy Presnell

Assistant Coaches: Lindsey Dion, Jamie Craighead

2002-03 Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 22-23	at Goodrich Classic (Bellingham, Wa.)	
Nov. 22	SPU v North Dakota State	W, 70-67
Nov. 23	SPU v Colorado Christian	W, 93-44
Nov. 27	at Northwest College	W, 110-50
Nov. 29	WESTMONT	W, 95-56
Nov. 30	PACIFIC LUTHERAN	W, 73-55
Dec. 5	at Humboldt State*	W, 98-76
Dec. 7	at Western Oregon*	W, 62-48
Dec. 20	at Lewis-Clark State	W, 81-64
Dec. 27-28	CCAA/GNAC Challenge (Bellingham)	
Dec. 27	Cal Poly Pomona	W, 87-73
Dec. 28	Cal State L.A.	W, 84-52
Jan. 4	LEWIS-CLARK STATE	W, 83-58
Jan. 9	NW NAZARENE*	W, 95-75
Jan. 11	SAINT MARTIN'S*	W, 90-49
Jan. 18	at Central Washington*	W, 63-60
Jan. 23	at Western Washington*	W, 78-62
Jan. 25	at Seattle University*	W, 78-62
Jan. 30	ALASKA ANCHORAGE*W	90-57
Feb. 1	ALASKA FAIRBANKS* W	80-72
Feb. 6	at Saint Martin's*	W, 73-62
Feb. 8	at Northwest Nazarene*	W, 81-74
Feb. 15	CENTRAL WASHINGTON*	7:00
Feb. 20	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY*	5:30
Feb. 22	WESTERN WASHINGTON*	5:00
Feb. 27	at Alaska Anchorage*	8:05
Mar. 1	at Alaska Fairbanks*	4:00
Mar. 6	WESTERN OREGON*	5:30
Mar. 8	HUMBOLDT STATE*	5:00
Mar. 15-18	NCAA West Regional	
Mar. 28-31	NCAA Elite Eight	

*Great Northwest Athletic Conference games
All times are Pacific

2002-03 Statistical Leaders

Scoring

Kelley Berglund	13.1
Stephanie Urrutia	12.8
Kerie Hughes	11.5
Valerie Gustafson	9.6

Rebounds

Kelley Berglund	8.4
Carli Smith	7.7
Valerie Gustafson	5.1

Assists

Kerie Hughes	5.2
Stephanie Urrutia	3.8
Michelle Beaumont	2.5

Shooting Percentage

Valerie Gustafson	.586
Carli Smith	.556

Three-Point Percentage

Mandy Wood	(25-46) .543
Michelle Beaumont	(24-52) .462

Free-Throw Percentage

Carli Smith	.846
Michelle Beaumont	.829

Steals

Valerie Gustafson	1.90
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Blocks

Brittney Kroon	1.1
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Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	83.2	43.0	.472	.760	.392
Opp.	60.8	34.8	.354	.674	.305

Seattle Pacific University
2002-03 Women's Basketball Statistics
Record: 20- 0/ 11- 0 GNAC

Date	Opponent	Score	Site	Attend	Rec.	Leading Scorer	Leading Rebounder
11/22	North Dakota St.	W 70- 67	N Bellingham, Wa.	125	1- 0	24- Kelley Berglund	13- Kelley Berglund
11/23	Colorado Christian	W 93- 44	N Bellingham, Wa.	105	2- 0	16- Mandy Wood	8- Kelley Berglund
11/27	Northwest College	W 110- 50	A Kirkland, Wa.	123	3- 0	17- Stephanie Urrutia	8- Brittney Kroon
11/29	Westmont College	W 95- 56	H Seattle, Wa.	450	4- 0	17- Stephanie Urrutia	9- Kristin Poe
11/30	Pacific Lutheran	W 73- 55	H Seattle, Wa.	200	5- 0	23- Kelley Berglund	12- Kelley Berglund
12/ 5 *	Humboldt State	W 98- 76	A Arcata, Calif.	332	6- 0	19- Kerie Hughes	8- Carli Smith
12/ 7 *	Western Oregon	W 62- 48	A Monmouth, Ore.	200	7- 0	13- Kelley Berglund	11- Kelley Berglund
12/20	Lewis-Clark St.	W 81- 64	A Lewiston, Id.	800	8- 0	21- Michelle Beaumont	12- Carli Smith
12/27	Cal Poly Pomona	W 87- 73	N Bellingham, Wa.	192	9- 0	19- Stephanie Urrutia	6- 3 Players Tied
12/28	Cal State L.A.	W 84- 52	N Bellingham, Wa.	253	10- 0	35- Michelle Beaumont	11- Kelley Berglund
1/ 4	Lewis-Clark State	W 83- 58	H Seattle, Wa.	325	11- 0	15- Stephanie Urrutia	10- Valerie Gustafson
1/ 9 *	N'west Nazarene	W 95- 75	H Seattle, Wa.	350	12- 0	17- Carli Smith	19- Carli Smith
1/1 *	St. Martin's	W 90- 49	H Seattle, Wa.	575	13- 0	15- Kelley Berglund	11- Kelley Berglund
1/18 *	Central Washington	W 63- 60	A Ellensburg, Wa.	951	14- 0	14- Carli Smith	7- Carli Smith
1/23 *	Western Wash.	W 78- 62	A Bellingham, Wa.	1606	15- 0	18- Kerie Hughes	12- Carli Smith
1/25 *	Seattle U.	W 78- 62	A Seattle, Wa	589	16- 0	19- Valerie Gustafson	8- Kelley Berglund
1/30 *	Alaska-Anchorage	W 90- 57	H Seattle, Wa	311	17- 0	15- Kerie Hughes	12- Kelley Berglund
2/ 1 *	Alaska-Fairbanks	W 80- 72	H Seattle, Wa.	1252	18- 0	18- Kerie Hughes	11- Carli Smith
2/ 6 *	Saint Martin's	W 73- 62	A Lacey, Wa.	125	19- 0	19- Trisha Hermanson	10- Carli Smith
2/ 8 *	N'west Nazarene	W 81- 74	A Nampa, Id.	1242	20- 0	23- Kerie Hughes	10- Carli Smith

* - GNAC Game

	GP-GS	— All FG —			— 3 Pt FG —			— FT —			— Rebounds —								Min-	Avg	Pts	Avg		
		M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	A	TOBLK	STL	PF-D						
Seattle Pacific	20-12	58-	138	42.0	24-	52	46.2	34-	41	82.9	11	33	44	2.2	26	49	7	12	35-	0	434-	21.7	174	8.7
Michelle Beaumont	20-20	93-	170	54.7	0-	2	0.0	77-	104	74.0	54	114	168	8.4	16	55	17	34	60-	0	420-	21.0	263	13.1
Kelley Berglund	14- 0	3-	6	50.0	0-	2	0.0	0-	0	0.0	2	6	8	0.6	2	3	0	2	1-	0	45-	3.2	6	0.4
Demecia Casimir	11- 0	2-	14	14.3	0-	1	0.0	6-	10	60.0	3	6	9	0.8	4	2	0	1	2-	0	75-	6.8	10	0.9
Autumn Garis	20-20	82-	140	58.6	0-	1	0.0	29-	42	69.0	31	70	101	5.1	33	31	11	38	56-	0	437-	21.9	193	9.6
Valerie Gustafson	12- 1	23-	71	32.4	9-	37	24.3	13-	15	86.7	6	21	27	2.2	29	27	4	15	16-	1	233-	19.4	68	5.7
Trisha Hermanson	19-19	65-	155	41.9	24-	57	42.1	64-	81	79.0	6	35	41	2.2	104	56	3	36	21-	0	537-	28.3	218	11.5
Kerie Hughes	20- 0	25-	51	49.0	0-	0	0.0	7-	14	50.0	17	29	46	2.3	5	10	21	6	14-	0	147-	7.3	57	2.8
Brittney Kroon	20- 0	20-	50	40.0	0-	1	0.0	15-	23	65.2	33	29	62	3.1	12	24	6	11	36-	1	254-	12.7	55	2.8
Stacie Lukkes	7- 6	18-	56	32.1	5-	16	31.2	8-	13	61.5	13	28	41	5.9	23	20	0	20	11-	0	164-	23.4	49	7.0
Kristin Poe	20- 1	70-	126	55.6	0-	0	0.0	44-	52	84.6	62	92	154	7.7	15	31	4	34	27-	0	354-	17.7	184	9.2
Carli Smith	20-20	91-	191	47.6	18-	53	34.0	56-	70	80.0	19	57	76	3.8	75	59	11	34	39-	0	545-	27.2	256	12.8
Stephanie Urrutia	20- 1	44-	91	48.4	25-	46	54.3	18-	23	78.3	5	20	25	1.2	42	43	2	29	21-	0	355-	17.8	131	6.6
Mandy Wood	Team										33	25	58			3								0
Seattle Pacific	20-20	594-	1259	47.2	105-	268	39.2	371-	488	76.0	295	565	860	43.0	386	413	86	272	339-	2			1664	83.2
Opponents	20-20	426-	1204	35.4	106-	347	30.5	258-	383	67.4	422	696	34.8	280	499	47	202	383-	135				1216	60.8

	— First Half —			— Second Half —			— Game —		
All FG	538-	1156	46.5%	56-	103	54.4%	594-	1259	47.2%
3 Pt FG	98-	254	38.6%	7-	14	50.0%	105-	268	39.2%
FT	308-	410	75.1%	63-	78	80.8%	371-	488	76.0%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 62, Opponents 57
Opponent Team Rebounds: 59 — (Offense: 38 Defense: 21)