

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

Crunch Time: SPU Back In Must-Win Mode

Falcons Home For 4 Of 6; Host No. 3 Humboldt Thursday

Seeking the high life. Brought down to earth during a trip to Alaska, Seattle Pacific University seeks to resume the high life when the men's basketball team returns home for a pair of Great Northwest Athletic Conference games this week. The Falcons (8-4, 12-9), who sank from second to fourth in the standings and facing a similar drop in the regional poll, host No. 3-ranked Humboldt State (11-2, 20-2) Thursday night (Feb. 20) and Western Oregon (5-8, 12-10) Saturday night (Feb. 22). Four of the final six regular season games are at Brougham Pavilion and five, counting a trip to Seattle U., are within the city limits. Next week begins with a flight to Idaho and Northwest Nazarene.

No margin for error. It's been an up-and-down year for the Falcons but they have managed to bounce back twice already. And they will need to do it again to secure an NCAA Division II tournament bid for the sixth year in a row. SPU will likely be no higher than No. 6 in the next West Region ranking due to losses at Alaska Fairbanks (86-78) and Alaska Anchorage (90-84 in overtime). In early December, following a rare home loss, it went on the road to win its first two GNAC games. Then in mid-January, after losing five of six, Seattle Pacific reeled off six victories in seven games. The top eight teams in the region will earn playoff berths and Coach **Jeff Hironaka** knows his team needs to win at least five more to make the postseason.

Home cookin'. Brougham Pavilion has long proven a safe haven and although they've been beaten at home three times, the Falcons have won four in a row there by an average margin of 23.2 points. Perhaps the most memorable pavilion victory of past 25 years was provided by Humboldt's last visit, near the end of last season. The Lumberjacks were fifth-ranked and led for the final six minutes until **Maurice Cato** (Sr., 6-0, Fairfield, Ca.) connected on a buzzer-beating three-pointer for an 81-78 win, thereby giving Seattle Pacific a share of the GNAC championship. SPU is 46-4 in conference home games the past three-plus seasons and has not lost back-to-back league home games since 1988.

Playoff picture. Humboldt State leads the GNAC by two games and is also chasing Cal State San Bernardino for the top seed and home-court advantage in the playoffs. Each won twice last week. BYU Hawaii (idle) was No. 3 last week, followed by SPU, Cal Poly Pomona (split), Hawaii Hilo (split), Sonoma State (split), Alaska Fairbanks (split) and Cal State Bakersfield (two wins). The NCAA expands the bracket by two teams per region in 2003, but only one previous SPU team (1998) with 10 losses has qualified.

Chivers send shivers. While star forward **Yusef Aziz** (Sr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster) is the center of opponents' attention, another center is developing into a force in his own right. **Jason Chivers** (So., 6-8, Palmdale, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech) has improved with each passing week and, given that this is only his third year of organized basketball, his future looks extremely bright. Chivers sent shivers through Alaska last week, totaling 30 points (11-15 FGs), 14 rebounds and six blocked shots. He has now scored in double figures six straight games (after only three times in the first 15), leads the team in field-goal accuracy (.577), blocks (0.86) and is the co-leader in rebounding (6.4).

It's all about shooting. When the offense is clicking, shots are falling and the Falcons are tough to beat. They are the top shooting team in the conference (50 percent overall, 41 percent outside the arc) and 12-2 when hitting at least 49 percent from the field. Humboldt, meanwhile, is the GNAC's top

2002-03 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Record—12-9 (GNAC 8-4)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka, 1st year

Coach's Career Record— 12-9

This Week

Thr., Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.

vs. Humboldt State (11-2, 20-2)

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Sat., Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

vs. Western Oregon (5-8, 12-10)

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Last Week's Results

at Alaska Fairbanks 86, SPU 78

at Alaska Anchorage 90, SPU 84 (OT)

Streaks & Such

The Falcons have won their last four home games by an average margin of 23.2 points

Stat de jour

Center Jason Chivers is averaging 14.3 points, 6.5 rebounds and shooting 68 percent from the floor in his last six games

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Humboldt State	11	2	20	2
Alaska Fairbanks	9	4	16	6
Alaska Anchorage	9	4	12	10
Seattle Pacific	8	4	12	9
Seattle University	7	5	14	7
Central Washington	7	6	13	9
Western Washington	6	6	12	9
Western Oregon	5	8	12	10
Northwest Nazarene	1	11	3	17
Saint Martin's	0	13	0	23

NCAA West Region Poll

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

defensive unit, allowing just 68.7 points per game. Traditionally stingy SPU has done well (11-3) this season when holding foes under 80 points.

Put-backs. Adam Harris (Sr., 6-0, Fox Island, Wa./Gig Harbor) is coming off a career-high 16 points (4-6 treys) at Anchorage...Aziz (22 points, 10 boards) and Chivers (15 and 10) each posted double-doubles in the first overtime game of the year at UAA. Chivers also had a career-high five blocks...Gene Woodard (Sr., 6-4, Edmonds, Wa./O'Dea) came off the bench for back-to-back 12-point outings in Alaska, hitting 9-12 shots...Tony Binetti (Fr., 6-1, Enumclaw, Wa.) matched his season-high with 12 points at Fairbanks and played 41 minutes on the trip...SPU is now 12-1 when leading or tied at halftime. Anchorage became the first team to rally from a deficit at intermission...Fairbanks became just the fourth opponent to shoot above 50 percent...Seattle Pacific is No. 1 in both GNAC 3-point (.413) and overall (.500) field goal accuracy. Those figures rank fifth and sixth, respectively, in the NCAA. Individually, Harris continues to lead the conference in trey accuracy (.525/32-61) while Jeff Knudson (Fr., 6-7, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak) is fourth (.468/22-47). Chivers is No. 3 in shooting (.577), No. 6 in rebounding (6.4) and No. 10 in blocks (0.86). Aziz ranks No. 6 in GNAC scoring (17.9) and rebounding (6.4), and No. 7 in assists (3.6). Cato is No. 7 in steals (1.65).

Opponent & series notes. Paced by All-America candidates Austin Nichols (21.8 points) and Fred Hooks (16.8, 12.1 rebounds), Humboldt State has lived up to its preseason billing as the GNAC favorite. The 'Jacks have won four in a row and defeated SPU 80-70 in Arcata, Ca., Jan. 25 behind the 20 second-half points of Nichols. HSU trails the series 16-4 and is 0-11 in Seattle but has won three of the last four meetings, including an 89-82 win in the second round of the NCAA tourney. ...Western Oregon's Sean Kelly (23.5) and Robert Day (21.6), both 6-foot-5 juniors, represent the nation's top 1-2 scoring punch and rank Nos. 1 and 3 in the GNAC (Kelly is fifth nationally). The Wolves trail the series 7-3 but upset SPU at home 77-74 a year ago behind Day's 26 points. In the first meeting this season, Aziz popped for 27 points and the Falcons shot 61 percent from the field in an 88-77 verdict.

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. Thursday's game will be broadcast live on the internet at hsujacks.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*	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*	L, 78-86
Feb. 15	at Alaska Anchorage*W	84-90
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	17.9				
Maurice Cato	10.7				
Jason Chivers	9.0				
Daniel Sandrin	7.6				
Adam Harris	7.4				
Rebounds					
Jason Chivers	6.4				
Yusef Aziz	6.4				
Assists					
Yusef Aziz	3.6				
Maurice Cato	3.1				
Steals					
Maurice Cato	1.65				
Yusef Aziz	1.57				
Blocked Shots					
Jason Chivers	0.86				
Field Goal Percentage					
Jason Chivers	.577				
Yusef Aziz	.505				
Three Point Percentage					
Adam Harris	(32-61) .525				
Jeff Knudson	(22-47) .468				
Free Throw Percentage					
Adam Harris	(33-42) .786				
Jesse Keely	(33-44) .750				
Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	79.1	34.6	.500	.686	.413
Opp.	73.2	33.0	.455	.677	.359

Seattle Pacific University
2002-03 Men's Basketball Statistics
Record: 12-9/ 8-4 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
2/13 *	Alaska Fairbanks	78- 86 L	A Fairbanks, Ak.	1093	12- 8	15- Jason Chivers	7- Yusef Aziz
2/15 *	Alaska Anchorage	84- 90 L OT	A Anchorage, Ak.	1150	12- 9	22- Yusef Aziz	10- Chivers/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	P	F	D	Min-	Avg	Pts	Avg	
Yusef Aziz	21-21	145-	287	50.5	10-	38	26.3	76-	111	68.5	37	97	134	6.4	75	54	10	33	52-	1	680-	32.4	376	17.9					
Tony Binetti	21- 1	34-	78	43.6	14-	42	33.3	9-	16	56.2	7	24	31	1.5	37	22	4	15	44-	1	310-	14.8	91	4.3					
Mike Bushmaker	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					
Maurice Cato	20-20	77-	167	46.1	31-	80	38.8	29-	40	72.5	7	26	33	1.6	55	52	2	33	53-	1	518-	25.9	214	10.7					
Jason Chivers	21-21	79-	137	57.7	0-	0	0.0	31-	47	66.0	50	85	135	6.4	22	20	18	12	52-	1	439-	20.9	189	9.0					
Chris Cohen	19- 0	35-	66	53.0	1-	2	50.0	11-	22	50.0	21	34	55	2.9	4	18	0	5	27-	0	178-	9.4	82	4.3					
Adam Harris	21-21	45-	89	50.6	32-	61	52.5	33-	42	78.6	10	31	41	2.0	49	30	0	23	47-	3	503-	24.0	155	7.4					
Jesse Keely	21- 4	53-	95	55.8	6-	10	60.0	33-	44	75.0	20	41	61	2.9	35	31	6	14	55-	1	323-	15.4	145	6.9					
Jeff Knudson	19- 0	27-	57	47.4	22-	47	46.8	2-	3	66.7	10	21	31	1.6	14	10	1	7	21-	0	199-	10.5	78	4.1					
Jordan Lee	21- 0	29-	69	42.0	11-	27	40.7	8-	10	80.0	12	9	21	1.0	22	10	0	8	15-	0	306-	14.6	77	3.7					
Daniel Sandrin	20-16	54-	112	48.2	7-	16	43.8	36-	50	72.0	22	57	79	4.0	40	41	12	16	44-	1	435-	21.8	151	7.6					
Gene Woodard	21- 0	38-	72	52.8	2-	6	33.3	18-	29	62.1	17	34	51	2.4	25	23	3	20	20-	0	280-	13.3	96	4.6					
Team											21	17	38		0														
Seattle Pacific	21-21	620-	1239	50.0	136-	329	41.3	286-	417	68.6	242	485	727	34.6	380	318	56	188	436-	9					1662	79.1			
Opponents	21-21	548-	1205	45.5	124-	345	35.9	17-	468	67.7	251	441	692	33.0	299	330	67	154	389-	8					1537	73.2			

— First Half — — Second Half — — Game —

All FG	316-	604	52.3%	304-	635	47.9%	620-	1239	50.0%
3 Pt FG	70-	150	46.7%	66-	179	36.9%	136-	329	41.3%
FT	115-	172	66.9%	171-	245	69.8%	286-	417	68.6%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 66, Opponents 73
Opponent Team Rebounds: 46 — (Offense: 24 Defense: 22)
Technical Fouls: Seattle Pacific 0; ; Opponents 2