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Two For The Road: Men Aim To Stay In Hunt With 4 To Go, SPU Still Alive; Keely Leads Depth Charge

Long & short of it. It's the end of the road. Or is it? Still alive in the postseason hunt thanks to a couple favorable, close encounters at home, Seattle Pacific University makes its final two road stops this week. The Falcons (10-4, 14-9), tied for second place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, fly to Idaho and visit Northwest Nazarene (1-13, 3-19) Thursday night (Feb. 27) before making the short drive across town to Seattle University (8-6, 15-8) Saturday night (Mar. 1). The final two regular season games are at home against Saint Martin's and Central Washington next week.

All eyes on March. These may be the final road games of the regular season, but SPU still harbors hopes of making another trip in mid-March, to the NCAA West Regional. Following a long drop from No. 4 to No. 11 in last week's Division II regional rankings, Seattle Pacific should be back in the mix after edging nationally-ranked Humboldt State (113-108) and Western Oregon (86-84) while watching five of the West's top 10 lose at least once. The region's top eight teams earn playoff berths. First-year Coach **Jeff Hironaka** has his team in a position to share the GNAC title, trailing Humboldt by one game with four to play. The Falcons have gone to the NCAA tournament five straight seasons and eight of the last nine.

Depth charge. There's certainly no quit in this club, with the dramatic, four-overtime victory over Humboldt serving as Exhibit A. Seattle Pacific trailed by 10 in the second half of regulation and by seven in the third overtime, yet proved relentless in mounting rallies, thanks in large part to its depth. The reserves accounted for 49 points against the Lumberjacks and 39 versus Western Oregon, and the key contributor in both must-win efforts was forward **Jesse Keely** (Sr., 6-7, Fircrest, Wa./Bellarmine). It was Keely whose offensive rebounding kept the Falcons close to the 'Jacks in the first half. He then came off the bench and scored seven of his career-high 22 points in the third and fourth overtime periods and also totaled 11 rebounds and four steals. With the team obviously fatigued two nights later, Keely again paced the team with 16 points-10 coming in second half-vs. the Wolves. Two-game totals of 38 points (12-21 FGs, 14-15 FTs) and 18 rebounds earned him co-player of the week in the GNAC.

Fans dig the long ball. Also receiving consideration for honors was long-distance shooter **Jeff Knudson** (Fr., 6-7, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak). After an extended dry spell, Knudson reemerged to help save the season by pumping in season-high 16 points vs. Western Oregon after scoring 13 against Humboldt. Knudson's high-arching three-pointers accounted for 21 of his 29 points as he hit 7-11 outside the arc. **Gene Woodard** (Sr., 6-4, Edmonds, Wa./O'Dea) also played huge vs. Humboldt. His 11-point, six-rebound effort came in a career-high 38 minutes and it was his third straight game in double figures.

Something to talk about. SPU certainly gave its faithful fans something to talk about last week. The student section spilled onto the court when, at long last, the final buzzer sounded against Humboldt. At four overtimes, it was the longest game in 29 years and matched the second-longest ever (there was a five-OT game in 1954). The contest featured **Maurice Cato** (Sr., 6-0, Fairfield, Ca.) tying a school mark with 14 assists. Keely tied a SPU standard by hitting all 10 of his free throws vs. WOU. The Lumberjacks' Austin Nichols set an opponent record with 46 points.

2002-03 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Record-14-9 (GNAC 10-4)

Coach-Jeff Hironaka, 1st year

Coach's Career Record- 14-9

This Week

Thr., Feb. 27, 6 p.m. PST

at Northwest Nazarene (1-13, 3-19)

Montgomery Fieldhouse, Nampa, Id.

Sat., Mar. 1, 7 p.m.

at Seattle University (8-6, 15-8)

Connolly Center, Seattle, Wa.

Last Week's Results

at SPU 113, Humboldt State 108 (4 OT)

at SPU 86, Western Oregon 84

Streaks & Such

The Falcons have clinched their 15th consecutive winning season

Stat de jour

SPU is 14-2 when shooting at least 49 percent from the field and 13-1 when tied or leading at halftime

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Humboldt State	12	3	21	3
Alaska Fairbanks	10	4	17	6
Seattle Pacific	10	4	14	9
Alaska Anchorage	9	5	12	11
Central Washington	9	6	15	9
Seattle University	8	6	15	8
Western Washington	7	7	13	10
Western Oregon	5	10	12	12
Northwest Nazarene	1	13	3	19
Saint Martin's	1	14	1	24

NCAA West Region Poll (Feb. 19)

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

On the frontline. Overshadowed by the resolve of the reserves was the starting frontline effort vs. Humboldt State. All-America candidate **Yusef Aziz** (Sr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster) and center **Jason Chivers** (So., 6-8, Palmdale, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech) combined for 38 points and 16 boards before fouling out. But the exit of Aziz afforded **Daniel Sandrin** (Sr., 6-7, Bothell, Wa./Bothell) the chance to deliver the knockout blows. A fresh Sandrin went hard to the hole for eight of his 14 points in the final OT period. Chivers has been on a tear of late, particularly on the road, where he's averaged 16.3 points, 6.0 rebounds, 1.75 blocks and shot 76 percent from the field in four games since Jan. 23. Aziz ranks among the conference leaders in scoring (17.9/sixth), steals (1.61/seventh), rebounding (6.4/eighth) and assists (3.6/eighth). Chivers is No. 2 in field-goal percentage (.575), No. 6 in rebounding (6.5) and No. 8 in blocks (0.96).

Put-backs. Losses by No. 6 Cal State Bakersfield, No. 7 Hawaii Hilo and No. 9 Alaska Anchorage should enable Seattle Pacific to rejoin the region's top eight or nine this week. Cal State San Bernardino remains No. 1...SPU is now 13-1 when leading or tied at halftime and 14-2 when shooting at least 49 percent from the field...The Falcons have clinched their 15th consecutive winning season...Cato's 14 assists tied the record first set by Warren King in 1996...Aziz surpassed 2000 career points (junior college plus SPU) vs. Western Oregon and now has 2005...Seattle Pacific is No. 1 in both GNAC 3-point (.410) and overall (.500) field goal accuracy. Those figures rank ninth and 10th, respectively, in the NCAA. In conference games, the Falcons are averaging a league-best 85.1 points and shooting 73 percent from the foul line and 52 percent from the floor. Individually, **Adam Harris** (Sr., 6-0, Fox Island, Wa./Gig Harbor) continues to lead the conference in three-point accuracy (.515/34-66) while Knudson is No. 2 (.500/29-58). Keely qualified for field-goal accuracy and is No. 5 (.560). Cato is No. 7 in steals (1.59).

Opponent & series notes. Northwest Nazarene has lost seven straight to SPU and trails the series 33-19. In the first meeting, Feb. 1 in Seattle, SPU went on a 40-10 surge midway through the game and won 95-58. The Crusaders have lost eight in a row overall, dating back to Jan. 23. They have allowed opponents to shoot 49.5 percent and score 78.7 points per game...Defensive-minded Seattle University (71.3 points allowed, defensive FG pct. of .416) also enters this week clinging to playoff hopes but has lost its last two home games and three of five overall. The Redhawks lead the series 43-33 but since dropping from Division I the series has gone 27-11 in favor of the Falcons. Aziz and Cato each scored 20 points in an 80-66 home win Jan. 30. Saturday will be senior night for SU. Darnell Lyons is the top scorer (16.0).

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 on the internet at nnu.edu.

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.

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* ot L	84-90
Feb. 20	HUMBOLDT ST.* ot W	113-108
Feb. 22	WESTERN OREGON*W	86-84
Feb. 27	at Northwest Nazarene*	6:00
Mar. 1	at Seattle University*	7:00
Mar. 6	SAINT MARTIN'S*W	7:30
Mar. 8	CENTRAL WASHINGTON*W	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	10.8
Jason Chivers	9.1
Daniel Sandrin	8.0
Jesse Keely	8.0

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	6.5
Yusef Aziz	6.4

Assists

Yusef Aziz	3.6
Maurice Cato	3.2

Steals

Yusef Aziz	1.61
Maurice Cato	1.59

Blocked Shots

Jason Chivers	0.96
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Field Goal Percentage

Jason Chivers	.575
Jesse Keely	.560

Three Point Percentage

Adam Harris	(34-66) .515
Jeff Knudson	(29-58) .500

Free Throw Percentage

Jesse Keely	.797
Maurice Cato	.769

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	80.9	34.9	.500	.692	.410
Opp.	75.2	33.6	.456	.689	.363

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
2/20 *	Humboldt State	W 113-108 OT	H Seattle, Wa.	1375	13- 9	22- Jesse Keely	11- Jesse Keely
2/22 *	Western Oregon	W 86- 84	H Seattle, Wa.	1125	14- 9	16- Keely/Knudson	7- Jesse Keely

* - 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	TO	BLK	STL	PF	D	Min-	Avg	Pts	Avg	
Yusef Aziz	23-23	160-	317	50.5	11-	43	25.6	80-	118	67.8	40	107	147	6.4	83	58	10	37	60-	2	759-	33.0	411	17.9	
Tony Binetti	23- 1	37-	85	43.5	15-	45	33.3	9-	16	56.2	8	26	34	1.5	38	27	4	18	47-	1	346-	15.0	98	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	22-22	82-	183	44.8	33-	90	36.7	40-	52	76.9	8	30	38	1.7	70	62	2	35	58-	1	588-	26.7	237	10.8	
Jason Chivers	23-23	88-	153	57.5	0-	0	0.0	34-	55	61.8	54	95	149	6.5	24	21	22	18	58-	2	492-	21.4	210	9.1	
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	23-22	47-	96	49.0	34-	66	51.5	35-	44	79.5	10	32	42	1.8	53	31	0	23	50-	3	549-	23.9	163	7.1	
Jesse Keely	23- 4	65-	116	56.0	6-	11	54.5	47-	59	79.7	31	48	79	3.4	36	36	6	18	57-	1	378-	16.4	183	8.0	
Jeff Knudson	21- 0	37-	73	50.7	29-	58	50.0	4-	5	80.0	12	23	35	1.7	16	11	1	7	29-	0	252-	12.0	107	5.1	
Jordan Lee	22- 0	29-	71	40.8	11-	27	40.7	8-	10	80.0	12	9	21	1.0	22	10	0	8	15-	0	309-	14.0	77	3.5	
Daniel Sandrin	22-17	63-	126	50.0	8-	18	44.4	41-	57	71.9	24	59	83	3.8	45	49	13	18	48-	1	486-	22.1	175	8.0	
Gene Woodard	23- 0	43-	83	51.8	2-	6	33.3	22-	37	59.5	21	41	62	2.7	29	26	4	24	26-	0	334-	14.5	110	4.8	
Team											22	19	41		0									0	
Seattle Pacific	23-23	690-	1379	50.0	150-	366	41.0	331-	478	69.2	271	532	803	34.9	422	356	62	21	34	81-	11			1861	80.9
Opponents	23-23	612-	1342	45.6	146-	402	36.3	359-	521	68.9	281	491	772	33.6	340	368	71	17	44	41-	12			1729	75.2

— First Half — — Second Half — — Game —

All FG	346-	667	51.9%	344-	712	48.3%	690-	1379	50.0%
3 Pt FG	79-	171	46.2%	71-	195	36.4%	150-	366	41.0%
FT	125-	187	66.8%	206-	291	70.8%	331-	478	69.2%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 75, Opponents 78
Opponent Team Rebounds: 52 — (Offense: 27 Defense: 25)
Technical Fouls: Seattle Pacific 1; ; Opponents 2