

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

Falcon Women Can Clinch GNAC Title This Week Top-Ranked, Unbeaten SPU Heads To Alaska At Full Strength Unfriendly territory.

Coming off yet another big victory and at full-strength for the first time this season, top-ranked and unbeaten Seattle Pacific University plays its final Great Northwest Athletic Conference road games this week in Alaska. The Falcons (14-0, 23-0) can assure themselves of a GNAC championship as early as Thursday (Feb. 27), when they visit Alaska Anchorage (5-9, 10-12). Saturday afternoon (Mar. 1) they play at Alaska Fairbanks (3-11, 8-15) before returning to Brougham Pavilion for next week's final regular season games, versus Western Oregon and Humboldt State.

Title within grasp. The Falcons took another giant step toward reaching another goal last week, beating second-place and 20th-ranked Western Washington, 102-91, to take a three-game lead with four remaining. Coach **Gordy Presnell** is looking for the program's second conference title in three years and fourth in seven seasons. But beyond the GNAC, Seattle Pacific is striving to earn the top seed in the West Region, thereby receiving the right to host the first three rounds of the NCAA Division II playoffs. The No. 2 team in the West is Cal State Bakersfield (22-1), winner of 19 straight.

It ain't easy in Alaska. Seattle Pacific will fly into Anchorage somewhat under the radar in this, Iditarod week. The mushers and dogs will get underway Saturday in relatively balmy conditions (temperatures in mid-30s). But things rarely come easily to visitors in Alaska. In fact, although SPU has averaged more than 21 wins over the past four seasons, the team has played only .500 ball (4-4) up there during that span.

Heavy D. Their growing legion of fans is no doubt captivated by their fastbreak offense and ability to score seemingly at will. But the Falcons' defense is doing the job. Perhaps lost amidst the 188 points put up on the scoreboard last week was the defensive carnage. SPU forced a total of 46 turnovers, made 28 steals and blocked 15 shots in the wins over Western and Seattle University. The visitors also combined to shoot less than 36 percent shooting from the floor and the 86-40 score vs. the Redhawks was the fewest points allowed in 53 games. Alaskan native **Brittney Kroon** (Fr., 6-4, Wasilla, Ak./Wasilla) rejected three shots in each game while starting center **Kelley Berglund** (Sr., 6-3, Port Angeles, Wa./Washington State) made eight steals last week. The Falcons lead the GNAC in scoring defense, allowing just 61.6 points per contest. Kroon ranks third in blocks (1.23) despite playing just 7.5 minutes per game.

Berglund, big time. Berglund has been at her best when SPU has faced its biggest tests, and the Western game was another example. She not only stymied Susan Rodgers, the Vikings' 6-foot-6 pivot (seven points, five fouls), but anchored the lowpost offense, scoring a team-high 19 points. In seven games against regionally-ranked opposition, Berglund has averaged 17.6 points, 8.7 rebounds, 2.3 steals and 0.86 blocks while shooting 61 percent. All of those figures are above her season averages, and bode well for the playoffs.

Full power. For the first time, Presnell had his full compliment of players available late last week as **Trisha Hermanson** (So., 5-6, Buckley, Wa./White River) returned from a knee injury which sidelined her for two games. Hermanson had also missed the first seven games of the season for academic reasons and forward **Kristin Poe** (Jr., 5-8, Enumclaw, Wa.) missed 13 games with a torn MCL before returning earlier this month.

2002-03 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Record—23-0 (GNAC 14-0)

Coach—Gordy Presnell, 16th year

Coach's Career & SPU Record— 330-122

This Week

Thr., Feb. 27, 8:05 p.m. PST

at Alaska Anchorage (5-9, 10-12)

UAA Sports Center, Anchorage, Ak.

Sat., Mar. 1, 4 p.m. PST

at Alaska Fairbanks (3-11, 8-15)

Patty Center, Fairbanks, Ak.

Last Week's Results

at SPU 86, Seattle University 40

at SPU 102, Western Washington 91

Streaks & Such

SPU has won 29 straight regular season games dating back to Feb. 9, 2002

Stat de jour

Against nationally- and regionally-ranked foes, Kelley Berglund has lifted her averages to 17.6 points, 8.7 rebounds and 61-percent shooting

NCAA Div. II Rankings (Feb. 19)

1. Seattle Pacific
2. California (Pa.)
3. Bentley (Ma.)

also

6. Cal State Bakersfield
20. Western Washington

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Seattle Pacific	14	0	23	0
Western Washington	12	3	19	5
Northwest Nazarene	9	6	15	8
Central Washington	8	6	13	8
Saint Martin's	8	7	12	12
Western Oregon	7	7	12	11
Alaska Anchorage	5	9	10	12
Humboldt State	4	10	9	14
Alaska Fairbanks	3	11	8	15
Seattle University	2	13	7	16

NCAA West Region Poll (Feb. 19)

1. Seattle Pacific
2. Cal State Bakesfield
3. Western Washington
4. Montana State Billings
5. Cal State Stanislaus

The future looks good. Without question, this is the year the Falcons can make a run at the conference, regional and national championships. They boast leadership, experience, talent, depth and now health. Presnell can also look forward to a bright future. Poe, Kroon, **Valerie Gustafson** (Jr., 6-0, Olympia, Wa./Black Hills) and **Carli Smith** (Fr., 5-11, Spokane, Wa./Valley Christian) all return to the frontline while Hermanson, **Michelle Beaumont** (So., 5-11, Bellingham, Wa./Sehome) and **Mandy Wood** (Fr., 5-6, Port Angeles, Wa.) could assume the backcourt responsibilities next season. Gustafson posted a double-double of 12 points and 10 boards vs. the Vikings while Wood got back into a groove after a brief drought to total 26 points and hit 5-8 three-pointers last week. Smith snared 12 rebounds in 20 minutes against Seattle U. and Beaumont canned 8-13 field goals for the week.

Put-backs. **Kerie Hughes** (Sr., 5-6, Mount Vernon, Wa./Mount Vernon), like Berglund, lifted her game for Western, finishing with 18 points and seven assists. Hughes, with five steals in the two games, broke into the career top five with 210, replacing Debbie Miller (1995-98). She needs six assists to become No. 5, supplanting Chantel Vinson (1994-98)...**Stephanie Urrutia** (Sr., 5-9, Sunnyside, Wa./Sunnyside) is likely to get into the career scoring leaders this week. She needs 22 points to bump Elizabeth Fenner (1992-95) from No. 10...The Falcons lead the GNAC in nine statistical categories, including scoring (84.0), scoring margin (+22.4), field-goal percentage (.478), three-point accuracy (.403), rebounding (+8.9), steals (13.48), blocked shots (4.48), scoring defense (61.6) and defensive field-goal percentage (.357)...Nationally, SPU is No. 5 in scoring offense, scoring margin and three-point accuracy...Individually in the GNAC, Wood is first (.537) and Beaumont second (.474) in three-point percentage. Smith is fourth in free-throw percentage (.828), sixth in field-goal accuracy (.536) and seventh in rebounding (7.5). Gustafson is third in field-goal percentage (.578). Hughes is third in assists (5.64), fifth in three-point (.431) and 10th free-throw accuracy (.769). Berglund is fourth in rebounding (8.4) and field-goal shooting (.557), seventh in blocked shots (0.83) and No. 12 in scoring (13.6). Urrutia is fifth in free-throw percentage (.806) and seventh in assists (3.87).

Opponent & series notes. The Falcons have won five straight against Alaska Anchorage, including a 90-57 blowout Jan. 30 at the pavilion in which SPU shot 53 percent and four players reached double figures. SPU leads the all-time series 23-11. The Seawolves have lost seven of their last nine...Seattle Pacific owns the edge on Alaska Fairbanks as well, 29-12. Fairbanks nearly pulled off an upset at the pavilion on Feb. 1, taking an eight-point lead at the half before falling 80-72 despite shooting nearly 54 percent from the floor. Hughes posted her first career double-double in that game (18 points, 10 assists). The Nanooks have dropped six of eight.

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 WASH.*W	80-69
Feb. 20	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY*W	86-40
Feb. 22	WESTERN WASH.*W	102-91
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	13.6
Stephanie Urrutia	12.7
Kerie Hughes	11.9
Valerie Gustafson	9.9

Rebounds

Kelley Berglund	8.4
Carli Smith	7.5

Assists

Kerie Hughes	5.4
Stephanie Urrutia	3.9
Mandy Wood	2.0

Shooting Percentage

Valerie Gustafson	.578
Kelley Berglund	.557
Carli Smith	.536

Three-Point Percentage

Mandy Wood	(30-56) .536
Michelle Beaumont	(27-57) .474

Free-Throw Percentage

Carli Smith	.828
Michelle Beaumont	.806

Steals

Kelley Berglund	1.90
Kerie Hughes/Valerie Gustafson	1.86

Blocks

Brittney Kroon	1.2
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Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	84.0	43.3	.478	.749	.403
Opp.	61.6	34.4	.357	.664	.308

Seattle Pacific University
2002-03 Women's Basketball Statistics
Record: 23- 0/ 14- 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
2/15 *	Central Washington	W 80- 69	H Seattle, Wa.	1211	21- 0	24- Kelley Berglund	12- Kelley Berglund
2/20 *	Seattle U.	W 86- 40	H Seattle, Wa.	752	22- 0	15- Mandy Wood	12- Carli Smith
2/22 *	Western Wash.	W 102- 91	H Seattle, Wa.	1375	23- 0	19- Kelley Berglund	10- Valerie Gustafson

* - 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	TOBLK	STL	PF-D	Min-	Avg	Pts	Avg	
Michelle Beaumont	23-15	68-	154	44.2	27-	57	47.4	36-	45	80.0	16	40	56	2.4	29	54	9	13	42-0	495-	21.5	199	8.7
Kelley Berglund	23-23	113-	203	55.7	0-	2	0.0	87-	120	72.5	63	131	194	8.4	19	67	19	44	68-0	499-	21.7	313	13.6
Demecia Casimir	15- 0	4-	7	57.1	0-	2	0.0	0-	0	0.0	2	6	8	0.5	2	3	0	2	2-0	49-	3.3	8	0.5
Autumn Garis	12- 0	2-	14	14.3	0-	1	0.0	6-	11	54.5	3	6	9	0.8	4	3	0	1	2-0	81-	6.8	10	0.8
Valerie Gustafson	23-23	93-	161	57.8	0-	1	0.0	42-	60	70.0	36	86	122	5.3	36	34	13	43	65-0	508-	22.1	228	9.9
Trisha Hermanson	13- 1	24-	74	32.4	9-	39	23.1	17-	20	85.0	6	21	27	2.1	31	28	4	16	17-1	247-	19.0	74	5.7
Kerie Hughes	22-22	79-	183	43.2	28-	65	43.1	76-	99	76.8	7	40	47	2.1	124	60	4	43	25-0	628-	28.5	262	11.9
Brittney Kroon	22- 0	27-	53	50.9	0-	0	0.0	12-	20	60.0	21	32	53	2.4	6	12	27	6	17-0	164-	7.5	66	3.0
Stacie Lukkes	23- 0	22-	56	39.3	0-	1	0.0	18-	27	66.7	34	30	64	2.8	13	29	7	13	40-1	287-	12.5	62	2.7
Kristin Poe	10- 6	23-	66	34.8	6-	19	31.6	12-	19	63.2	15	41	56	5.6	29	26	3	24	15-0	220-	22.0	64	6.4
Carli Smith	23- 1	74-	138	53.6	0-	0	0.0	48-	58	82.8	70	103	173	7.5	18	38	5	35	33-0	396-	17.2	196	8.5
Stephanie Urrutia	23-23	105-	219	47.9	23-	62	37.1	58-	72	80.6	26	66	92	4.0	89	69	13	37	46-0	617-	26.8	291	12.7
Mandy Wood	23- 1	54-	111	48.6	30-	56	53.6	21-	27	77.8	6	25	31	1.3	47	46	2	31	23-0	409-	17.8	159	6.9
Team											35	28	63		3								0
Seattle Pacific	23-23	688-	1439	47.8	123-	305	40.3	433-	578	74.9	340	655	995	43.3	447	472	106	308	395-2			1932	84.0
Opponents	23-23	495-	1385	35.7	123-	399	30.8	303-	456	66.4	307	484	791	34.4	322	562	54	234	450-135			1416	61.6

	— First Half —			— Second Half —			— Game —		
All FG	632-	1336	47.3%	56-	103	54.4%	688-	1439	47.8%
3 Pt FG	116-	291	39.9%	7-	14	50.0%	123-	305	40.3%
FT	370-	500	74.0%	63-	78	80.8%	433-	578	74.9%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 72, Opponents 71
Opponent Team Rebounds: 74 — (Offense: 44 Defense: 30)
Opponent Team Turnovers: 2
Technical Fouls: None