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NCAA Tourney Bid Could Go To The Wire

Men Play Final 2 At Home; 6 Seniors To Bid Farewell

Two and in? It's the basic equation: one plus one. And if Seattle Pacific University can come up with the sum—two victories—the Falcons will likely receive a passing grade for the NCAA tournament. Going into this, the final week of the regular season, SPU (11-5, 15-10) has a chance to make the playoffs for the sixth year in a row and an opportunity to grab a share of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference championship, should it prevail in home games against Saint Martin's (2-14, 2-24) Thursday (Mar. 6) and Central Washington (9-7, 15-10) Saturday (Mar. 8). The 64-team bracket for Division II will be announced Mar. 10 with the West Regional to take place Mar. 14, 15 and 17.

Madness around the corner. No first-year Seattle Pacific coach has ever taken his team to the playoffs, but **Jeff Hironaka** has his team in a position to do just that. The Falcons were No. 7 in the West last week and figure to be at least that high again going into these final games. By finishing among the top eight they will earn a trip to the regional tournament, likely to take place in San Bernardino. SPU has gone to the NCAA tournament each of the last five seasons; no other team in the West and only four others in Div. II can claim that distinction. Overall, Seattle Pacific has made 15 trips to the NCAA playoffs, including eight in the last nine years. If it wins twice and should Humboldt State lose at Western Oregon, SPU could claim a share of the GNAC crown.

Encore performance. Today, a postseason berth appears within reach. Two months ago, the Falcons were grasping for a lifeline. They had lost five of six (including two at home) and stood at 6-6—the worst start in 14 years. Since then, Hironaka has tweaked the offense, the seniors have stepped forward and there's a newfound confidence. Seattle Pacific has won nine of 13 (six straight in Brougham Pavilion) while shooting 52 percent from the field over that span. It is 9-0 when holding teams under 80 points in regulation.

A six-pack to go. Saturday will be Senior Night but Hironaka will not start them all, lest he earn his first 'T.' Numbering six in all, the senior class simply cannot be squeezed into the starting five. Getting last call at the pavilion will be fifth-year senior **Adam Harris** (Sr., 6-0, Fox Island, Wa./Gig Harbor), four-year letterman **Gene Woodard** (Sr., 6-4, Edmonds, Wa./O'Dea), three-year lettermen **Jesse Keely** (Sr., 6-7, Fircrest, Wa./Bellarmine) and **Daniel Sandrin** (Sr., 6-7, Bothell, Wa./Bothell), and two-year squad members **Yusef Aziz** (Sr., 6-4, Seattle, Wa./Foster) and **Maurice Cato** (Sr., 6-0, Fairfield, Ca.). Harris, the GNAC leader in three-point shooting, and Woodard, coming off a season-high 19 points in the vital 84-70 road victory at Seattle U., are the lone holdovers from the Final Four team of 2000. Keely and Sandrin, both transfers from Portland, have combined to average 15.7 points and 7.4 rebounds at forward. Cato leads the team in treys (39) and free throw accuracy (.803), and is No. 2 in assists (3.1), steals (1.5) and scoring (11.2).

Yu da man. Despite a concussion in December, a tender ankle since January and an awful lot of attention from opposing defenses, Aziz is enjoying a uniquely successful senior campaign. Aziz is bidding to become only the second Falcon (and first in 15 years) to lead the team in both scoring (17.7) and assists (3.4). The only player in the GNAC to rank among the leaders in both categories, he's considered a strong candidate for all-conference and all-region honors for the second year in a row. His two-year total of 913 points is second only to Glenn Stump's 965 (1983-85) for an SPU junior transfer.

2002-03 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Record—15-10 (GNAC 11-5)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka, 1st year

Coach's Career Record— 15-10

This Week

Thr., Mar. 6, 7:30 p.m.

vs. Saint Martin's (2-14, 2-24)

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Sat., Mar. 8, 7 p.m.

vs. Central Washington (9-7, 15-10)

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Last Week's Results

at Northwest Nazarene 83, SPU 76

SPU 84, at Seattle University 70

Streaks & Such

The Falcons are seeking their sixth straight trip to the NCAA tournament

Stat de jour

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

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Humboldt State	13	4	22	4
Alaska Fairbanks	11	5	18	7
Seattle Pacific	11	5	15	10
Seattle University	9	7	16	9
Central Washington	9	7	15	10
Alaska Anchorage	9	7	12	13
Western Washington	8	8	14	11
Western Oregon	7	10	14	12
Northwest Nazarene	2	14	4	20
Saint Martin's	2	14	2	24

NCAA West Region Poll (Feb. 26)

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

Behold, the future. This year's team has Aziz stamped all over it. But beyond this season, the Falcons could well revolve around up-and-coming center **Jason Chivers** (So., 6-8, Palmdale, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech). The former baseball pitching prospect has come on strong late in this, his second full season of organized basketball. He posted his fourth double-double of the year at SU (12 points, 12 rebounds). In the last 10 games he's averaged 13.6 points (reaching double figures nine times), 7.1 rebounds, 1.3 blocks and shot 64 percent from the field.

Put-backs. Unlike past years, the NCAA bracket will be announced on a Monday (Mar. 10), beginning at 10 a.m. PST...Both Harris and Cato are on course to finish their careers among the leaders in free throw shooting (.824 and .821, respectively). Harris is currently No. 2 in three-point accuracy (.484)...So far this season, GNAC home teams have won only one of five senior nights...Of the top 10 regionally ranked teams, only Cal State San Bernardino, Cal Poly Pomona (both with two wins) and BYU Hawaii (one) emerged unbeaten last week. Seattle Pacific, which rejoined the region's top eight at No. 7, might even gain ground due to two home losses by No. 4 Sonoma State...SPU is now 14-1 when leading or tied at halftime and 14-2 when shooting at least 49 percent from the field...The highest win total for a first-year SPU coach is 17 by Ken Bone in 1990-91...**Jeff Knudson** (Fr., 6-7, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak) has hit 10 of 16 treys in his last two home games...Chivers had 12 offensive boards in his last two games and could become the first season rebounding leader to finish with more than half of his total on the offensive end...Woodard has scored in double figures four of the last six games, averaging 10.2...Since Feb. 8, SPU has converted 76 percent of its free throws...Seattle Pacific is No. 1 in both GNAC 3-point (.403) and overall (.497) field goal accuracy. Those figures rank ninth and 10th, respectively, in the NCAA. In conference games, the Falcons are averaging a league-best 84.4 points and shooting 52 percent from the floor. Individually, Harris is the GNAC co-leader in three-point accuracy (.500/35-70) while Knudson is No. 3 (.462/30-65). Aziz ranks among the conference leaders in scoring (17.7/No. 6), steals (1.52/No. 9), rebounding (6.0/No. 9) and assists (3.4/No. 8). Chivers is No. 2 in field-goal percentage (.576), No. 7 in rebounding (6.7) and No. 8 in blocks (0.88). Cato is No. 8 in steals (1.54).

Opponent & series notes. This is the 105th renewal of the Saint Martin's series, the lengthiest of all for SPU. Seattle Pacific has won eight meetings in a row, 19 of the last 20 and leads the series 73-31. The Saints have won two in a row and top scorer Brandon Hartley (15.4) is coming off a 36-point outing in a upset win at Central...This is the third bout with Central Washington this season, and both previous affairs were taken by SPU. The Falcons trail the series 58-35 but have wins in seven of the last eight meetings. Aziz scored a career-high 32 points vs. the Wildcats Nov. 22 and Chivers had his breakout game with 22 points and 12 boards at Ellensburg Dec. 5...SPU is 48-4 in conference home games the past three-plus seasons and has not lost back-to-back league home games since 1988.

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.

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.

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*	L, 76-83
Mar. 1	at Seattle University*	W 84-70
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	17.7
Maurice Cato	11.2
Jason Chivers	9.6
Jesse Keely	7.9
Daniel Sandrin	7.8

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	6.7
Yusef Aziz	6.0

Assists

Yusef Aziz	3.4
Maurice Cato	3.1

Steals

Maurice Cato	1.54
Yusef Aziz	1.52

Blocked Shots

Jason Chivers	0.88
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Field Goal Percentage

Jason Chivers	.576
Yusef Aziz	.501

Three Point Percentage

Adam Harris	(34-66) .500
Jeff Knudson	(29-58) .462

Free Throw Percentage

Jesse Keely	.797
Maurice Cato	.803

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	80.8	35.1	.497	.700	.403
Opp.	75.3	33.5	.456	.683	.361

Seattle Pacific University
2002-03 Men's Basketball Statistics
Record: 15-10/ 11-5 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
2/27 *	Northwest Nazarene	76- 83 L	A Nampa, Id.	1025	14-10	17- Cato, Aziz, Chivers	7- Daniel Sandrin
3/ 1 *	Seattle University	W 84- 70	A Seattle, Wa.	685	15-10	19- Gene Woodard	12- Jason Chivers

* - 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	K	S	T	P	F	D	Min-	Avg	Pts	Avg
Yusef Aziz	25-25	171- 341	50.1	11- 44	25.0	89-134	66.4	41	109	150	6.0	85	61	10	38	68-	3	822-	32.9	442	17.7			
Tony Binetti	25- 1	37- 86	43.0	15- 45	33.3	10- 18	55.6	8	27	35	1.4	41	28	4	18	49-	1	367-	14.7	99	4.0			
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	24-24	90- 200	45.0	39-103	37.9	49- 61	80.3	10	35	45	1.9	75	66	4	37	62-	1	656-	27.3	268	11.2			
Jason Chivers	25-25	99- 172	57.6	0- 0	0.0	41- 64	64.1	66	101	167	6.7	27	24	22	19	66-	2	543-	21.7	239	9.6			
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	25-24	50- 104	48.1	35- 70	50.0	35- 44	79.5	12	36	48	1.9	56	34	0	24	54-	3	594-	23.8	170	6.8			
Jesse Keely	25- 4	68- 124	54.8	6- 12	50.0	55- 69	79.7	33	53	86	3.4	39	40	6	21	66-	2	413-	16.5	197	7.9			
Jeff Knudson	23- 0	39- 83	47.0	30- 65	46.2	10- 13	76.9	17	28	45	2.0	16	12	1	8	35-	0	286-	12.4	118	5.1			
Jordan Lee	23- 0	30- 72	41.7	11- 27	40.7	8- 10	80.0	12	9	21	0.9	23	10	0	8	15-	0	312-	13.6	79	3.4			
Daniel Sandrin	24-18	66- 132	50.0	8- 18	44.4	46- 63	73.0	28	69	97	4.0	49	53	15	18	55-	1	524-	21.8	186	7.8			
Gene Woodard	25- 0	51- 98	52.0	2- 6	33.3	29- 46	63.0	24	46	70	2.8	31	26	4	27	29-	0	376-	15.0	133	5.3			
Team								23	20	43		0											0	
Seattle Pacific	25-25	740-1488	49.7	158-392	40.3	383-547	70.0	303	576	879	35.2	448	379	66	225	532-13							2021	80.8
Opponents	25-25	663-1453	45.6	158-438	36.1	398-583	68.3	310	527	837	33.5	361	388	76	186	488-15							1882	75.3

— First Half — — Second Half — — Game —

All FG	373-	728	51.2%	367-	760	48.3%	740-	1488	49.7%
3 Pt FG	82-	183	44.8%	76-	209	36.4%	158-	392	40.3%
FT	142-	211	67.3%	241-	336	71.7%	383-	547	70.0%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 84, Opponents 87
Opponent Team Rebounds: 58 — (Offense: 31 Defense: 27)
Technical Fouls: Seattle Pacific 0; ; Opponents 3Bench 1