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Hello & G'by: Men Open At Home, Disappear SPU Hoop Season Begins With Wilcox Farms Tip-Off Classic

Now they count. Watch 'em now or wait til after Christmas. That's the situation for fans of Seattle Pacific University men's basketball as the 2003-04 regular season commences this weekend with the Wilcox Farms Tip-Off Classic. In the only two home games prior to the holidays, the Falcons face Florida's Saint Leo Friday night (Nov. 21) and Missouri's Southwest Baptist Saturday (Nov. 22) in the annual season-opening tournament. Northwest Nazarene completes the field and plays at 3 p.m. each day. After that, SPU goes on the road for the next seven games before returning to Brougham Pavilion Dec. 29.

Asking a lot. Coach **Jeff Hironaka** is asking a lot of a team which includes 11 freshmen and sophomores. He's seeking leaders to step forth from that group and installing a new offense at the same time. Add to that the most road-oriented early-season schedule in 13 years and it's more than a little unsettling. Some bonding occurred during a September tour of Australia and two preseason exhibitions helped to mix in the newcomers. Tentatively, Hironaka plans to start three sophomores and two juniors on Friday night.

Pre-functions. Without a doubt, the most impressive performances from the preseason came from center **Jason Chivers** (Jr., 6-8, Los Angeles, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech). Now in just his third full season of organized basketball, Chivers looks like a natural. He stole the show in a triple overtime, 108-106 win over Northwest Sports, pouring in 36 points and snaring 15 rebounds. Chivers was productive in a second outing as well, totaling 25 points and 14 rebounds in a 95-88 win over AnotherLevel Blue Angels. He glided inside for most of the points but also showed excellent range, even stepping out and hitting 2-3 three-pointers. Last season he was the Falcons' top rebounder (6.6), No. 3 scorer (10.0) and led the conference in field-goal accuracy (.590). During the Australia tour Chivers, playing against older professionals, averaged 19.2 points and 13.4 rebounds. His numbers swelled to 30.5 points and 14.5 boards while shooting 64 percent (23-36) in the preseason.

Changing of the guards. Hironaka lost his starting backcourt to graduation, and now it's uncertain whether one of the heirs-apparent will be ready for the opener. **Jordan Lee** (Jr., 6-2, University Place, Wa./Christian Faith), who averaged 23.2 points in Australia, missed the final preseason game with foot injury. That means transfer **Ralph Steele** (Jr., 6-2, No. Birmingham, Al./Huffman-Citrus JC) will likely start alongside point guard **Tony Binetti** (So., 6-1, Enumclaw, Wa.). Steele was the No. 2 offensive force behind Chivers in the preseason, averaging 18.5 points. Binetti continued to grow into his role, passing for 12 assists against seven turnovers and hitting 11-15 field goals. **Jordan Beede** (Fr., 6-1, Bellingham, Wa./Squalicum) saw 19 minutes of action in the second game and made three steals to go with six points.

Wings of the Falcons. A key to Seattle Pacific's success will be its ability to develop offensive threats on the wings, thereby stretching defenses away from Chivers. A logical piece of that potential arsenal is **Jeff Knudson** (So., 6-7, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak), the top three-point marksman (37-74, 50 percent) in the GNAC as a frosh. **Dustin Bremerman** (Fr., 6-4, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower) is making a strong case for himself, scoring 29 points off the bench in the exhibitions after a solid Australian campaign. Oddly, both Knudson and Bremerman were cold from outside the arc, missing all nine of their combined

2003-04 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2002-03 Final Record—16-11 (GNAC 12-6)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka, 2nd year

Coach's Career Record—16-11 (1 year)

This Week

Nov. 21-22

Wilcox Farms Tip-Off Classic

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Fri., Nov. 21

N'west Nazarene v S'west Baptist, 3 p.m.

Seattle Pacific v Saint Leo, 7 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 22

N'west Nazarene v Saint Leo, 3 p.m.

Seattle Pacific v Southwest Baptist, 7 p.m.

Preseason Results

at SPU 108, Northwest Sports 106 (2OT)

at SPU 95, Another Level 88

Streaks & Such

After this weekend's Wilcox Farms Tip-Off Classic, the Falcons will play their next seven games on the road

Stat de jour

Center Jason Chivers averaged 22.4 points and 13.7 rebounds in seven offseason exhibition games

GNAC Preseason Poll

1. Humboldt State (10)
2. Alaska Fairbanks
3. Western Oregon
4. Central Washington
5. Alaska Anchorage
6. Western Washington
7. Seattle Pacific
8. Seattle University
9. Northwest Nazarene
10. Saint Martin's

Note: First-place votes in parentheses

attempts. The other frontline role involves more passing, ballhandling and rebounding. Again, Hironaka's choice of designating a starter could be a tough one. **Mike Bushmaker** (So., 6-7, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower) and transfer **Chad Williams** (So., 6-8, Burlington, Wa./Bu.-Edison-Whatcom CC) essentially split the minutes in pre-season play. Bushmaker totaled five assists and seven rebounds while Williams had 11 boards, four assists and 14 points.

Put-backs. The Falcons won their opening game last season, snapping a string of three straight losses...In a late change to the schedule, SPU now plays at UC San Diego Dec. 16 (rather than the 17th)...Following the Wilcox Farms Tip-Off Classic, SPU plays a post-Thanksgiving tourney in Chico, Ca. Conference play begins Dec. 4 at Alaska Anchorage. The next home games will be during the Oak Harbor Freight Lines Holiday Classic. Alderson-Broaddus (WV), an NCAA tournament team in 2003, is the featured out-of-region foe...Chivers, who averaged a combined 22.4 points and 13.7 rebounds in the seven offseason exhibitions, played 77 of a possible 90 minutes in the two preseason games. He averaged just 22 minutes last year while coming back from knee surgery. Backup center **Chris Cohen** (Sr., 6-8, Saint Helens, Or.), consequently, saw only 14 minutes of duty...Of the four true freshmen on the roster only **Drew Matzen** (Fr., 6-4, Bothell, Wa./Lynnwood) figures to play this season. Matzen, the son of former UW forward Steve Matzen, played a total of 23 minutes and had 13 points and six rebounds... Hironaka plans to redshirt **Rob Peterson** (Fr., 6-7, Seattle, Wa./Seattle Christian), **Ryan DeLong** (Fr., 5-11, Fife, Wa./Milton) and **Austin Yuen** (Fr., 5-8, Mercer Island, Wa.)...Two of last season's seniors are playing professionally overseas. Yusef Aziz, a two-time all-conference pick, is in Holland while Daniel Sandrin is in Germany. Eric Sandrin, an '02 graduate, is playing in Brazil following a season in Luxembourg....SPU is expected to hit their fair share of treys this season but they were just 14-47 (30 percent) in the two exhibitions. Overall the team shot 47 percent from the field and 79 percent from the foul line.

Opponent & series notes. This is the first meeting for the Falcons and their two tourney opponents...Saint Leo (Fl.) returns four starters from a 7-21 club but the Lions are picked to finish last in the Sunshine Conference...Southwest Baptist, located in Bolivar, Mo., was 9-17 a year ago and just 1-11 on the road. New Zealand native Arthur Trousdale, a 6-8 center, averaged 15.8 points as a freshman.

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.

2003-04 Men's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Yr	Exp	Hometown (High School/Last Coll.)
1	Jordan Lee	G	6-2	Jr	2V	Tacoma, Wa. (Life Christian)
2	Ralph Steele	G	6-2	Jr	TR	No. Birmingham, Al. (Huffman/Citrus JC)
3	Jeff Knudson	F	6-7	So	1V	Mukilteo, Wa (Kamiak)
4	Jordan Beede	G	6-1	Fr	RS	Bellingham, Wa. (Squalicum)
10	Paul Sivesind	F	6-6	Sr	TR	Bellevue, Wa. (Sammamish/CS Hayward)
11	Tony Binetti	G	6-1	So	1V	Enumclaw, Wa. (Enumclaw)
13	Mike Bushmaker	F	6-7	So	1V	Yakima, Wa (Eisenhower)
15	Ryan DeLong	G	5-11	Fr	HS	Milton, Wa. (Fife)
20	Austin Yuen	G	5-8	Fr	HS	Mercer Island, Wa. (Mercer Island)
22	Chad Williams	F	6-8	So	TR	Burlington, Wa. (Bu.-Edison/Whatcom CC)
23	Tim Gabelein	F	6-6	Fr	RS	Langley, Wa. (South Whidbey)
30	Drew Matzen	F	6-4	Fr	HS	Bothell, Wa. (Lynnwood)
34	Jason Chivers	C	6-8	Jr	1V	Los Angeles, Ca. (Highland/LA Trade)
32	Dustin Bremerman	F	6-4	Fr	RS	Yakima, Wa. (Eisenhower)
40	Rob Peterson	F	6-7	Fr	HS	Seattle, Wa. (Seattle Christian)
50	Chris Cohen	C	6-8	Sr	3V	Saint Helens, Or. (Saint Helens)

Head Coach: Jeff Hironaka

Assistant Coaches: Ben Scheffler, Scott Reid, George Parker

Graduate Assistant: Dan Barfoot

Student Assistant: Maurice Cato

2003-04 Season Schedule

Date	Opponent	Res./Time
Nov. 6	NW SPORTS (exhib.)	W, 108-106
Nov. 15	BLUE ANGELS (exhib.)	W, 95-88
Nov. 21-22	WILCOX FARMS TIP-OFF CLASSIC	
Nov. 21	NW Nazarene v SW Baptist	3:00
	SPU v SAINT LEO	7:00
Nov. 22	NW Nazarene v Saint Leo	3:00
	SPU PACIFIC v SW BAPTIST	7:00
Nov. 28-29	Mac Martin Classic (at Chico, Ca.)	
Nov. 28	SPU at Chico State	7:00
Nov. 29	SPU v Colorado School/Mines	5:00
Dec. 4	at Alaska Anchorage*	9:05
Dec. 6	at Alaska Fairbanks*	5:00
Dec. 16	at UC San Diego	7:00
Dec. 19-20	High Desert Classic (Las Vegas, Nv.)	
Dec. 19	SPU v Cal St. San Bernardino	12:00
Dec. 20	SPU v Washburn	12:00
Dec. 29-30	OAK HARBOR FREIGHTLINES CL.	
Dec. 29	Seattle U. v Saint Martin's	5:00
	SPU v ALDERSON BROADDUS	7:00
Dec. 30	Seattle U. v Alderson Broaddus	5:00
	SPU v SAINT MARTIN'S	7:00
Jan. 8	WESTERN OREGON*	7:30
Jan. 10	HUMBOLDT STATE*	7:00
Jan. 15	at Seattle University*	7:00
Jan. 17	at Northwest Nazarene*	6:00
Jan. 22	CENTRAL WASHINGTON*	7:30
Jan. 24	SAINT MARTIN'S*	3:30
Jan. 31	at Western Washington*	7:00
Feb. 5	at Humboldt State*	7:00
Feb. 7	at Western Oregon*	7:00
Feb. 12	NORTHWEST NAZARENE*	7:30
Feb. 14	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY*	7:00
Feb. 19	at Saint Martin's*	7:00
Feb. 21	at Central Washington*	7:00
Feb. 28	WESTERN WASHINGTON*	7:00
Mar. 4	ALASKA FAIRBANKS*	7:00
Mar. 6	ALASKA ANCHORAGE*	7:00

*Great Northwest Athletic Conference games
All times are Pacific

2002-03 Season Leaders

Scoring

Yusef Aziz	17.6
Maurice Cato	10.9
Jason Chivers√	10.0

Rebounds

Jason Chivers√	6.6
Yusef Aziz	6.2

Assists

Yusef Aziz	3.5
Maurice Cato	3.2

Steals

Maurice Cato	1.53
Yusef Aziz	1.48

Blocked Shots

Jason Chivers√	0.85
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Field Goal Percentage

Jason Chivers√	.590
Yusef Aziz	.500

Three Point Percentage

Jeff Knudson√	(37-74) .500
Adam Harris	(36-74) .486

Free Throw Percentage

Adam Harris	.816
Maurice Cato	.810

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	82.2	35.4	.498	.708	.409
Opp.	75.9	33.4	.460	.682	.357

√ returnee