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Falcon Men Open GNAC Hoop Play In Alaska

Lee Lights-Up At Chico As SPU Mounts Comebacks

North, toward darkness. A bleak, frigid reception awaits the Seattle Pacific University men's basketball team later this week when it arrives in Alaska for the start of great Northwest Athletic Conference play. The Falcons (2-2) will step into a frozen winterland where, with the solstice approaching, the sun rises for less than five hours. Even less inviting is the opposition. Thursday night (Dec. 4), SPU visits Alaska Anchorage (5-1), which is coming off a solid performance at the Great Alaska Shootout. Saturday (Dec. 6) it meets Alaska Fairbanks (3-2), the team picked to finish second in the GNAC. Following a week off for final exams, play resumes Dec. 16 at UC San Diego.

They've got grit. If this first couple weeks of the season has illustrated anything about this SPU squad, it's that they've got some grit. The Falcons have mounted comebacks in each of their last three games, highlighted by their rally from a 12-point second-half deficit to defeat Colorado School of Mines 81-76 at Chico, Ca., in their most recent outing. Against Chico State the previous night, they sliced a 10-point gap to one in five minutes. Seattle Pacific will need to sustain such resolve since the next five games are all on the road. It returns home Dec. 29 to open a four-game homestand.

Lighting Jordan. The **Jordan Lee** (Jr., 6-2, Tacoma, Wa./Life Christian) who was *en fuego* in Australia two months ago, caught fire in Chico. After being hobbled by an ankle sprain in the first couple games, Lee went close to full-throttle at the Mac Martin Classic, totaling 42 points in two games, including a career-high 23 versus Chico State in the 93-91 loss. He fueled the comeback win the next night, scoring 14 of his 19 points in the second half. Nine points were scored in the final four-plus minutes as the Falcons finished with a 14-6 run. For the trip, Lee shot 13-21 from the field (4-10 3-pointers) and hit all 12 of his free throws to make the all-tournament team.

He's gotta point. Coach **Jeff Hironaka** gave his guards much more to chew on than turkey this month, installing a new offense while young players adapted to new roles and several new teammates. Perhaps the key individual in all this activity is point guard **Tony Binetti** (So., 6-1, Enumclaw, Wa.), and he seems eager to meet the challenge. Binetti was once again impressive in running the show in California. He passed for a career-high nine assists vs. Chico State and his 13-point, six-rebound, one turnover line in the second game cinched his spot on the all-tournament team. Binetti leads the GNAC in assists to turnovers ratio (6:1) and is fourth in assists (6.0).

On the mend. The cornerstone of this year's team, center **Jason Chivers** (Jr., 6-8, Los Angeles, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech), has not approached his preseason numbers (22.4 points, 13.7 rebounds) because of an ankle injury suffered in the first game. But he's getting stronger, as evidenced by his 15 points versus CSM. On the bum wheel, Chivers has made just 13-39 field goals after leading the GNAC at 59 percent last season. While he's averaging 7.5 rebounds, Hironaka has asked for a double-figure number, if SPU is to be a conference contender. SPU is ninth in GNAC rebounding (-0.3 margin).

Heating up. There are several signs that the Falcons' fortunes are on an upswing. Besides the win and the improved health of Lee and Chivers, outside shooters are beginning to find their stroke. Seattle Pacific connected on 65 percent of its second-half shots vs. CSM. Binetti was 5-9 for the game and

2003-04 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2003-04 Record—2-2 (GNAC 0-0)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka, 2nd year

Coach's Career Record—18-13 (2nd year)

This Week's Games

Thr., Dec. 4, 9:05 p.m. PST

SPU at Alaska Anchorage

Well Fargo Sports Complex, Anchorage, Ak.

Sat., Dec. 6, 5 p.m. PST

SPU at Alaska Fairbanks

Patty Center, Fairbanks, Ak.

Last Week's Results

at Chico State 93, SPU 91

SPU 81, Colo. School/Mines 76

Streaks & Such

The Falcons begin conference play on the road for the fourth consecutive season

Stat de jour

Point guard Tony Binetti is averaging 6.0 assists against just 1.0 turnover per game

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

GNAC Final Standings

	W	L	W	L
Western Washington	0	0	4	0
Northwest Nazarene	0	0	4	0
Alaska Anchorage	0	0	5	1
Humboldt State	0	0	3	1
Western Oregon	0	0	3	1
Saint Martin's	0	0	3	2
Seattle University	0	0	3	2
Alaska Fairbanks	0	0	3	2
Seattle Pacific	0	0	2	2
Central Washington	0	0	2	3

redshirt freshman forward **Dustin Bremerman** (Fr., 6-4, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower) solidified his place in the starting lineup with seven points in the second-period rally. **Jeff Knudson** (So., 6-7, Mukilteo, Wa./Kamiak), the top three-point marksman in the GNAC as a frosh, came off the bench for 13 points in 18 minutes vs. Chico and guard **Ralph Steele** (Jr., 6-2, No. Birmingham, Al./Huffman-Citrus JC) was 7-16 from the field on the trip.

Put-backs. SPU had its chances against Chico State, which had lost two starters to injuries. It led the Wildcats 44-36 in the first half after going on a 27-12 run to dig out of a 10-point hole. A 10-point Chico lead late in the second half was cut to lone point on a three-pointer by **Chad Williams** (So., 6-8, Burlington, Wa./Burlington Edison-Whatcom CC) with 7 seconds to go but the Falcons never had a shot at tying or going ahead thereafter...Hironaka elected to shuffle his starting lineup, inserting Bremerman and Lee for Knudson and Steele...Lee leads the GNAC in free throw shooting (12-12) and SPU is the team leader at 78.6 percent (55-70). Reserve center **Chris Cohen** (Sr., 6-8, Saint Helens, Or.) is 8-9 at the line and vs. Chico he snared seven rebounds—all off the offensive glass...**Drew Matzen** (Fr., 6-4, Bothell, Wa./Lynnwood) aided in the CSM comeback with five points in six minutes of second-half duty...Chivers was plagued by foul trouble in Chico, fouling out in 22 minutes against the Wildcats and drawing four personals vs. CSM.

Opponent & series notes. Seattle Pacific has not ventured to Alaska prior to Christmas since 1974-75, when Les Habegger's team played twice in Fairbanks. This is the fourth year in row that the Falcons have opened conference play on the road. Weather forecasts call for a high of 17 degrees in Anchorage Thursday while Fairbanks is due for a high of 2 below Saturday...Alaska Anchorage is led by forward Peter Bullock (22.3 points, 11.5 boards), who was all-tourney at the Great Alaska Shootout, where UAA beat two D-I teams and took fourth place. The Seawolves lead the series 25-15...Alaska Fairbanks was the surprise team of the GNAC last season. Picked to finish last, the Nanooks tied Humboldt State for the conference title and went to the NCAA Division II tournament. They feature guard Brad Oleson (19.8 points). SPU leads the series 39-9, winning 10 of the last 13.

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.

SPU Coaches. In his first season **Jeff Hironaka** won more games (16) than all but one other first-year SPU coach. A former aide at Idaho State and The Master's, Hironaka became Ken Bone's top assistant 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 times, including a Final Four advancement in 2000.

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)
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

√ Probable starters

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	SPU v SAINT LEO	W, 78-51
Nov. 22	SPU v SW BAPTIST	L, 60-65
Nov. 28-29	Mac Martin Classic (at Chico, Ca.)	
Nov. 28	at Chico State	L, 91-93
Nov. 29	Colorado School/Mines	W, 81-76
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

2003-04 Season Leaders

Scoring

Jordan Lee	13.0
Ralph Steele	10.2
Dustin Bremerman	10.0
Tony Binetti	8.2

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	7.5
Dustin Bremerman	5.5

Assists

Tony Binetti	6.0
Jason Chivers	2.5

Steals

Tony Binetti	1.75
Jordan Lee	1.25

Blocked Shots

Jason Chivers	1.00
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Field Goal Percentage

Dustin Bremerman	.517
Jordan Lee	.515

Three Point Percentage

Chad Williams	(6-12) .500
Jordan Lee	(6-15) .400

Free Throw Percentage

Jordan Lee	(12-12) 1.000
Chris Cohen	(8-9) .889

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	77.5	35.2	.453	.786	.356
Opp.	71.2	35.5	.453	.639	.358

Seattle Pacific University
2003-04 Men's Basketball Statistics
Record: 2- 2/ 0- 0 GNAC

Date	Opponent	Score	Site	Attend	Rec.	Leading Scorer	Leading Rebounder
11/21	Saint Leo	W 78- 51	H Seattle, Wa.	725	1- 0	16- Ralph Steele	13- Jason Chivers
11/22	Southwest Baptist	60- 65 L	H Seattle, Wa.	725	1- 1	12- Mike Bushmaker	6-B'maker/Chivers
11/28	Chico State	91- 93 L	A Chico, Ca.	729	1- 2	23- Jordan Lee	7- Cohen/Chivers
11/29	Colo. School/Mines	W 81- 76	N Chico, Ca.	178	2- 2	19- Jordan Lee	6- Binetti/Bre'man

	GP-GS	All FG			3 Pt FG			FT			Rebounds				Min-	Avg	Pts	Avg						
		M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	M-	A	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg					A	TOBLK	STL	PF-D		
Seattle Pacific	2- 1	0-	0	0.0	0-	0	0.0	2-	2	100.0	0	1	1	0.5	2	2	0	1	2-0	8-	4.0	2	1.0	
Jordan Beede	2- 1	0-	0	0.0	0-	0	0.0	2-	2	100.0	0	1	1	0.5	2	2	0	1	2-0	8-	4.0	2	1.0	
Tony Binetti	4- 4	11-	33	33.3	4- 14	28.6	7- 10	70.0	6	12	18	4.5	24	4	2	7	9-0	126-	31.5	33	8.2			
Dustin Bremerman	4- 2	15-	29	51.7	6- 16	37.5	4- 7	57.1	4	18	22	5.5	3	6	3	1	8-0	90-	22.5	40	10.0			
Mike Bushmaker	4- 3	9-	14	64.3	0- 0	0.0	6- 7	85.7	7	9	16	4.0	5	10	0	3	7-0	70-	17.5	24	6.0			
Jason Chivers	4- 4	13-	39	33.3	0- 4	0.0	5- 9	55.6	9	21	30	7.5	10	8	4	3	13-1	95-	23.8	31	7.8			
Chris Cohen	4- 0	11-	21	52.4	0- 0	0.0	8- 9	88.9	8	7	15	3.8	2	7	0	1	13-0	60-	15.0	30	7.5			
Tim Gabelein	1- 0	0-	0	0.0	0- 0	0.0	0- 0	0.0	0	1	1	1.0	0	1	0	0	2-0	4-	4.0	0	0.0			
Jeff Knudson	4- 2	10-	24	41.7	6- 17	35.3	3- 3	100.0	1	8	9	2.2	6	4	0	3	3-0	71-	17.8	29	7.2			
Jordan Lee	4- 2	17-	33	51.5	6- 15	40.0	12- 12	100.0	1	5	6	1.5	6	8	0	5	4-0	97-	24.2	52	13.0			
Drew Matzen	2- 0	2-	2	100.0	1- 1	100.0	0- 0	0.0	1	0	1	0.5	1	1	0	0	0-0	13-	6.5	5	2.5			
Ralph Steele	4- 2	16-	36	44.4	2- 8	25.0	7- 7	100.0	1	3	4	1.0	3	7	0	1	5-0	84-	21.0	41	10.2			
Chad Williams	4- 0	8-	16	50.0	6- 12	50.0	1- 4	25.0	3	7	10	2.5	3	4	2	2	7-0	80-	20.0	23	5.8			
Austin Yuen	1- 0	0-	0	0.0	0- 0	0.0	0- 0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0-0	2-	2.0	0	0.0			
Team									6	2	8			1									0	
Seattle Pacific	4- 4	112-	247	45.3	31- 87	35.6	55- 70	78.6	47	94	141	35.2	65	63	11	27	73- 1						310	77.5
Opponents	4- 4	105-	232	45.3	29- 81	35.8	46- 72	63.9	47	95	142	35.5	58	74	9	28	74- 1						285	71.2

	First Half			Second Half			Game		
All FG	59-	127	46.5%	53-	120	44.2%	112-	247	45.3%
3 Pt FG	19-	49	38.8%	12-	38	31.6%	31-	87	35.6%
FT	20-	31	64.5%	35-	39	89.7%	55-	70	78.6%

Deadball Rebounds: Seattle Pacific 6, Opponents 14
Opponent Team Rebounds: 10 — (Offense: 6 Defense: 4)
Technical Fouls: None