

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

GNAC Play Opens At Home For SPU Men Falcons Take 2nd In Hilo; Next 3 At Pavilion

Let the league begin. Five games into the men's basketball season, Seattle Pacific University is pretty much sitting where it should, battle-tested but ready for the start of Great Northwest Athletics Conference play. The Falcons (3-2) finally get a chance to get settled at home, opening a three-game home stand Thursday night (Dec. 2) against Seattle University (3-1) in the first of 18 league contests. Saturday night (Dec. 4) Northwest Nazarene (2-2) is the foe. Following final exams, Pacific Lutheran pulls into the pavilion Dec. 10.

Better for it. All along, Coach **Jeff Hironaka** knew that his team would absorb its share of knocks in November. The team played five games in nine days, in three arenas across three time zones. The Falcons not only won respect but three of the games, and arrive home on a high note, having wrapped-up second place in the Hilo Shootout by pulling away from Shippensburg in the second half for a 90-69 victory. Less than 16 hours after hitting just 36 percent of their shots in an 84-70 loss to host Hawaii Hilo, they connected on 58 percent, including 68 percent in the second half. In the three wins, SPU is shooting 54 percent and averaging 10.3 three-pointers and 83.7 points.

Picked second. The current records of the GNAC teams bear little resemblance to the coaches' preseason poll, in which Seattle Pacific was picked to finish second to Alaska Fairbanks. Three of the teams in that poll have gone through a grueling early-season schedule, with SPU, Fairbanks and Alaska Anchorage (both 2-3) all losing games to Division I programs. However, the preseason poll doesn't mean squat when the whistle blows and the ball goes up. Witness two years ago when Alaska Fairbanks won a share of the GNAC title after being pegged for 10th.

No charity begins at home. The road to a championship in the GNAC begins and ends at home. Humboldt State lost only one home game in taking first place the past two seasons. Fairbanks finished second last year, the difference being the Nanooks' sole home loss in the GNAC opener. The lesson for the Falcons: there is precious little margin for error in this conference. Seattle Pacific is seeking to reestablish its reputation as an inhospitable host. It won 40 of 43 league games from 1996-01 but has gone just 13-5 the past two in Brougham Pavilion.

He's No. 1. When basketball or any sport is being played well, to the outsider it looks easy. And right now the game seems to be played almost effortlessly by **Jordan Lee** (Sr., 6-1, Tacoma, Wa./Life Christian). Since scoring 22 points in the opener at Washington, Lee has looked more and more in command, particularly on the offensive end. He scored 18 in the 77-68 win over Hillsdale and 20 against Shippensburg. Like almost every other teammate, he struggled to hit the hoop against Hilo. Still, he's swishing three-pointers (3.8 per game) at a rate of 58 percent and leads the Falcons in scoring, averaging 17.2.

Supporting cast coming forth. Lee's outside scoring and the strong inside play of center **Jason Chivers** (Sr., 6-8, Los Angeles, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech) forms a potent 1-2 punch. Yet there will be nights when more is required of the remaining cast, and thankfully help appears to be on the way. Fellow starters **Tony Binetti** (Jr., 6-1, Enumclaw, Wa.), **Chad Williams** (Jr., 6-8, Burlington, Wa./Burlington Edison-Whatcom CC) and **Dustin Bremerman** (So., 6-4, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower) have come up big in each of the wins. Now, key reserves **Ralph Steele** (Sr., 6-2, No. Birmingham, Al./Huffman-Citrus JC)

2004-05 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2004-05 Record-3-2 (GNAC 0-0)
Coach-Jeff Hironaka, 3rd year
Coach's Career Record- 33-26 (3rd year)

Last Week's Results

SPU 77, Hillsdale 68
at Hawaii Hilo 84, SPU 70
SPU 90, Shippensburg 69

This Week's Games

Thr., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
SPU v Seattle University
Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Sat., Dec. 4, 7 p.m.
SPU v Northwest Nazarene
Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Streaks & Such

SPU has made over 50 percent of its field goals in each win this season and is 13-3 when doing so over the past two seasons

Stat de jour

After leadin the NCAA in foul sooting last season, SPU has started off at just 65 percent and ninth in the GNAC

GNAC Standings

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

GNAC Preseason Poll

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

Note: First-place votes in parentheses

and **Mike Bushmaker** (Jr., 6-7, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower) are answering the call. Steele hit 6 of 7 shots and scored 16 points in 16 minutes versus Shippensburg, and Bushmaker posted a career-high 16 points against Hilo. Bremerman, Binetti and Williams have made a combined 62 percent of their field goals in the wins.

Put-backs. SPU has made over 50 percent of its field goals in each win this season and is 13-3 when doing so over the past two seasons...Chivers scored just three points in 16 foul-plagued minutes vs. Hilo but bounced back with 17 points and 15 rebounds vs. Shippensburg...SPU, which plays five of the next seven at home and another two on neutral hardwood in Las Vegas, will not play another true road game until Jan. 6 at Central Washington...The Falcons' 36 percent shooting vs. Hilo was the coldest in Hironaka's tenure as coach...Binetti is 14-17 on field goals and Bremerman 14-24 in the three victories. They were a combined 7-30 in the two losses... Bremerman passed for a career-high eight assists vs. Hillsdale and Williams pulled down a career-best 11 boards vs. Hilo...Seattle Pacific's 9.2 treys per game leads the GNAC and its overall accuracy of .393 is third. The statistical oddity is free throw percentage. After leading the nation last year at .794, the Falcons are ninth in the GNAC so far at .646. Individually, Chivers leads the conference in rebounding (10.4). Lee is No. 3 in three-point shooting (.576) and No. 6 in scoring. Bremerman is No. 4 in assists (4.0).

Opponent & series notes. Seattle University jumped to a 3-0 start before a 73-54 loss at Portland. The defensive-minded Redhawks allow just 70.0 points per game and have held teams to 41 percent shooting, 31 percent on threes. They lead the series 44-35 but since dropping from Division I the series has gone 29-12 in favor of the Falcons...SPU has won nine of the last 10 meetings with Northwest Nazarene and leads the series 35-20. The Crusaders lead the GNAC in rebounding (+12.0) and got accustomed to the pavilion with two games at the Sodexo Tip-Off Classic.

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.

SPU Coaches. In his first season **Jeff Hironaka** won more games (16) than all but one other first-year SPU coach, and his record entering this season is 30-24. 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.

2004-05 Men's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Yr	Exp	Hometown (High School/Last Coll.)
1	Jordan Lee ✓	G	6-1	Sr	3V	Tacoma, Wa. (Life Christian)
2	Matt Birkle	G	6-2	So	TR	Anacortes, Wa. (An'tes/Whatcom CC)
3	Jeff Knudson	F	6-7	Jr	2V	Mukilteo, Wa (Kamiak)
4	Ralph Steele	G	6-2	Sr	1V	No. Birmingham, Al. (Huffman/Citrus JC)
10	Chris Faidley	G	6-1	Fr	HS	Seattle, Wa. (King's)
11	Tony Binetti ✓	G	6-1	Jr	2V	Enumclaw, Wa. (Enumclaw)
13	Mike Bushmaker	F	6-7	Jr	2V	Yakima, Wa (Eisenhower)
20	Austin Yuen	G	5-8	So	1V	Mercer Island, Wa. (Mercer Island)
22	Chad Williams ✓	F	6-8	Jr	1V	Burlington, Wa. (Bu.-Edison/Whatcom CC)
23	Tim Gabelein	F	6-6	So	1V	Langley, Wa. (South Whidbey)
30	Drew Matzen	F	6-4	So	1V	Bothell, Wa. (Lynnwood)
34	Jason Chivers ✓	C	6-8	Sr	2V	Los Angeles, Ca. (Highland/LA Trade)
32	Dustin Bremerman ✓	F	6-4	So	1V	Yakima, Wa. (Eisenhower)
50	Paul Brockman	F	6-5	Fr	HS	Snohomish, Wa. (Snohomish)
	Darel Lucas	G	6-0	Jr	TR	Wichita, Ks. (Southeast/Binghamton)
	Robbie Will	C	6-10	So	TR	Seattle, Wa. (O'Dea/Bellevue CC)

Head Coach: Jeff Hironaka

Assistant Coaches: Brock Veltri, Scott Reid, George Parker

✓ Projected starters

2004-05 Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Res./Time
Nov. 6	AUSTRALIA INST. (Ex.)	W, 91-85
Nov. 13	at Nevada (Exhib.)	L, 56-73
Nov. 19	at Washington	L, 71-89
Nov. 20	CHICO STATE	W, 84-80
N. 25-27	Hilo Shootout (Hilo, Hi.)	
Nov. 25	SPU v Hillsdale (Mi.)	W, 77-68
Nov. 26	SPU at Hawaii Hilo	L, 70-84
Nov. 27	SPU v Shippensburg (Pa.)	W, 90-69
Dec. 2	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY*	7:30
Dec. 4	NORTHWEST NAZARENE*	7:00
Dec. 10	PACIFIC LUTHERAN	7:00
Dec. 18-19	High Desert Classic (Las Vegas, Nv.)	
Dec. 18	SPU v Cal State Bakersfield	2:15
Dec. 19	SPU v Central Missouri	12:00
Dec. 29-30	OAK HARBOR FREIGHTLINES CL.	
Dec. 29	Seattle University v Puget Sound	3:00
Dec. 29	SPU v WISCONSIN PARKSIDE	7:00
Dec. 30	Seattle U. v Wisconsin Parkside	3:00
	SPU v PUGET SOUND	7:00
Jan. 6	at Central Washington*	7:00
Jan. 8	at Saint Martin's*	7:00
Jan. 15	WESTERN WASHINGTON*	7:00
Jan. 20	ALASKA ANCHORAGE*	7:00
Jan. 22	ALASKA FAIRBANKS*	3:00
Jan. 27	at Western Oregon*	7:00
Jan. 29	at Humboldt State*	7:00
Feb. 2	SAINT MARTIN'S*	7:00
Feb. 5	CENTRAL WASHINGTON*	3:30
Feb. 12	at Western Washington*	7:00
Feb. 17	at Alaska Fairbanks*	8:00
Feb. 19	at Alaska Anchorage*	9:05
Feb. 24	HUMBOLDT STATE*	7:30
Feb. 26	WESTERN OREGON*	7:00
Mar. 3	at Northwest Nazarene*	6:00
Mar. 5	at Seattle University*	7:00
Mar. 11-14	NCAA West Regional	
Mar. 23-26	NCAA Elite Eight (Grand Forks, ND)	

*Great Northwest Athletic Conference games
All times are Pacific

2004-05 Season Leaders

Scoring

Jordan Lee	17.2
Jason Chivers	13.4
Tony Binetti	9.8
Dustin Bremerman	9.6

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	10.4
Chad Williams	6.2

Assists

Dustin Bremerman	4.0
Tony Binetti	3.6

Steals

Dustin Bremerman	1.2
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Blocked Shots

Jason Chivers	1.0
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Field Goal Percentage

Tony Binetti	.563
Jordan Lee	.518

Three Point Percentage

Jordan Lee	(19-33) .576
Tony Binetti	(5-10) .500

Free Throw Percentage

Dustin Bremerman	(10-12) .875
Tony Binetti	(8-10) .800

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	78.4	37.6	.475	.646	.393
Opp.	78.0	37.0	.429	.738	.333

Seattle Pacific University Combined Team Statistics (as of Nov 29, 2004)
All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES.....	(3-2)	(1-0)	(0-2)	(2-0)
CONFERENCE.....	(0-0)	(0-0)	(0-0)	(0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE.....	(3-2)	(1-0)	(0-2)	(2-0)

##	Player	GP-GS	Min--Avg	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		FT-FTA	Pct	---REBOUNDS---				PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
				FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct			Off	Def	Tot	Avg								
01	Lee, Jordan.....	5-5	156 31.2	29-56	.518	19-33	.576	9-14	.643	0	6	6	1.2	7	0	9	10	0	5	86	17.2
34	Chivers, Jason.....	5-5	130 26.0	26-56	.464	0-1	.000	15-27	.556	17	35	52	10.4	20	0	7	8	5	2	67	13.4
11	Binetti, Tony.....	5-5	145 29.0	18-32	.563	5-10	.500	8-10	.800	4	11	15	3.0	19	1	18	19	0	5	49	9.8
32	Bremerman, Dustin...	5-5	143 28.6	17-39	.436	4-20	.200	10-12	.833	5	17	22	4.4	12	0	20	7	0	6	48	9.6
04	Steele, Ralph.....	5-0	55 11.0	13-23	.565	2-3	.667	7-8	.875	2	3	5	1.0	3	0	3	7	0	0	35	7.0
13	Bushmaker, Mike.....	5-0	84 16.8	12-20	.600	2-4	.500	8-13	.615	8	10	18	3.6	10	0	8	9	1	1	34	6.8
22	Williams, Chad.....	5-5	111 22.2	12-29	.414	8-18	.444	1-3	.333	10	21	31	6.2	11	1	8	6	2	1	33	6.6
03	Knudson, Jeff.....	5-0	89 17.8	7-21	.333	5-19	.263	2-3	.667	1	3	4	0.8	16	0	11	3	0	3	21	4.2
02	Birkle, Matt.....	5-0	31 6.2	3-12	.250	1-5	.200	0-2	.000	1	2	3	0.6	4	0	2	7	0	3	7	1.4
23	Gabelein, Tim.....	4-0	21 5.3	3-4	.750	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	3	3	6	1.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.5
30	Matzen, Drew.....	4-0	32 8.0	2-7	.286	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	5	6	11	2.8	3	0	0	2	0	0	4	1.0
20	Yuen, Austin.....	3-0	3 1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.7
TEAM.....										7	8	15	3.0	0		0					
Total.....		5	1000	142-299	.475	46-117	.393	62-96	.646	63	125	188	37.6	107	2	86	78	8	26	392	78.4
Opponents.....		5	1002	134-312	.429	32-96	.333	90-122	.738	70	115	185	37.0	88	-	71	57	17	43	390	78.0

TEAM STATISTICS	SPU	OPP	DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	ATTEND
SCORING.....	392	390	11/19/04	at Washington	L	71-89	9851
Points per game.....	78.4	78.0	11/20/04	CHICO STATE	W	84-80	861
Scoring margin.....	+0.4	-	11/25/04	vs Hillsdale	W	77-68	237
FIELD GOALS-ATT.....	142-299	134-312	11/26/04	at Hawaii Hilo	L	70-84	1126
Field goal pct.....	.475	.429	11/27/04	vs Shippensburg	W	90-69	-
3 POINT FG-ATT.....	46-117	32-96					
3-point FG pct.....	.393	.333					
3-pt FG made per game..	9.2	6.4					
FREE THROWS-ATT.....	62-96	90-122					
Free throw pct.....	.646	.738					
REBOUNDS.....	188	185					
Rebounds per game.....	37.6	37.0					
Rebounding margin.....	+0.6	-					
ASSISTS.....	86	71					
Assists per game.....	17.2	14.2					
TURNOVERS.....	78	57					
Turnovers per game....	15.6	11.4					
Turnover margin.....	-4.2	-					
Assist/turnover ratio..	1.1	1.2					
STEALS.....	26	43					
Steals per game.....	5.2	8.6					
BLOCKS.....	8	17					
Blocks per game.....	1.6	3.4					
WINNING STREAK.....	1	-					
Home win streak.....	1	-					
ATTENDANCE.....	861	11214					
Home games-Avg/Game...	1-861	2-5488					
Neutral site-Avg/Game..	-	2-118					

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	Total
Seattle Pacific University....	173	219	- 392
Opponents.....	184	206	- 390