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High-Scoring Falcons, Western Collide Saturday SPU Men 11-3, Unbeaten At Home; Host Vikings

Pavilion is epicenter. There's bound to be a shake-up in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference men's basketball standings this weekend and the epicenter will be Brougham Pavilion. On Saturday night (Jan. 15) Seattle Pacific University (3-1, 11-3) hosts 14th-ranked Western Washington (3-1, 11-2) in what promises to be a high-scoring game with the victor likely taking sole possession of second place. It's the start of a three-game home stand for the Falcons, who are unbeaten at the pavilion. They host Alaska Anchorage and first-place Alaska Fairbanks next week.

Holding serve. This is the most competitive cast, top to bottom, in the four-year existence of the GNAC. Bottom line: there are no easy wins in the forecast, either on the road or at home. That makes encounters such Saturday's tilt between the Falcons and Vikings the conference's biggest game to date. And that will undoubtedly be followed by two huge games next week, when Alaska Fairbanks makes stops in Bellingham and Brougham. Coach **Jeff Hironaka's** formula for staying in postseason contention will resemble the ages-old recipe recited for years: try to go unbeaten at home and split on the road. So far, so good. Seattle Pacific has won its first six home games for the first time since going 15-0 in 1996-97. In GNAC play, it is 2-0 at home and 1-1 away.

Early returns. A strong start by SPU caught the attention of the NCAA Division II regional advisory committee. Prior to last week's games the Falcons were ranked No. 3 in the West Region, just behind Western Washington and Alaska Fairbanks and ahead of Hawaii Hilo and Chico State. The top eight teams will be chosen for the NCAA tournament in March. Since the poll was issued, both Seattle Pacific and Western split road games. The Falcons fell victim to a resurgent Central Washington, 90-79, and then recovered, putting together a late rally to beat Saint Martin's 78-76. They are now tied with the Vikings at 3-1 in conference games. Fairbanks, at 4-0, is in first.

JC is the answer. Of all the foes in the GNAC, **Jason Chivers** (Sr., 6-8, Los Angeles, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech) seems to save his best for Western Washington, and don't think the Vikings don't know it. They got a taste of Chivers' A game in the last three meetings, with SPU winning twice while the big all-region center averaged 23.7 points and 10.0 rebounds while hitting 63 percent of his shots. His career high of 28 points came in a late-season home victory over Western last year. This season Chivers leads the team in scoring (15.0), rebounding (9.1) and blocked shots (1.07).

Man of Steele. Blurring the Vikings' collective memory of that last meeting is the image of **Ralph Steele** (Sr., 6-2, No. Birmingham, Al./Huffman-Citrus JC) seemingly scoring at will, at least in the final six minutes. During that spell, Steele erupted for 15 of his career-best 27 points as SPU erased an 11-point deficit. Steele's game has been gathering steam over the past few weeks as he's come off the bench to score in double figures five times in seven games and average 12.6 points while shooting 62 percent. Last week Steele sparked the comeback at Saint Martin's, scoring six of 11 unanswered points in the last six minutes. The nation's top free throw shooter last season, he leads the GNAC at 93.3 percent this year.

50-50 proposition. All indicators project a veritable shootout between SPU and Western, the top two scoring teams in the conference. But if the topic is shooting it's not wise to bet against the Falcons. They lead the GNAC and rank

2004-05 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2004-05 Record—11-3 (GNAC 3-1)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka

Coach's Career Record— 41-27 (3rd year)

This Week's Games

Sat., Jan. 15, 7 p.m.

SPU v Western Washington

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Last Week's Results

at Central Washington 90, SPU 79

SPU 78, at Saint Martin's 76

Streaks & Such

Seattle Pacific is now 6-0 at home for the first time since going 15-0 at the pavilion in 1996-97

Stat de jour

The Falcons rank No. 7 in the NCAA in field-goal percentage, hitting 51 percent

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Alaska Fairbanks	4	0	12	3
Western Washington	3	1	11	2
Seattle Pacific	3	1	11	3
Humboldt State	2	1	10	2
Central Washington	2	1	6	6
Western Oregon	1	2	7	5
Saint Martin's	1	2	4	8
Northwest Nazarene	1	3	7	6
Alaska Anchorage	1	3	7	6
Seattle University	0	4	5	8

NCAA Division II Poll

1. Metro State (Co.)
2. Virginia Union
3. Minnesota State Mankato
4. West Georgia

also

13. Alaska Fairbanks
14. Western Washington
15. Central Missouri State
19. Hawaii Hilo
22. Cal State San Bernardino

No. 7 nationally, connecting on 51.2 percent of their shots, and they've won all 10 games in which they made at least 50 percent of their field goals. The top five scorers all shot at least 50 percent, led by point guard **Tony Binetti** (Jr., 6-1, Enumclaw, Wa.) at 60.2 percent and Steele at 55.4 percent. The team makes 40.7 percent of its three-point attempts (second in the league) and 73.1 percent from the foul line (third).

Put-backs. Binetti scored 21 points (8-10 FGs) and made each of his three treys at Saint Martin's for his third 20-point game thus far...**Jordan Lee** (Sr., 6-1, Tacoma, Wa./Life Christian) is coming off a quiet week in which he attempted only 11 field goals (making five) and scoring 12 points. A similar spell last month ended with 28 points vs. Cal State Bakersfield...Steele has hit 17 consecutive free throws since Dec. 10...**Drew Matzen** (So., 6-4, Bothell, Wa./Lynnwood) drilled three treys at Central Washington to match his career high of nine points...**Dustin Bremerman** (So., 6-4, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower) pulled down eight rebounds to equal his career best at both Central and Saint Martin's...The win over the Saints was the first road win this season. There have been four neutral court victories...SPU got four votes in the national rankings last week but none this time around. It has beaten Central Missouri, now rated 15th, and lost at Hawaii Hilo, now 19th...Western Washington has been the men's travel partner since entering the GNAC four years ago but beginning next season SPU will be matched with Northwest Nazarene in all sports...Seattle Pacific has made over 50 percent of its field goals in 10 of its wins this season and is 20-3 when doing so over the past two seasons...The Falcons, who hit 58 percent at Saint Martin's, are No. 1 in the conference in field-goal percentage (.512) and defensive three-point percentage (.305). They are No. 2 in scoring (84.6), three-point shooting (.407) and defensive field-goal percentage (.425) After a slow start they are now No. 3 in foul shooting (.731). Individually, Steele leads the GNAC in free throw percentage (.933), just ahead of Bremerman (.920) who is also No. 4 nationally. Binetti is No. 2 in assists (4.9) and three-point accuracy (.541) and No. 3 in field-goal percentage (.602). Lee is third in three-point accuracy (.522) and sixth in the NCAA. Steele is also fifth in shooting (.554). Chivers is No. 3 in the conference in rebounding (9.1), No. 6 in scoring (15.0) and No. 9 in blocks (1.07).

Opponent & series notes. Western Washington is fifth among the national leaders in three-point shooting (.440) and eighth in scoring offense (91.7). The Falcons have won 22 of the last 30 meetings and lead the series 61-40. The Vikings are led by Grant Dykstra, who averages 17.8 points and hits 56.6 percent of his treys.

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.

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)

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 UNIV.*	W, 90-81
Dec. 4	N'WEST NAZARENE*	W, 75-67
Dec. 10	PACIFIC LUTHERAN	W, 95-51
Dec. 18-19	High Desert Classic (Las Vegas, Nv.)	
Dec. 18	SPU v Cal St. Bakersfield	W, 66-62
Dec. 19	SPU v Central Missouri St. W.	90-80
Dec. 29-30	OAK HARBOR FREIGHTLINES CL.	
Dec. 29	WISCONSIN PARKSIDE	W, 98-76
Dec. 30	PUGET SOUND	W, 122-111
Jan. 6	at Central Washington*	L, 79-90
Jan. 8	at Saint Martin's*	W, 78-76
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*	9:00
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

Jason Chivers	15.0
Jordan Lee	14.3
Dustin Bremerman	12.8
Tony Binetti	12.6

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	9.1
Chad Williams	5.6

Assists

Tony Binetti	4.9
Dustin Bremerman	3.2

Steals

Tony Binetti	1.31
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Blocked Shots

Jason Chivers	1.07
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Field Goal Percentage

Tony Binetti	.602
Ralph Steele	.554

Three Point Percentage

Tony Binetti	(20-37) .541
Jordan Lee	(35-67) .522

Free Throw Percentage

Ralph Steele	(28-30) .933
Dustin Bremerman	(46-50) .920

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	84.6	35.5	.512	.731	.407
Opp.	77.4	36.1	.425	.754	.305

Seattle Pacific Combined Team Statistics (as of Jan 08, 2005)
All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES.....	(11-3)	(6-0)	(1-3)	(4-0)
CONFERENCE.....	(3-1)	(2-0)	(1-1)	(0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE.....	(8-2)	(4-0)	(0-2)	(4-0)

##	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										
34	Chivers, Jason.....	14-14	392 28.0	89-174	.511	0-2	.000	32-56	.571	43	85	128	9.1	49	1	24	27	15	13	210	15.0		
01	Lee, Jordan.....	14-14	418 29.9	70-140	.500	35-67	.522	25-36	.694	2	21	23	1.6	15	0	33	31	0	10	200	14.3		
32	Bremerman, Dustin...	14-14	421 30.1	58-115	.504	17-51	.333	46-50	.920	14	48	62	4.4	37	0	45	20	5	15	179	12.8		
11	Binetti, Tony.....	13-13	383 29.5	56-93	.602	20-37	.541	32-40	.800	8	27	35	2.7	45	1	64	33	2	17	164	12.6		
04	Steele, Ralph.....	14-0	223 15.9	51-92	.554	7-19	.368	28-30	.933	5	24	29	2.1	16	0	21	26	0	4	137	9.8		
22	Williams, Chad.....	14-14	325 23.2	33-73	.452	12-38	.316	14-18	.778	19	59	78	5.6	37	2	21	23	4	8	92	6.6		
13	Bushmaker, Mike.....	14-0	201 14.4	24-35	.686	2-4	.500	14-27	.519	15	23	38	2.7	30	0	17	26	6	8	64	4.6		
03	Knudson, Jeff.....	14-0	184 13.1	14-40	.350	11-34	.324	7-9	.778	2	20	22	1.6	29	0	24	8	1	8	46	3.3		
02	Birkle, Matt.....	14-1	96 6.9	14-30	.467	3-8	.375	7-15	.467	4	13	17	1.2	10	0	12	15	3	7	38	2.7		
30	Matzen, Drew.....	12-0	101 8.4	12-32	.375	5-15	.333	6-6	1.000	8	16	24	2.0	9	0	4	3	0	1	35	2.9		
23	Gabelein, Tim.....	8-0	43 5.4	5-10	.500	0-0	.000	3-6	.500	6	4	10	1.3	3	0	1	4	0	2	13	1.6		
20	Yuen, Austin.....	6-0	15 2.5	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	0	0	0	0.0	2	0	0	1	0	3	7	1.2		
TEAM.....											15	16	31	2.2	0			0					
Total.....		14	2802	428-836	.512	112-275	.407	217-297	.731	141	356	497	35.5	282	4	266	217	36	96	1185	84.6		
Opponents.....		14	2804	378-890	.425	86-282	.305	242-321	.754	192	314	506	36.1	282	-	196	196	34	113	1084	77.4		

TEAM STATISTICS	SPU	OPP	DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	ATTEND
SCORING.....	1185	1084	11/19/04	at Washington	L	71-89	9851
Points per game.....	84.6	77.4	11/20/04	CHICO STATE	W	84-80	861
Scoring margin.....	+7.2	-	11/25/04	vs Hillsdale	W	77-68	237
FIELD GOALS-ATT.....	428-836	378-890	11/26/04	at Hawaii Hilo	L	70-84	1126
Field goal pct.....	.512	.425	11/27/04	vs Shippensburg	W	90-69	-
3 POINT FG-ATT.....	112-275	86-282	*12/02/04	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY	W	90-81	712
3-point FG pct.....	.407	.305	*12/04/04	NORTHWEST NAZARENE	W	75-67	667
3-pt FG made per game..	8.0	6.1	12/10/04	PACIFIC LUTHERAN	W	95-51	321
FREE THROWS-ATT.....	217-297	242-321	12.18.04	vs CS Bakersfield	W	66-62	-
Free throw pct.....	.731	.754	#12/19/04	vs Central Missouri State	W	90-80	-
REBOUNDS.....	497	506	12/29/04	WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE	W	98-76	668
Rebounds per game.....	35.5	36.1	12/30/04	PUGET SOUND	W	122-111	837
Rebounding margin.....	-0.6	-	*01/06/05	at Central Washington	L	79-90	2110
ASSISTS.....	266	196	*01-08-05	at Saint Martin's College	W	78-76	234
Assists per game.....	19.0	14.0					
TURNOVERS.....	217	196					
Turnovers per game.....	15.5	14.0					
Turnover margin.....	-1.5	-					
Assist/turnover ratio..	1.2	1.0					
STEALS.....	96	113					
Steals per game.....	6.9	8.1					
BLOCKS.....	36	34					
Blocks per game.....	2.6	2.4					
WINNING STREAK.....	1	-					
Home win streak.....	6	-					
ATTENDANCE.....	4066	13558					
Home games-Avg/Game...	6-678	4-3330					
Neutral site-Avg/Game..	-	4-59					

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	Total
Seattle Pacific.....	530	655	- 1185
Opponents.....	505	579	- 1084

Individual Season/Career Highs

	<i>Season</i>	<i>Career</i>
1-Jordan Lee		
Points	28 vs. Cal State Bakersfield, 12/18/04	29 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 12/4/03
Rebounds	4 vs. Wisconsin Parkside, 12/29/04	5 vs. Alderson-Broadus, 12/29/03
Assists	8 vs. Wisconsin Parkside, 12/29/04	8 vs. Wisconsin Parkside, 12/29/04
3-pointers	6 vs. Washington, 11/19/04; Puget Sound, 12/30/04	6 vs. Humboldt, 2/5/04; Wash., 11/19/04; UPS, 12/30/04
2-Matt Birkle		
Points	16 vs. Puget Sound, 12/30/04	16 vs. Puget Sound, 12/30/04
Rebounds	5 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	5 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04
Assists	3 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	3 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04
3-Jeff Knudson		
Points	10 vs. Washington, 11/19/04	19 vs. Saint Martin's, 12/30/03
Rebounds	4 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	6 vs. Northwest Nazarene, 2/27/03
Assists	4 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	5 vs. Seattle University, 2/14/04
3-pointers	3 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	5 vs. Saint Martin's, 12/30/03; Central Wash., 1/22/04
4-Ralph Steele		
Points	19 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04; Puget Sound, 12/30/04	27 vs. Western Washington, 2/28/04
Rebounds	5 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	7 vs. Humboldt State, 1/10/04
Assists	5 vs. Puget Sound, 12/30/04	4 vs. 3 teams; last Seattle University, 12/2/04
3-pointers	3 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	5 vs. Alderson-Broadus, 12/29/03
11-Tony Binetti		
Points	25 vs. Central Missouri State, 12/19/04	25 vs. Central Missouri State, 12/19/04
Rebounds	6 vs. Hillsdale, 11/25/04	7 vs. Saint Leo, 11/21/03
Assists	10 vs. Northwest Nazarene, 12/4/04	11 vs. Humboldt State, 1/10/04
3-pointers	4 vs. Central Missouri State, 12/19/04	4 vs. Central Missouri State, 12/19/04
13-Mike Bushmaker		
Points	16 vs. Hawaii Hilo, 11/26/04	16 vs. Hawaii Hilo, 11/26/04
Rebounds	6 vs. Hawaii Hilo, 11/26/04; Wisconsin Parkside, 12/29/04	8 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 12/4/03
Assists	4 vs. Hawaii Hilo, 11/26/04	5 vs. UC San Diego, 12/16/03
20-Austin Yuen		
Points	5 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	5 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04
Rebounds		1 vs. Saint Martin's, 12/30/03
Assists		
Steals	3 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	3 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04
22-Chad Williams		
Points	15 vs. Northwest Nazarene, 12/4/04	15 vs. Northwest Nazarene, 12/4/04
Rebounds	11 vs. Hawaii Hilo, 11/26/04	11 vs. Hawaii Hilo, 11/26/04
Assists	4 vs. Puget Sound, 12/30/04	4 vs. St. Martin's, 12/30/03; UAA, 3/6/04; UPS, 12/30/04
23-Tim Gabelein		
Points	5 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	5 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04
Rebounds	3 vs. Washington, 11/19/04; Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	3 vs. Washington, 11/19/04; Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04
Assists	1 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	1 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04
30-Drew Matzen		
Points	9 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04; Central Washington, 1/6/05	9 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04; Central Wash., 1/6/05
Rebounds	7 vs. Hawaii Hilo, 11/26/04	7 vs. Hawaii Hilo, 11/26/04
Assists	2 vs. Puget Sound, 12/30/04	2 vs. UC San Diego, 12/16/03; Puget Sound, 12/30/04
3-pointers	3 vs. Central Washington, 1/6/05	3 vs. Central Washington, 1/6/05
32-Dustin Bremerman		
Points	24 vs. Northwest Nazarene, 12/4/04	30 vs. Alaska Fairbanks, 3/4/04
Rebounds	8 vs. Central Washington, 1/6/05; Saint Martin's, 1/8/05	8 vs. 4 teams; last St. Martin's, 1/8/05
Assists	8 vs. Hillsdale, 11/25/04	8 vs. Hillsdale, 11/25/04
3-pointers	4 vs. Wisconsin Parkside, 12/29/04	5 vs. Alaska Fairbanks, 3/4/04
34-Jason Chivers		
Points	25 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	28 vs. 2 teams; last Western Oregon, 2/7/04
Rebounds	17 vs. Chico State, 11/20/04	18 vs. UC San Diego, 12/16/03
Assists	5 vs. Northwest Nazarene, 12/4/04; Cal State Bakersfield, 12/18/04	6 vs. 2 teams; last Northwest Nazarene, 2/12/04
Blocked shots	4 vs. Chico State, 11/20/04; Puget Sound, 12/30/04	5 vs. 2 teams; last Alaska Anchorage, 12/4/03