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Critical Contests Await No. 17 SPU In Alaska GNAC Leaders Collide; Binetti Getting The Points

Fortune teller. If an ability to win on the road is a leading indicator of how far Seattle Pacific University will advance in next month's NCAA men's basketball tournament, then this week's venture to Alaska could prove to be a fortune teller for the 17th-ranked Falcons (9-3, 17-5). Tied atop the Great Northwest Athletic Conference standings, they first visit fellow postseason contender Alaska Fairbanks (9-4, 15-7) Thursday night (Feb. 17) before moving on to Alaska Anchorage (4-9, 10-12) Saturday night (Feb. 19). SPU plays its final two home games next week against Humboldt State and Western Oregon.

Muddy waters. The conference race could scarcely be any tighter going into the final three weeks, with Seattle Pacific, Western Washington and Alaska Fairbanks all tied with nine wins in league play. The Nanooks, the preseason pick to claim the GNAC crown, face must-win situations vs. both the Falcons and Vikings since their final three games are on the road. Furthermore, the West Region is just as jammed. Hawaii Hilo and SPU were running 1-2 a week ago but both suffered road losses. Hilo, with two games remaining, is now idle until Feb. 22. Eight teams from the West will earn postseason berths and the region's top seed can host the regional tournament beginning March 11.

Wait just a second. Exactly what's with the water in the SPU locker room? At halftime the guys drink it and suddenly become supermen in the second half. And if the difference is the water, orange slices or sports drink of choice, Coach **Jeff Hironaka** is no doubt wondering why it can't be delivered *before* game time. The Falcons have out-scored the opposition in the second half of 13 consecutive games and by an average margin of 10.8 points. True to form last week, they were raring to go following the intermission and out-scored Western Washington 51-30 in the final period. Trouble was, the Vikings had led by 25 at the break, resulting in a 91-87 outcome. In all five losses this season, Seattle Pacific has been behind by at least five at halftime with the average margin 15.4 points. Cold shooting has marred some of those starts but most telling statistic has been on the hustle board, with SPU out-rebounded by an average of 8.2 in those first halves.

Frontline challenge. The answer to the first-period problems is probably as much mental as anything. After all, the Falcons have the ability, evidenced by their highest win total in three seasons and the fact that they have few peers when it comes to playing the final 20 minutes. But in each loss the frontline has struggled at both ends of the court at the outset. Alaska Fairbanks will certainly be focused on defending inside after center **Jason Chivers** (Sr., 6-8, Los Angeles, Ca./Highland-L.A. Trade Tech) erupted for a career-high 33 points in the first meeting. Forward **Dustin Bremerman** (So., 6-4, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower) has totaled 50 points in his last two games against the Nanooks. Bremerman scored 14 of his 18 points and **Chad Williams** (Jr., 6-8, Burlington, Wa./Burlington-Edison-Whatcom CC) had nine of his 13 in the second half at Bellingham. Chivers, after being poked in the eye and then cut on the face and missing 10 minutes as a result, finished with 14 rebounds and 12 points.

Making a point. It's been awhile since an SPU point guard exhibited such scoring instincts as **Tony Binetti** (Jr., 6-1, Enumclaw, Wa.). Under Hironaka and Ken Bone before him, point men were charged with the primary duties of passing and protecting the ball and playing defense. Scoring was a ways down the list. But Binetti seems to now come by it naturally. He moves the ball and

2004-05 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2004-05 Record—17-5 (GNAC 9-3)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka

Coach's Career Record—47-29 (3rd year)

This Week's Schedule

Thr., Feb. 17, 9 p.m. PST

SPU at Alaska Fairbanks

Patty Center, Fairbanks, Ak.

Sat., Feb. 19, 9:05 p.m. PST

SPU at Alaska Anchorage

Wells Fargo Center, Anchorage, Ak.

Last Week's Results

at Western Washington 91, SPU 87

Streaks & Such

The Falcons have not lost two consecutive games this season

Stat de jour

Seattle Pacific has out-scored the opposition during the second half of the past 13 games and by an average margin of 10.8 points

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Seattle Pacific	9	3	17	5
Western Washington	9	3	17	4
Alaska Fairbanks	9	4	15	7
Western Oregon	7	5	13	8
Northwest Nazarene	7	6	13	9
Central Washington	5	8	9	13
Saint Martin's	5	8	8	14
Humboldt State	4	8	12	9
Alaska Anchorage	4	9	10	12
Seattle University	4	9	9	13

NCAA Division II Poll

1. Findlay (Oh.)
 2. Metro State (Co.)
 3. West Georgia
 4. Bowie State (Md.)
 5. Bentley (Ma.)
- also*
6. Central Missouri State
 17. Seattle Pacific
 14. Hawaii Hilo
 18. Western Washington

leads the team in assists (4.7), but when the rock lands in his hands he is quick to see an opportunity for himself. Hitting over 60 percent of his shots and 52 percent of his three-pointers, he is now the No. 2 season scorer, averaging 14.3, including 16.3 in league play. He popped for 19 at Western and helped fuel the furious second-half rally. The last point guard to average over 13 points was Ritchie McKay (14.0 in 1986-87).

Put-backs. Seattle Pacific has averted back-to-back losses this season...Binetti has scored in double figures for 13 consecutive games...Chivers now has nine double-doubles to rank second in the conference...**Jordan Lee** (Sr., 6-1, Tacoma, Wa./Life Christian), who was the team's top scorer through the first half of the season, has not scored in double figures the past three games...Last week's loss was the first in which SPU has scored at least 80 points. It is now 10-1 in such games. When opponents score more than 80 points the record is 2-4...In the last seven games the Falcons have shot 82.1 percent (115-140) at the foul line...Seattle Pacific has made over 50 percent of its field goals in 14 of its 17 wins this season and is 24-4 when doing so over the past two seasons...The Falcons are No. 1 in the conference and fifth nationally in field-goal percentage (.511). They also lead the league and are 20th nationally in free throw accuracy (.746) and are No. 2 in defensive overall field goal percentage (.429) and defensive three-point percentage (.314). They are No. 3 in three-point shooting percentage (.390) and scoring (83.5). Individually, Binetti leads the conference in three-point shooting (.516, 33 of 64). He is also No. 2 in overall field-goal percentage (.605), No. 3 in assists (4.7) and No. 9 in foul shooting (.828)...Bremerman is No. 1 GNAC in free throw percentage (.885) and seventh in the NCAA...Chivers is No. 2 in rebounding (10.2, 13th nationally), No. 4 in blocks (1.09) and No. 6 in shooting (.567) and No. 7 in scoring (16.0)...Lee is seventh in three-point accuracy (.466).

Opponent & series notes. Alaska Fairbanks, the regional runner-up last season, features a hard-nosed unit which is No. 2 in the GNAC in scoring defense (71.6) and, like SPU, allows opponents to shoot just 43 percent. Offensively, it features All-America candidate Brad Oleson, the conference scoring (24.9, No. 5 in NCAA) and steals (2.55) leader. The Nanooks have won three in a row but have lost two of their last four at home. The Falcons lead the series 40-11, including a 102-94 overtime victory Jan. 22...Alaska Anchorage succumbed to a second-half SPU surge in a 91-76 loss at Seattle Jan. 20. Marcus Robinson scored 23 points for the Seawolves but Bremerman and Binetti answered with 26 points apiece. UAA has lost six of eight going into Thursday's game with Western Washington. It leads the series with SPU 26-17, but has lost nine of the last 15.

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)
32	Dustin Bremerman ✓	F	6-4	So	1V	Yakima, Wa. (Eisenhower)
34	Jason Chivers ✓	C	6-8	Sr	2V	Los Angeles, Ca. (Highland/LA Trade)
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	Hillsdale (Mi.)	W, 77-68
Nov. 26	at Hawaii Hilo	L, 70-84
Nov. 27	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	Cal St. Bakersfield	W, 66-62
Dec. 19	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 WASH.*	W, 76-68
Jan. 20	ALASKA ANCHORAGE*W,	91-76
Jan. 22	ALAS. FAIRBANKS* of W,	102-94
Jan. 27	at Western Oregon*	L, 59-61
Jan. 29	at Humboldt State*	W, 79-57
Feb. 2	SAINT MARTIN'S	W, 87-74
Feb. 5	CENTRAL WASH.*	W, 72-65
Feb. 12	at Western Washington*	L, 87-91
Feb. 17	at Alaska Fairbanks*	9:00
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

Jason Chivers	16.0
Tony Binetti	14.3
Dustin Bremerman	13.4
Jordan Lee	12.5

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	10.2
Chad Williams	6.0

Assists

Tony Binetti	4.7
Dustin Bremerman	3.1

Steals

Tony Binetti	1.52
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Blocked Shots

Jason Chivers	1.09
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Field Goal Percentage

Tony Binetti	.605
Jason Chivers	.567

Three Point Percentage

Tony Binetti	(33-64) .516
Jordan Lee	(48-103) .466

Free Throw Percentage

Ralph Steele	(36-40) .900
Dustin Bremerman	(69-78) .885

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	83.5	36.5	.511	.746	.394
Opp.	75.9	34.6	.429	.728	.314

Seattle Pacific Combined Team Statistics (as of Feb 14, 2005)
All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES.....	(17-5)	(11-0)	(2-5)	(4-0)
CONFERENCE.....	(9-3)	(7-0)	(2-3)	(0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE.....	(8-2)	(4-0)	(0-2)	(4-0)

## Player	GP-GS	Min--Avg	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		---REBOUNDS---				PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg		
			FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def									Tot	Avg
34 Chivers,Jason.....	22-22	666 30.3	148-261	.567	0-3	.000	56-92	.609	72	152	224	10.2	71	1	33	39	24	24	352	16.0
11 Binetti,Tony.....	21-21	648 30.9	98-162	.605	33-64	.516	72-87	.828	15	50	65	3.1	71	2	98	53	4	32	301	14.3
32 Bremerman,Dustin...	22-22	689 31.3	97-191	.508	31-83	.373	69-78	.885	26	75	101	4.6	61	0	68	42	5	21	294	13.4
01 Lee,Jordan.....	22-22	670 30.5	96-214	.449	48-103	.466	36-50	.720	7	32	39	1.8	23	0	53	50	0	15	276	12.5
04 Steele,Ralph.....	22-0	335 15.2	66-136	.485	8-30	.267	36-40	.900	9	33	42	1.9	24	0	24	37	0	7	176	8.0
22 Williams,Chad.....	22-22	540 24.5	62-138	.449	20-66	.303	29-37	.784	36	97	133	6.0	63	3	43	36	4	11	173	7.9
13 Bushmaker,Mike.....	22-0	324 14.7	39-57	.684	4-6	.667	23-39	.590	21	46	67	3.0	47	0	24	36	6	12	105	4.8
03 Knudson,Jeff.....	22-0	237 10.8	16-47	.340	12-39	.308	8-12	.667	3	22	25	1.1	36	0	29	13	1	8	52	2.4
02 Birkle,Matt.....	21-1	127 6.0	19-38	.500	3-8	.375	8-16	.500	4	14	18	0.9	11	0	16	25	3	9	49	2.3
30 Matzen,Drew.....	18-0	126 7.0	13-37	.351	5-18	.278	6-6	1.000	10	21	31	1.7	10	0	5	6	0	2	37	2.1
23 Gabelein,Tim.....	11-0	49 4.5	6-11	.545	0-0	.000	4-8	.500	6	6	12	1.1	5	0	1	5	0	2	16	1.5
20 Yuen,Austin.....	8-0	17 2.1	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	0	0	0	0.0	2	0	0	1	0	3	7	0.9
TEAM.....									23	24	47	2.1	0		0					

Total.....	22	4428	662-1295	.511	164-420	.390	350-469	.746	232	572	804	36.5	424	6	394	343	47	146	1838	83.5
Opponents.....	22	4428	597-1393	.429	136-433	.314	340-467	.728	291	471	762	34.6	431	-	314	296	56	178	1670	75.9

TEAM STATISTICS	SPU	OPP	DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	ATTEND
SCORING.....	1838	1670	11/19/04	at Washington	L	71-89	9851
Points per game.....	83.5	75.9	11/20/04	CHICO STATE	W	84-80	861
Scoring margin.....	+7.6	-	11/25/04	vs Hillsdale	W	77-68	237
FIELD GOALS-ATT.....	662-1295	597-1393	11/26/04	at Hawaii Hilo	L	70-84	1126
Field goal pct.....	.511	.429	11/27/04	vs Shippensburg	W	90-69	250
3 POINT FG-ATT.....	164-420	136-433	*12/02/04	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY	W	90-81	712
3-point FG pct.....	.390	.314	*12/04/04	NORTHWEST NAZARENE	W	75-67	667
3-pt FG made per game..	7.5	6.2	12/10/04	PACIFIC LUTHERAN	W	95-51	321
FREE THROWS-ATT.....	350-469	340-467	12.18.04	vs CS Bakersfield	W	66-62	132
Free throw pct.....	.746	.728	#12/19/04	vs Central Missouri State	W	90-80	200
REBOUNDS.....	804	762	12/29/04	WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE	W	98-76	668
Rebounds per game.....	36.5	34.6	12/30/04	PUGET SOUND	W	122-111	837
Rebounding margin.....	+1.9	-	*01/06/05	at Central Washington	L	79-90	2110
ASSISTS.....	394	314	*01-08-05	at Saint Martin's College	W	78-76	234
Assists per game.....	17.9	14.3	*01/15/04	WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY	W	76-68	1572
TURNOVERS.....	343	296	*01/20/05	ALASKA - ANCHORAGE	W	91-76	567
Turnovers per game.....	15.6	13.5	*01/22/05	ALASKA - FAIRBANKS	W OT	102-94	923
Turnover margin.....	-2.1	-	*1/27/05	at Western Oregon	L	59-61	425
Assist/turnover ratio..	1.1	1.1	*01/29/05	at Humboldt State	W	79-57	1400
STEALS.....	146	178	*02/02/05	SAINT MARTIN'S COLLEGE	W	87-74	439
Steals per game.....	6.6	8.1	*02/05/05	CENTRAL WASHINGTON	W	72-65	1942
BLOCKS.....	47	56	*2/12/05	at Western Washington	L	87-91	2320
Blocks per game.....	2.1	2.5					
WINNING STREAK.....	0	-					
Home win streak.....	11	-					
ATTENDANCE.....	9509	18285					
Home games-Avg/Game...	11-864	7-2495					
Neutral site-Avg/Game..	-	4-205					

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	Total
Seattle Pacific.....	824	992	22	- 1838
Opponents.....	820	836	14	- 1670

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	26 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 1/20/05	26 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 1/20/05
Rebounds	6 vs. Hillsdale, 11/25/04; Western Washington, 2/12/05	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	7 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 1/20/05	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; Western Washington, 1/15/05	15 vs. NW Nazarene, 12/4/04; Western Wash., 1/15/05
Rebounds	11 vs. Hawaii Hilo, 11/26/04	11 vs. Hawaii Hilo, 11/26/04
Assists	6 vs. Alaska Fairbanks, 1/22/05	6 vs. Alaska Fairbanks, 1/22/05
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	26 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 1/20/05	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	6 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 1/20/05	6 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 1/20/05
34-Jason Chivers		
Points	33 vs. Alaska Fairbanks, 1/22/05	33 vs. Alaska Fairbanks, 1/22/05
Rebounds	20 vs. Saint Martin's, 2/2/05	20 vs. Saint Martin's, 2/2/05
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