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SPU Faces Tough Tests At BYU, New Mexico 3 Starters Back From 20-Win, NCAA Tourn. Squad

Tough trip. With a mind toward toughening the team before games begin to count, Seattle Pacific University takes on a couple men's basketball heavyweights in preseason exhibitions. The Falcons, who are coming off a 20-9 season, will play a pair of Division I programs on the road, beginning Thursday night (Nov. 10) at Brigham Young. The final dress rehearsal comes Saturday night (Nov. 12) at New Mexico before starting the 2005-06 season at home Nov. 18 against Cal State Monterey Bay.

Three pieces in place. Coach **Jeff Hironaka** is back for his fourth year after marching his team to the NCAA Division II tournament faster than any coach in program history. Hironaka hopes to build off that success and three returning starters provide a sound foundation. Point guard **Tony Binetti** (Sr., 6-1, Enumclaw, Wa.) averaged 13.4 points, 4.4 assists and hit 48 percent of his three-pointers. **Dustin Bremerman** (Jr., 6-4, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower) has proven to be a versatile scoring threat, averaging nearly 13 points over his first two seasons. **Chad Williams** (Sr., 6-8, Burlington, Wa./Burlington-Whatcom CC), the squad's No. 2 rebounder (5.7), returns to the high post.

Big shoes to fill. Still, the Falcons have got their work cut out. They lost their top two scorers, plus a high-scoring nonstarter. Redshirt **Robbie Will** (So., 6-10, Seattle, Wa./O'Dea-Bellevue CC) takes over for two-time all-region center Jason Chivers. Will averaged 13.1 points, 6.0 rebounds and 1.6 blocked shots as freshman at BCC in '03-04. Among the candidates for the other starting spot are **Drew Matzen** (Jr., 6-4, Bothell, Wa./Lynnwood) and **Brian Lynch** (Jr., 6-1, Missoula, Mt./Great Falls), a transfer from Montana. Last year SPU got 15 points per game from senior Jordan Lee while Ralph Steele was a steady contributor off the bench.

Might as well. Hironaka is not a fan of creampuff schedules to fatten the win total. His non-conference contests are intended to prepare Seattle Pacific for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and beyond. A year ago, the Falcons faced Nevada in the preseason and Washington to open the regular season. This time around, SPU is facing a BYU team with four returning starters and a New Mexico club that has eight letterman back from an NCAA tournament team which was 26-7. The Lobos are coached by Seattle Pacific alum and former assistant coach Ritchie McKay.

Catch 'em quick. The Falcons will play precious few home games between the holidays. Following a faceoff with regional power Cal State San Bernardino Nov. 19, eight of the next 10 are on the road. Brougham Pavilion will go quiet between the Dec. 3 bout with Hawaii Pacific and the GNAC opener Dec. 31 versus Northwest Nazarene. In between are trips to Los Angeles, Reno, Las Vegas and Pomona. The latter is a rematch of last year's meeting with Cal Poly in the first round of the NCAA West Regional. Nevada is the sole Div. I team on the regular season menu. Seattle Pacific was 11-1 at the pavilion last season, losing its only game by two points.

Go figure. Given the loss of Lee and Chivers, the GNAC coaches pegged SPU for fourth place in the preseason poll. Western Washington was the unanimous favorite, followed by Northwest Nazarene and Alaska Anchorage. The Falcons are gunning for their first league title since 2002. They were third in '03 and '05 under Hironaka.

Opening night highlights. SPU made its preseason debut Nov. 1 by

2005-06 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SPU Quick Facts

2004-05 Record—20-9 (GNAC 12-6)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka

Coach's Career Record— 50-33 (4th year)

Coming Up

Thr., Nov. 10, 6 p.m. PST

SPU at BYU

Marriott Center, Provo, Ut.

Sat., Nov. 12, 6 p.m. PST

SPU at New Mexico

The Pit, Albuquerque, N.M.

Fri., Nov. 18, 7 p.m.

SPU v Cal State Monterey Bay

Brougham Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

Preseason Results

SPU 102, Another Level Blue Angels 79

Streaks & Such

Nine of Seattle Pacific's 16 20-win seasons have come with Jeff Hironaka on the coaching staff

Stat de jour

In 2005, the Falcons made their 16th NCAA tournament appearance and ninth in 12 years

GNAC Preseason Poll

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

Note: First-place votes in parentheses

beating Another Level Blue Angels, a collection of ex-collegians, 102-79. Bremerman led the way with 21 points and **Mike Bushmaker** (Sr., 6-7, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower) added 19 off the bench. In all, six players finished in double figures and, despite having only 12 practices, only 14 turnovers were committed. The Falcons shot just 8-28 outside the arc but their transition game helped elevate it to 47 percent overall.

Opponent & series notes. Seattle Pacific has never met either Mountain West Conference team. This is the team's first trip to Utah playing the Utes in 1990-91...McKay was a three-year starter for SPU from 1984-87 and still holds the single game record for steals (10). He ranks No. 3 for his career and is No. 5 in assists. Hironaka replaced McKay as the top aide to Ken Bone (now at Portland State) in 1991. Longtime volunteer assistant coach **George Parker** was on the staff both when McKay played and returned to coach in 1990.

Put-backs. Matzen, Bremerman, Binetti, Will and Williams started the preseason opener...Nine of Seattle Pacific's 16 20-win seasons have come with Hironaka on the coaching staff...Former Falcon Eric Sandrin was one of the final preseason cuts by the Sacramento Kings. He signed with the CBA Sioux Falls (SD) Skyforce Nov. 4. Sandrin, the starting center in 2001 and '02, played part of last season with the Harlem Globetrotters. His younger brother, Daniel, has signed to play of the KTG Stars in Korea...Bruce Zabukovec, a member of the 2000 Final Four team, is playing with the ABA New Mexico Style...Yusef Aziz is playing pro ball in Brazil...Seattle Pacific made over 50 percent of its field goals in 17 of its 20 wins last season and is 27-5 when doing so over the past two seasons. It was 13-1 last season when scoring at least 80 points...Only one opponent out-scored SPU during the second half in the last 20 games, with the Falcons averaging 8.8 points more than opponents over that span. In eight of the nine losses, they trailed by at least five at the break, with the average margin 12.4 points...SPU led the GNAC in free throw accuracy (.762) and was second in both field-goal percentage (.501) and field-goal percentage defense (.439). Individually, Bremerman was No. 2 in free throw percentage (.879). Binetti was No. 3 in three-point accuracy (.481) and steals (1.68)...The GNAC is tentatively scheduled to go with nine teams beginning in '06-07 since Humboldt State is moving to the CCAA...Freshmen Erik Bright, Rob Diederichs and Adam Wardell did not see action in the first exhibition and may redshirt.

SPU Coaches. In his first season **Jeff Hironaka** won more games (16) than all but one other first-year SPU coach, and he took a team to the NCAA tournament in only his third year—faster than any predecessor. His record entering this season is 50-33. 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 conference championships and qualified for eight NCAA tournaments, including a Final Four in 2000. Hironaka is the second Japanese-American head coach of a four-year collegiate program. **Brock Veltri** is in his second season as the chief assistant.

2005-06 Men's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos	Hgt	Yr	Exp	Hometown (High School/Last Coll.)
1	Adam Wardell	G	6-2	Fr	HS	Sedro Woolley, Wa. (Sedro Woolley)
2	Matt Birkle	G	6-2	Jr	1V	Anacortes, Wa. (Anacortes/Whatcom)
3	Jeff Knudson	F	6-7	Sr	3V	Mukilteo, Wa. (Kamiak)
4	Jared Moultrie	G	6-2	Jr	TR	West Point, Ut. (Clearfield/Salt Lake)
11	Tony Binetti ✓	G	6-1	Sr	3V	Enumclaw, Wa. (Enumclaw)
13	Mike Bushmaker	F	6-7	Sr	3V	Yakima, Wa. (Eisenhower)
15	Brian Lynch	G	6-1	Jr	TR	Missoula, Mt. (Great Falls/Montana)
20	Austin Yuen	G	5-8	Jr	2V	Mercer Island, Wa. (Mercer Island)
22	Chad Williams ✓	F	6-8	Sr	2V	Burlington, Wa. (B-Edison/Whatcom)
23	Tim Gabelein	F/C	6-6	Sr	2V	Langley, Wa. (South Whidbey)
30	Drew Matzen ✓	F	6-4	Jr	2V	Bothell, Wa. (Lynnwood)
32	Dustin Bremerman ✓	F/G	6-4	Jr	2V	Yakima, Wa. (Eisenhower)
34	Erik Bright	F/C	6-8	Fr	HS	Poulsbo, Wa. (King's West)
40	Robbie Will ✓	C	6-10	So	RS	Seattle, Wa. (O'Dea/Bellevue CC)
50	Rob Diederichs	F	6-8	Fr	HS	Shoreline, Wa. (Shorewood)

Head Coach: Jeff Hironaka

Assistant Coaches: Brock Veltri, Scott Reid, George Parker

✓ Projected starters

2005-06 Season Schedule

Date	Opponent	Res./Time
Nov. 1	AL BLUE ANGELS (Ex.)W, 102-79	
Nov. 10	at BYU (Exhib.)	6:00
Nov. 12	at New Mexico (Exhib.)	6:00
N. 18-19	Sodexho tip-Off Classic	
Nov. 18	NW Nazarene v CS San Bern.	3:00
	CAL ST. MONTEREY BAY	7:00
Nov. 19	NW Nazarene v CS Mont. Bay	3:00
	CS SAN BERNARDINO	7:00
Nov. 25-26	CSLA Classic (Los Angeles, Ca.)	
Nov. 25	SPU v CS Dominguez Hills	1:00
Nov. 26	SPU at Cal State L.A.	3:00
Dec. 3	Oak Harbor Freight Lines Challenge	
	HAWAII PACIFIC	7:00
Dec. 13	at Nevada	7:00
Dec. 17-18	High Desert Classic (Las Vegas, Nv.)	
Dec. 17	SPU v Missouri Southern	2:15
Dec. 18	SPU v Pittsburg State	12:00
Dec. 21	at Cal Poly Pomona	7:30
Dec. 31	NORTHWEST NAZARENE*	1:00
Jan. 5	at Western Oregon*	7:30
Jan. 7	at Humboldt State*	7:00
Jan. 12	ALASKA ANCHORAGE*	7:00
Jan. 14	ALASKA FAIRBANKS*	7:00
Jan. 19	at Central Washington*	7:00
Jan. 21	at Western Washington*	7:00
Jan. 26	SAINT MARTIN'S *	7:30
Jan. 28	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY *	3:30
Feb. 2	HUMBOLDT STATE*	7:00
Feb. 4	WESTERN OREGON *	3:00
Feb. 9	at Alaska Fairbanks*	8:30
Feb. 11	at Alaska Anchorage*	8:00
Feb. 16	WESTERN WASHINGTON *	7:30
Feb. 18	CENTRAL WASHINGTON *	7:00
Feb. 23	at Seattle University*	7:00
Feb. 25	at Saint Martin's*	7:00
Mar. 4	at Northwest Nazarene*	6:00
Mar. 10-13	NCAA West Regional	

2004-05 Season Leaders

Scoring

Jason Chivers	15.7
Jordan Lee	13.9
Tony Binetti ✓	13.4
Dustin Bremerman ✓	13.1

Rebounds

Jason Chivers	10.2
Chad Williams ✓	5.7

Assists

Tony Binetti ✓	4.4
Dustin Bremerman ✓	2.9

Steals

Tony Binetti ✓	1.67
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Blocked Shots

Jason Chivers	1.14
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Field Goal Percentage

Jason Chivers	.582
Tony Binetti ✓	.541

Three Point Percentage

Tony Binetti ✓	(38-79) .481
Jordan Lee	(58-124) .468

Free Throw Percentage

Ralph Steele	(52-57) .912
Dustin Bremerman ✓	(80-91) .879

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	82.2	35.5	.501	.762	.383
Opp.	76.2	34.4	.439	.738	.309

✓ Returnees

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	5 vs. Western Washington, 1/15/05	5 vs. Alderson-Broadus, 12/29/03; Western Wa., 1/15/05
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	11 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 2/19/05	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; Alaska Anchorage, 2/19/05	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
Free Throws	11 (of 11) vs. Puget Sound, 12/30/04; Alaska Anchorage, 2/19/05	11 (of 11) vs. UPS, 12/30/04; Alaska Anchorage, 2/19/05
11-Tony Binetti		
Points	26 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 1/20/05	26 vs. Alaska Anchorage, 1/20/05
Rebounds	10 vs. Humboldt State, 2/24/05	10 vs. Humboldt State, 2/24/05
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
Steals	5 vs. Humboldt State, 2/24/05	5 vs. Humboldt State, 2/24/05
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. Alaska Anchorage, 2/19/05; Seattle Univ., 3/5/05	1 vs. three teams; last Seattle Univ., 3/5/05
Assists	1 vs. Northwest Nazarene, 3/3/05	1 vs. Northwest Nazarene, 3/3/05
Steals	3 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04	3 vs. Pacific Lutheran, 12/10/04
22-Chad Williams		
Points	21 vs. Western Oregon, 2/26/05	21 vs. Western Oregon, 2/26/05
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