



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 16, 2007

Falcons Hit The Road In Stride, 2nd Place Will Power Extends Home String; NNU, Seattle U. Up Next

Fly & drive. It could be cause for celebration, this last trip by air during the men's basketball regular season. Following Seattle Pacific University's flight to Idaho's Northwest Nazarene, there will be nearly two months until the next possible folding of long legs and big bodies into those cramped middle seats and such. The Falcons (3-1, 10-5), winners in six of their last seven games, visit NNU (1-3, 6-9) Thursday night (Jan. 18), then return home and take the short, crosstown drive to Seattle University (1-2, 9-5) Saturday (Jan. 20). Afterwards, SPU plays four of the next five at home, beginning Jan. 25 against Saint Martin's.

Finding their way. Beginning with a season-ending injury sustained on the opening night of the season, Seattle Pacific has been struggling to find the rhythm exhibited during a successful preseason. Yet there are signs that things are settling down, with the Falcons growing in confidence during home wins over Western Oregon (86-74) and Western Washington (80-65) that pushed them into sole possession of second place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. They are now unbeaten in the last 10 games at Brougham Pavilion (7-0 this season) and venture to the road, where they have won two of the last three.

Signs of times. It's been a rollercoaster ride for Coach **Jeff Hironaka** and his squad the past couple months. Beating Division I Murray State and Cal Poly Pomona—and coming close against both Saint Mary's and San Diego State—propelled SPU to No. 4 in the nation by late November. December, however, was downer. The Falcons equaled their longest losing streak in three years, falling to Cal State San Bernardino, Central Missouri and Rollins in succession. It was no disgrace—those teams owning a combined record of 36-5 going into this week—but it certainly tested the SPU resolve. Four wins in a row, capped by the huge GNAC victory at Alaska Anchorage, slowly restored the players' confidence. Last week's wins were by the largest margins since Nov. 25 and featured second halves in which it out-scored opponents by a combined 26 points.

Will power, indeed. One player in particular seemed to be back in a groove last week. Center **Rob Will** (Jr., 6-10, Seattle, Wa./O'Dea) resembled the dominant inside force he became in last spring's West Regional, when he was voted the tournament's MVP. Will matched his season high with 18 points against Western Oregon but it was his board work—a career-high (and GNAC season-high) 15 rebounds—which spoke volumes. Will added another 18 points and nine boards versus Western Washington, and totaled seven blocked shots for the week. Seattle Pacific, which had been out-rebounded in eight of their previous nine outings, finished the week with a plus-14 in that category. In GNAC games it leads all teams with an average advantage of 4.2 rebounds.

Movin' on up. On the court, he's the quiet man in terms of audio. Go to the video, however, and there's plenty of material provided by **Dustin Bremerman** (Sr., 6-4, Yakima, Wa./Eisenhower). In some ways it was just another week on the hardwood: 42 points, 11 rebounds and perfect foul-shooting (18-18). But Bremerman's timing was impeccable. He scored 17 of his 26 (his best output in six weeks) in the second half against Western Washington. He has now converted 28 consecutive free throws over four games and leads the GNAC and ranks seventh in NCAA Division II accuracy at 93.9 percent (62-66). He's pacing the team in scoring (18.4) and moved into No. 3 on the school's career list (1544), surpassing Falcon Legends Howard Heppner (1521) and Jim Ballard (1530). Next up is Jeff McBroom (1655).

2006-07 MEN'S BASKETBALL

Quick Facts

2006-07 Record— 1-5 (3-1 GNAC)

Coach—Jeff Hironaka, 5th year

Coach's SPU Record— 86-44

This Week's Games

Thr., Jan. 18, 6 p.m. PST

SPU at Northwest Nazarene

Montgomery Field House, Nampa, Id.

Sat., Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

SPU at Seattle University

Connolly Center, Seattle, Wa.

Last Week's Scores

SPU 86, Western Oregon 74

at SPU 80, Western Washington 65

Streaks & Such

The Falcons have won six of their last seven games, including two of three on the road

Stat de jour

After being out-rebounded in eight of nine games, SPU was a plus-14 in two games last week and is the GNAC leader in conference game rebounding

GNAC Standings

	W	L	W	L
Saint Martin's	3	0	6	8
Seattle Pacific	3	1	10	5
Alaska Anchorage	2	1	11	3
Alaska Fairbanks	2	1	11	6
Western Washington	2	2	8	6
Central Washington	2	2	7	8
Seattle University	1	2	9	5
Northwest Nazarene	1	3	6	9
Western Oregon	0	4	5	10

NCAA Rankings

1. Winona State (Mn.)
2. Clayton State (Ga.)
3. Central Missouri

also

12. Cal State San Bernardino
24. Cal Poly Pomona
25. Alaska Anchorage

Bouncing back. Besides the Will-inspired resurgence on the boards, the biggest difference last week was the re-emergence of the bench. Hironaka considered his reserves one of the team's top strengths coming into the season and now the non-starters are again fulfilling that promise once more. Led by forward **Rob Diederichs** (Fr., 6-8, Shoreline, Wa./Shorewood) and guard **Marques Echols** (Jr., 6-2, Seattle, Wa./ Garfield-Peninsula CC), the reserves outscored their counterparts 44-21 last week. Diederichs has scored 34 in his last three games and Echols had five assists and hit some key free throws against the Vikings. A now-healthy **Casey Reed** (Jr., 6-5, Canby, Or./Canby-Navy) has provided quality relief for Will inside. He snared a season-high five rebounds in 12 minutes vs. WWU. Showing flashes of his star potential in the early stages of that game was **Brandon Larrieu** (Fr., 5-10, Puyallup, Wa./Franklin Pierce), slicing inside for a couple buckets.

Put-backs. With two more wins, Hironaka will move into No. 3 on the Seattle Pacific coaching victory list. Les Habegger (1957-74) leads with 267. Ken Bone (1990-02) had 251 and Keith Swagerty (1974-80) 87. Hironaka is 86-44, including a record of 56-20 the last two-plus seasons. He was the West Region coach of the year in 2006...SPU (7-0) and Western Oregon are the lone remaining GNAC teams unbeaten at home...Seattle Pacific is 2-2 against teams currently in the Div. II top 25, with wins over No. 24 Pomona and No. 25 Alaska Anchorage and losses to No. 3 Central Missouri and No. 12 San Bernardino...Will (98) is approaching 100 career blocks, and needs six more to become No. 3 on the career chart...The Falcons are still eighth in GNAC rebounding margin (-2.9) for all games and No. 2 in blocks (3.6). In conference games, they have held opponents to 25 percent shooting on three-pointers while hitting 7.5 treys per game on offense. Both figures lead the GNAC. Individually, Will is the blocks leader (2.3) and No. 6 in rebounding (6.6). Bremerman is No. 3 in scoring and needs six more consecutive free throws to tie the GNAC record of 34 in a row...Quietly, **JoJay Jackson** (Jr., 6-5, Fairfield, Ca./Vallejo-Solano JC) has become the team leader in three-point accuracy (.423), hitting 8 of 15 in the last four games... Bremerman is now ninth in GNAC career scoring...**Austin Yuen** (Sr., 5-8, Mercer Island, Wa.) saw his first action of the season last week after undergoing offseason knee surgery.

Opponent & series notes. Northwest Nazarene lost twice in Alaska last week and has dropped three of four overall. The Crusaders are No. 2 in GNAC shooting (.484) but managed just 36 percent up north. They are hitting 82 percent from the foul line. SPU leads the series 38-21, including a sweep last year in which the Falcons scored 234 points...Seattle University was rocked by two home losses last week when it was a minus-10 on the boards. The Redhawks, after earning a national ranking in December, have lost four of six. They allow only 69.6 points and make 8.6 steals per game (both lead the GNAC) but opponents are shooting 38 percent from outside the arc. Buoyed by the Div. I days, SU leads the series 45-38, but the Falcons are 32-13 since 1980 and have won four of the last five meetings.

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.

2006-07 Men's Basketball Roster

No	Name	Pos	Hgt	Yr	Exp	Hometown (High School/Last College)
1	Marques Echols	G	6-2	Jr	TR	Seattle, Wa. (Garfield/Peninsula CC)
3	Adam Wardell	G	6-2	Fr	RS	Sedro Woolley, Wa. (Sedro Woolley)
4	Jared Moultrie	G	6-2	Sr	1V	West Point, Ut. (Clearfield/Salt Lk CC)
20	Austin Yuen	G	5-8	Sr	3V	Mercer Island, Wa. (Mercer Island)
21	Casey Reed	F	6-5	So	TR	Canby, Or. (Canby/Navy)
22	Brandon Larrieu	G	5-10	Fr	HS	Puyallup, Wa. (Franklin Pierce)
23	Filip Popovic	C	6-7	Jr	TR	Montenegro, Serbia (Skyline CC)
30	Drew Matzen ✓	F	6-4	Sr	3V	Bothell, Wa. (Lynnwood)
32	Dustin Bremerman ✓	F/G	6-4	Sr	3V	Yakima, Wa. (Eisenhower)
33	Rob Diederichs	F	6-8	Fr	RS	Shoreline, Wa. (Shorewood)
34	JoJay Jackson ✓	F	6-5	Jr	TR	Fairfield, Ca. (Vallejo/Solano JC)
40	Robbie Will ✓	C	6-10	Jr	1V	Seattle, Wa. (O'Dea/Bellevue CC)
44	Brian Lynch ✓	G	6-1	RS	1V	Missoula, Mt. (Great Falls/Montana)
	Matthew Johnson	G	6-2	Fr	HS	Fontana, Ca. (Eastmont)
	Kahlil Mathews	G	6-2	Fr	HS	Seattle, Wa. (Mercer Is./Air Force)

Head Coach: Jeff Hironaka

Assistant Coaches: Brock Veltri, George Parker, Scott Reid, Adam Swinyard

✓ Projected starters

2006-07 Season Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time/Res.
Nov. 10-12	Shamrock Invitational (Moraga, Ca.)	
Nov. 10	at Saint Mary's	L, 60-71
Nov. 11	Murray State	W, 76-68
Nov. 12	San Diego State	L, 73-76
Nov. 17-18	SODEXHO TIP-OFF CLASSIC	
Nov. 17	CAL STATE L.A.	W, 85-67
Nov. 18	CAL POLY POMONA	W, 84-71
Nov. 24-25	Falcon Thanksgiving Classic (Las Vegas, Nv.)	
Nov. 24	UC San Diego	L, 52-62
Nov. 25	Cal St. Dominguez Hills	W, 84-65
Dec. 2	BYU HAWAII	W, 98-93
Dec. 12	at Cal State San Bernardino	L, 66-86
Dec. 15-16	High Desert Classic (Las Vegas, Nv.)	
Dec. 15	SPU v Central Missouri	L, 60-71
Dec. 16	SPU v Rollins	L, 75-88
Dec. 20	at Dixie State	W, 82-76
Dec. 29-30	OAK HARBOR FREIGHT LINES CLASSIC	
Dec. 29	CHEYNEY	W, 75-71
Dec. 30	DIXIE STATE	W, 71-67
Jan. 4	at Alaska Anchorage*	W, 68-65
Jan. 6	at Alaska Fairbanks*	L, 78-90
Jan. 11	WESTERN OREGON*	W, 86-74
Jan. 13	WESTERN WASHINGTON*	W, 80-65
Jan. 18	at Northwest Nazarene*	6:00
Jan. 20	at Seattle University*	7:00
Jan. 25	SAINT MARTIN'S*	7:00
Jan. 27	at Central Washington*	7:00
Feb. 1	NORTHWEST NAZARENE*	7:30
Feb. 3	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY*	3:30
Feb. 8	CENTRAL WASHINGTON*	7:00
Feb. 10	at Western Oregon*	7:00
Feb. 17	at Saint Martin's*	7:00
Feb. 22	ALASKA FAIRBANKS*	7:30
Feb. 24	ALASKA ANCHORAGE*	7:00
Mar. 1	at Western Washington*	7:00

*Great Northwest Athletic Conference games
All times are Pacific

2006-07 Season Leaders

Scoring

Dustin Bremerman	18.4
Rob Will	12.5
Rob Diederichs	9.9
Drew Matzen	9.4

Rebounds

Rob Will	6.6
JoJay Jackson	4.8

Assists

Brian Lynch	3.2
Drew Matzen	2.9

Steals

Brian Lynch	1.8
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Blocked Shots

Rob Will	2.3
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Field Goal Percentage

Rob Will	.535
Rob Diederichs	.534

Three-Point Percentage

JoJay Jackson	(22-52) .423
Marques Echols	(17-41) .415

Free Throw Percentage

Dustin Bremerman	(62-66) .939
Marques Echols	(24-29) .828

Team	Pts.	Reb	FG%	FT%	3P%
SPU	76.3	32.1	.473	.733	.374
Opp.	74.1	35.1	.454	.707	.356

Seattle Pacific Univ. 2006-07 Men
 Seattle Pacific Combined Team Statistics (as of Jan 13, 2007)
 All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES.....	(10-5)	(7-0)	(2-2)	(1-3)
CONFERENCE.....	(3-1)	(2-0)	(1-1)	(0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE.....	(7-4)	(5-0)	(1-1)	(1-3)

## 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								
32 Bremerman,Dustin...	15-15	510 34.0	91-184	.495	32-90	.356	62-66	.939	17	37	54	3.6	28	2	35	34	2	5	276	18.4
40 Will,Rob.....	15-15	398 26.5	77-144	.535	0-2	.000	33-51	.647	27	72	99	6.6	43	2	32	37	35	11	187	12.5
33 Diederichs,Rob.....	15-0	257 17.1	55-103	.534	19-46	.413	19-35	.543	11	33	44	2.9	23	0	34	18	2	15	148	9.9
30 Matzen,Drew.....	15-15	435 29.0	51-121	.421	31-79	.392	8-15	.533	13	38	51	3.4	32	1	44	16	3	14	141	9.4
34 Jackson,JoJay.....	15-15	387 25.8	49-99	.495	22-52	.423	18-28	.643	14	58	72	4.8	46	3	31	31	6	12	138	9.2
01 Echols,Marques.....	15-0	331 22.1	31-77	.403	17-41	.415	24-29	.828	12	37	49	3.3	25	0	39	26	1	5	103	6.9
44 Lynch,Brian.....	15-14	422 28.1	26-61	.426	13-34	.382	21-29	.724	11	20	31	2.1	39	2	48	32	1	27	86	5.7
21 Reed,Casey.....	11-0	81 7.4	9-17	.529	0-1	.000	3-4	.750	3	11	14	1.3	15	0	1	7	4	2	21	1.9
22 Larrieu,Brandon....	15-0	74 4.9	6-24	.250	0-10	.000	9-10	.900	2	3	5	0.3	12	0	2	12	0	1	21	1.4
23 Popovic,Filip.....	13-0	70 5.4	8-17	.471	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	12	6	18	1.4	16	1	6	5	0	1	16	1.2
04 Moultrie,Jared.....	1-1	18 18.0	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	1	3	3.0	0	0	3	2	0	2	4	4.0
03 Wardell,Adam.....	11-0	40 3.6	0-6	.000	0-1	.000	3-4	.750	0	4	4	0.4	9	0	2	3	0	2	3	0.3
20 Yuen,Austin.....	2-0	2 1.0	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
TEAM.....									18	20	38	2.5	0		1					
Total.....	15	3025	405-856	.473	134-358	.374	200-273	.733	142	340	482	32.1	288	11	277	224	54	97	1144	76.3
Opponents.....	15	3025	395-871	.454	84-236	.356	237-335	.707	180	346	526	35.1	271	-	220	217	45	110	1111	74.1

TEAM STATISTICS	SPU	OPP	DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	ATTEND
SCORING.....	1144	1111	11/17/06	CAL STATE L.A.	W	85-67	717
Points per game.....	76.3	74.1	11/18/06	CAL POLY POMONA	W	84-71	818
Scoring margin.....	+2.2	-	11/24/06	vs U. of California - San Diego	L	52-62	157
FIELD GOALS-ATT.....	405-856	395-871	11/25/06	vs Cal. State - Dominguez Hills	W	84-65	119
Field goal pct.....	.473	.454	12/02/06	BYU HAWAII	W OT	98-93	656
3 POINT FG-ATT.....	134-358	84-236	12-12-06	at Cal State San Bernardino	L	66-86	347
3-point FG pct.....	.374	.356	12/15/06	vs Central Missouri	L	60-71	41
3-pt FG made per game..	8.9	5.6	12/16/06	vs Rollins	L	75-88	47
FREE THROWS-ATT.....	200-273	237-335	12/20/06	at Dixie State College	W	82-76	1351
Free throw pct.....	.733	.707	12/29/06	CHEYNEY	W	75-71	317
REBOUNDS.....	482	526	12/30/06	DIXIE STATE	W	71-67	517
Rebounds per game.....	32.1	35.1	*01/04/07	at Alaska Anchorage	W	68-65	1039
Rebounding margin.....	-2.9	-	*01/06/07	at Alaska Fairbanks	L	78-90	376
ASSISTS.....	277	220	*01/11/07	WESTERN OREGON	W	86-74	473
Assists per game.....	18.5	14.7	*01/13/07	WESTERN WASHINGTON	W	80-65	1103
TURNOVERS.....	224	217					
Turnovers per game.....	14.9	14.5					
Turnover margin.....	-0.5	-					
Assist/turnover ratio..	1.2	1.0					
STEALS.....	97	110					
Steals per game.....	6.5	7.3					
BLOCKS.....	54	45					
Blocks per game.....	3.6	3.0					
WINNING STREAK.....	2	-					
Home win streak.....	7	-					
ATTENDANCE.....	4601	3477					
Home games-Avg/Game....	7-657	4-778					
Neutral site-Avg/Game..	-	4-91					

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	Total
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Seattle Pacific.....	543	587	14	- 1144
Opponents.....	534	568	9	- 1111