

PROGRAM HISTORY

Important Dates

Mar. 7, 2000

President Eaton announces women's soccer as the 12th varsity sport.

Oct. 17, 2000

Bobby Bruch is chosen as the Falcons' first head coach

Feb. 7, 2001

SPU signs its first recruit to a national letter of intent

Aug. 25, 2001

Andrea Larsen's historic first goal earns 1-1 tie in inaugural game at Point Loma Nazarene

Aug. 28, 2001

Larsen contributes a goal and assist while goalie Jennifer Hull makes eight saves in initial win, 3-0 at Vanguard

Sept. 8, 2001

Nearly 500 fans cheer Falcons to 2-1 win over Central Washington in first home game

Oct. 17, 2002

First win over a CCAA team, defeating Grand Canyon 3-0

Nov. 5, 2002

Megan Lienhard's overtime goal beats Seattle University 2-1 for its ninth straight win and gives SPU the GNAC title

Feb. 24, 2003

Chuck Sekyra named Seattle Pacific's new head coach

Historical Firsts

Starting lineup: Jennifer Hull; Kaite Lim, Erin Roberts, Alissa Peterson, Leila Stalnaker; BreeAnn Milligan, Jessica Henson, Melissa Ellingson, Anna-Kate Peterson; Andrea Larsen, LeRin Farrison.

Goal: Andrea Larsen (unassisted) 50:53, at Point Loma Nazarene, Aug. 25, 2001

Assist: Andrea Larsen (to Jessica Henson), 32:10, at Vanguard, Aug. 28, 2001

Shutout: Jennifer Hull, at Vanguard, Aug. 28, 2001

Victory: Seattle Pacific 3, Vanguard 0, Aug. 28, 2001

Loss: at Cal State Dominguez Hills 5, Seattle Pacific 2, Aug. 31, 2001

Seattle Pacific Women's Soccer History

Perhaps no other sport in the existence of Seattle Pacific University athletics generated as much fanfare as the decision to add women's soccer as a 12th varsity program. An overflow audience of more than a hundred students, staff and community representatives converged on Falcon Lounge on the afternoon of March 7, 2000, to hear President Philip Eaton announce the decision.

It was an announcement which had been some 20 years in the making. Initially the obstacle was the lack of a suitable facility. The men's team rented various fields and stadia from 1968-96. However, with the opening of Interbay Stadium in 1997 the effort to create a women's program intensified.

Women's soccer was designated as the next new sport in the athletic department's five-year plan of 1997. Funding for the program's implementation was approved by the Board of Trustees in the winter of 2000. Eaton and athletic director Tom Box then enlisted men's coach Cliff McCrath and longtime U.S. World Cup star and Seattle native Michelle Akers to help shape the program.

"I am tremendously excited about the opportunity this offers our women students," said Eaton. "As you know, our history in men's soccer under Cliff McCrath's leadership has been outstanding. We look forward to establishing a similar tradition in the women's program."

The sport first gained a foothold on the SPU campus in the Eighties, when a women's team prospered as a club

competing in the Northwest Collegiate Soccer Conference. With the dissolution of the NCSC after the 1993 season it was no longer possible for school-sponsored clubs to regularly schedule games with local varsity teams.

It was a former player of McCrath's, Bobby Bruch, who was selected as the first head coach on Oct. 17, 2000. Bruch immediately began the process of recruiting players and building a national-caliber program.

Seattle Pacific opened its inaugural season Aug. 25, 2001 by tying Point Loma Nazarene 1-1 on the road and then scored its first win three days later at Vanguard. The Falcons won their home opener Sept. 8, 2001 by defeating fellow Great Northwest Athletic Conference member Central Washington 2-1 at Interbay Stadium and they finished fourth in the final standings with a record of 8-10-1.

That was only the beginning, for in 2002 SPU won the GNAC title on the final day of the season when the Falcons defeated Seattle University 2-1 in overtime. It was their ninth straight win and, with an unbeaten run of 11 games, they finished 13-4-2.

Going into the 2003 season, the program's future is in the capable hands of Chuck Sekyra, who succeeded Bruch as head coach. Sekyra, an SPU alum and formerly an assistant at Washington, had played on two NCAA championship teams in the mid-Eighties.



The Falcons' inaugural home game was officiated by World Cup and WUSA referee Sandra Hunt

AWARDS & ALL-TIME RESULTS

SPU Letterwinners

Berke, Chrissy 2002
 Carlaw, Whitney 2002
 Diaz, Noelle 2002
 Ellingson, Melissa 2001
 Everson, Michelle 2002
 France, Karen 2001-02
 Farrison, LeRin 2001-02
 Henson, Jessica 2001-02
 Henry, Morgan 2002
 Hull, Jennifer 2001-02
 Kolb, Jean 2002
 Larsen, Andrea 2001
 Lienhard, Megan 2002
 Lim, Katie 2001-02
 Lovejoy, Shannon 2002
 Melby, Sarah 2002
 Milligan, BreeAnn 2001
 Murphy, Brianna 2002
 Nydam, Katie 2002
 Ocampo, Angie 2001
 Peterson, Alissa 2001
 Peterson, Anna-Kate 2001
 Pierce, Erin 2002
 Richards, Sarah 2001
 Roberts, Erin 2001
 Ruiz, Nicole 2002
 Sanders, Michelle 2001-02
 Sciotto, Bianca 2002
 Stalnaker, Leila 2001-02
 Struve, Naomi 2002
 Teague, Allison 2002
 Walker, Laura 2001-02
 Wood, Tara 2001

Postseason Honors

All-Conference (GNAC)

First Team

Andrea Larsen, f 2001
 Michelle Sanders, d 2001, 2002
 Erin Roberts, d 2001
 Shannon Lovejoy, m 2002

Second Team

Megan Lienhard, m 2002
 Katy Nydam, f 2002

GNAC Co-Freshman of the Year

2002 Shannon Lovejoy

GNAC Coach of the Year

2002 Bobby Bruch

Academic All-Conference

2001 Anna-Kate Peterson
 Sarah Richards
 Erin Roberts
 2002 Karen France
 Jessica Henson
 Jennifer Hull
 Katie Lim
 Michelle Sanders

Team Awards

Most Valuable

2001 Andrea Larsen
 2002 Shannon Lovejoy

Most Improved

2001 Michelle Sanders
 2002 Chrissy Berke

Most Inspirational

2001 LeRin Farrison
 2002 LeRin Farrison

All-Time Results

2001 (8-10-1)

Coach: **Bobby Bruch**

Captain: **Erin Roberts**

1	at Point Loma Nazarene	1
3	at Vanguard	0
2	at Cal State Dominguez Hills	5
2	at Northwest Nazarene	3
2	Central Washington	1
3	at Humboldt State	2
0	at Notre Dame de Namur	1*
0	at UC Davis	1
1	at Sonoma State	2
0	San Francisco State	2
2	Western Oregon	1*
2	at Western Washington	1
3	Western Washington	1
0	at Seattle University	1
0	at Central Washington	1
2	Humboldt State	1
6	Northwest Nazarene	0
0	Seattle University	3
1	at Western Oregon	2*

2002 (13-4-2)

Coach: **Bobby Bruch**

Captains: **Nicole Ruiz, LeRin Farrison**

0	at Sonoma State	1
2	at San Francisco State	2**
0	at Humboldt State	3
3	Whitworth	1
1	at Western Oregon	3
2	Norte Dame de Namur	0
4	Northwest Nazarene	0
1	Seattle University	2
3	at Western Washington	2*
1	CSU Dominguez Hills	1**
2	at Central Washington	1
7	Carroll College	1
2	Humboldt State	1
3	Grand Canyon	0
5	Western Oregon	1
9	at Northwest Nazarene	0
1	Western Washington	0**
3	Central Washington	0
2	at Seattle University	1**

Legend

Forfeit to SPU

* Overtime

** Double overtime

+ Overtime/Tiebreaker

Note: Tiebreaker results were recorded officially as wins or losses until 1991, when each team was credited with a tie

Home Sites

Interbay Field

2001-