



(03.04.11)

*Kevin Sakuda Returns to the Northwest and Joins the Coaching Staff at Washington Rush*

Washington Rush Soccer club would like to welcome Kevin Sakuda as the newest member of the highly accomplished Washington Rush coaching staff effective immediately.

Sakuda, most recently a starting defender and team captain for the Austin Aztex, joins Washington Rush after eight professional seasons and will serve as a director and team coach. Prior to playing for the Aztex he competed for the Montreal Impact in 2009. Sakuda also played and helped lead the Seattle Sounders to USL-Division 1 Championships in 2005 and 2007 starting in over 150 consecutive games during his six seasons with the Sounders from 2003 to 2008. He was chosen in the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the 2002 MLS Super Draft by the original San Jose Earthquakes.

At the collegiate level, Sakuda was a two-time Team Defensive Player of the Year, starting all 82 games at Duke University which won the 1999 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship. Sakuda was also named in 2002 to the Second Team All Atlantic Coast Conference while serving as the Duke Blue Devil's team captain. Notably Kevin was awarded a spot two times on the NSCAA/Adidas All-Region Team as well as earning 4 years on the Atlantic Coast Conference Academic Honor Roll.

Sakuda, who was a US Youth National Team player, coached in Seattle, Montreal, California and Austin and is a USSF "A" license candidate. "I am excited to be returning to the Northwest and joining the Washington Rush staff. I look forward to my new role within the club. It's an honor to be able to give back to the game and play a part in helping young players develop as players and people," said Kevin Sakuda.

Washington Rush Technical Director Ben Somoza played four years of professional soccer with Kevin and had this to say about the new hire for Rush "I am ecstatic that Kevin will be joining our staff this coming year. When you add someone that has US Youth National Team, collegiate and professional playing experience combined with the communication skills and coaching background like he has, it's a great day for our club. I know the families and players of Rush will benefit from

having Kevin around.”

He will be coaching teams, offering Private Training and be involved in the implementation of Washington Rush’s new Technical Training Program.

For more information on tryout s and other programs offered at Washington Rush Soccer Club please visit our website at: [www.washingtonrush.com](http://www.washingtonrush.com)