

Lev Kirshner

Entering his fourth season at the helm of the San Diego State men's soccer program, Lev Kirshner has steered the Aztecs into position to return to the national spotlight. In 2001, Kirshner's second season, the Aztecs were in contention for the conference title and finished the year 7-9-1 overall against some of the country's best teams. Kirshner had his squad prepared for a



return to national prominence in 2002, but the team was not able to recover from a rash of injuries at the beginning of the season.

Kirshner has restored momentum to the program for the upcoming season by bringing in his best recruiting class to date. The 13 members of

the new class bring athleticism, speed, and toughness to give the program a fresh start for its push to the top. In addition to the newcomers, the Aztecs return six starters and several key players from injury, giving Kirshner the confidence that this season's turnaround will be dramatic.

Kirshner has plenty of experience in turning around programs, as he boasts a head coaching career that has seen him help teams make big strides in quick fashion.

He coached the women of Cañada College (Redwood City, Calif.) from 1992-1995. During that time he took a team that had never won a conference game prior to his arrival and led it to a 16-1-3 record and a trip to the California state quarterfinals in his third year. For his efforts, he was named the Coast Conference Coach of the Year. He also served as the men's assistant at Cañada during that time and helped with their run to the state quarterfinals in 1992 and 1994.

From there, he moved to a head coaching position at Ohlone College (Fremont, Calif.) in the fall of 1995. At Ohlone, he helped take a team from a last-place league finish the previous season to a No. 15 state ranking in his first year.

In his first season at the helm for SDSU, Kirshner's team improved its win total from the previous season despite playing one of the most difficult schedules in recent years, including matches against top-ranked UCLA and perennial west coast powers Washington, Portland and San Diego. His 2001 squad followed up by recording the program's best record since 1997 with a season that came within one victory of a MPSF regular-season championship.

Kirshner's philosophy is that talented players and top-notch competition go hand-in-hand, so he wants his SDSU teams to be characterized by their success against quality opponents.

"When you start stepping up your competition you need better players, and those better players want better competition," Kirshner said. "I think that the two have complemented each other well and put us in position to now, not only play those teams, but actually beat them."

Before taking over the Aztecs' head spot two years ago, Kirshner spent three seasons as an assistant coach for the SDSU men's program under long-time head coach Chuck Clegg.

Prior to his arrival at SDSU, Kirshner served as the men's assistant coach at his alma mater, Rutgers. Kirshner assisted the Scarlet Knights to the round of 16 at the 1996 NCAA Tournament and a final ranking of No. 13 in the country.

As a player at Rutgers, Kirshner experienced the program's 1987 NCAA quarterfinal appearance, the 1989 NCAA semifinal loss to Virginia and a runner-up finish in the 1990 championship game. He received his undergraduate degree in communications in 1991 and is listed as one of the program's top 20 alumni.

Following his collegiate career, Kirshner represented the United States in 1993, winning a bronze medal for the U.S. National Maccabiah team. In 1997, he returned to Israel as captain of the U.S. team, the only squad to defeat eventual gold medalist Brazil.

One of 250 domestic and international players to be assessed for the inaugural Major League Soccer draft in 1995, Kirshner also had a stint in the USISL. During that year, he trained with and played in several reserve games for the San Jose Clash of the MLS.

Kirshner keeps in tune with the west coast's most talented young soccer products by working with the Region IV Olympic Development Program (ODP) and lending his knowledge to some of the country's finest young players. Most recently, he served as the interim head coach of the national runner-up west team during the 2001 U.S. Regional Championship and also served as an assistant coach during the team's undefeated April 2002 Tour of Australia.

He worked as both an assistant and head coach with the California ODP under-23 men's team during 1995 and 1996. He led those squads to consecutive western regional championships and a third-place finish at the 1995 Donnelly Cup. He also won a western regional championship with the under-15 ODP Northern California state team and served

as the head coach of the 1984 age group.

Kirshner has been selected to coach the USA Maccabi Pan-American soccer team this December in Santiago, Chile. His squad will face the likes of Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela in the international competition.

Kirshner also gives back to the local soccer community through his involvement with the local Hotspurs Soccer Club, for which he was named Director of Soccer Operations last year.

He also has been a successful coach at the club level as he led the girls' under-19 Tri-Valley Stars team to the state cup title and regional semifinals in 1995. The following year he took the Juventus Eagles boys under-16 squad to the state semifinals.

Kirshner owns a USSF A-License, which is the highest license attainable for soccer coaches in the U.S. He also received the NSCAA Premiere Badge with distinguished honors, the highest accolade provided by the organization.

In his time away from soccer, Kirshner enjoys reading biographies of coaches. He is a fan of all sports, and an avid golfer and resides in Pacific Beach. He was recently inducted to the first Hall of Fame class at his alma mater, Mission San Jose High School.



► Kirshner Coaching Ledger

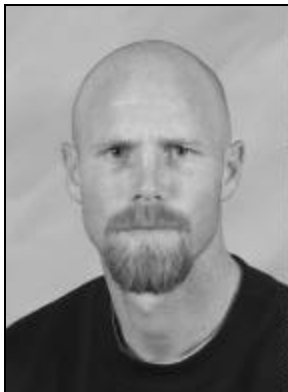
Head Coach, San Diego State (2000-Present)									
Year	Overall			Mountain Pacific Sports Federation				Place	Note
	W	L	T	W	L	T			
2000	6	12	1	2	4	1	T-6th/PD	► Third head coach in SDSU soccer history	
2001	7	9	4	3	2	2	4th	► SDSU's best record since 1997	
2002	4	13	2	0	5	1	7th	► Five players earn MPSF academic honors	
Totals	17	34	7	5	11	4			

Previous Experience			Note
Year	Position	Team	
1997-99	San Diego State, Men's Assistant Coach	► Assisted SDSU's winningest coach Chuck Clegg	
1996	Rutgers, Men's Assistant Coach	► Made NCAA Sweet 16; Peaked at No. 4	
1995	Ohlone (Calif.) College, Men's Head Coach	► Posted a 14-7-4 record in 1995	
1992-95	Cañada (Calif.) College, Women's Head Coach	► '94 conference coach of the year; 16-1-3 in '95	
1992-95	Cañada (Calif.) College, Men's Asst. Coach	► Calif. state quarterfinalist in '92 and '94	
1991	Ohlone (Calif.) College, Men's Assistant Coach	► Made state playoffs for the first time in 6 yrs.	

Aztec Assistant Coaches

Men's
STATE
SOCCER

MATT HALL



*Assistant Coach
Fourth Season
U. of San Diego '01*

Matt Hall enters his fourth season as an assistant with the San Diego State men's soccer program and will primarily handle the duties of goalkeeping coach. With Hall's assistance, the Aztecs have become known for their great goalkeeping pedigree as SDSU net minders have earned all-MPSF honors in each of the last three seasons.

sons.

Hall is a familiar face to SDSU soccer fans, having spent three seasons (1996-98) defending the Aztecs' net and beginning the Aztecs' recent tradition of nationally-renowned goalkeepers.

Hall is listed third on the school's saves in a season list, recording 89 during the 1998 campaign. Hall assisted Brian Barnes in goal for each of the years that bettered his single season total. Barnes recorded 90 saves in 2000 and 98 saves last season under the tutelage of Hall. Hall is also second on SDSU's career saves list with 213, behind Barnes.

In June 1998, Hall represented SDSU at the adidas Summer League, a prestigious camp designed for the nation's top collegiate players. He was one of 15 goalkeepers invited to participate in the clinic from across the country.

Hall completed his undergraduate degree at the University of San Diego in 2001. He resides in Vista, with his wife Kelly.

DAVE SIRACUSA



*Assistant Coach
Third Season
Sonoma State '01*

Dave Siracusa begins his third year with the San Diego State program after being named to the position in August 2001. He boasts more than 26 years of experience in organized soccer.

Siracusa handles recruiting and fundraising, as well as organizing camps and the program's community service efforts.

Prior to arriving at SDSU, he served as the men's and women's head coach at Cal State Stanislaus. Siracusa took over the dual head coaching role in 1999 after spending the 1998 campaign building CSUS's new women's program. He was hired as head women's coach in August 1998 and given the task of fielding a team for the fall season. In less than two

months, he recruited 22 athletes.

Before his stint at CSU Stanislaus, Siracusa served one year as an assistant at Sonoma State. In 1997, the Cossacks finished with a 14-4-2 mark, earning a berth in the NCAA tournament and closed the season ranked eighth nationally. The team also produced two All-Americans.

Siracusa also has extensive experience with high school and club teams. He served as head coach of the Oakdale Premier under-18 men's club team and was active in the California Olympic Development Program. He was also the coaching director for Sebastapol United Soccer Club in Northern California from 1995-98. Locally, Siracusa serves as associate director of soccer operations for the Hotspurs Soccer Club.

Siracusa earned his degree from Sonoma State in 2001 and is currently working towards his master's degree in organizational and sports psychology. He resides in San Diego with his wife, Dena, and daughter, Mia Rose.

RENE MIRAMONTES

*Technical Director
Third Season
San Diego State '81*

Rene Miramontes enters his third year with the San Diego State men's soccer program and will again advise the team on the technical aspects of the game.

A former SDSU standout, Miramontes was a four-year letterwinner with the Aztecs in 1976-77 and 1979-80 as a defender. He captained the 1979-80 teams that achieved a combined record of 26-7-4, before moving on to play semi-professionally for two years with the San Diego Internationals of the Western Alliance League.

Miramontes has served as a soccer coach, instructor and mentor since he was named an assistant coach at Cuyamaca College in 1986. That same year, he became the coaching director for the United Soccer Association in El Cajon. Miramontes, who was born in Los Angeles and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico before moving to San Diego as a youth, served as Cuyamaca's men's assistant for eight years before he became head coach from 1994-95.

In 1993, Miramontes earned the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's National Coach of the Year award and also received both regional and state coach of the year awards from U.S. Soccer's Youth Association. Miramontes was named U.S. Soccer's National Hispanic Coaching Coordinator in 1995.

Miramontes was an assistant coach for the Colorado Rapids of Major League Soccer from 1997-2000. During his tenure he assisted the Rapids to a 63-61-4 mark over four full seasons.

Miramontes has held a U.S.S.F. A License, the highest license attainable for U.S. coaches, since 1988. He currently serves as director and lead instructor at La Mesa-based Advanced Soccer Concepts.

Rene lives in San Diego with his wife, Liz, and his two sons, Alex (18) and Eric (14).