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### Rattlers, Assistant Coaches agree on contract extensions

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Posted by Joe Pequeno

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PHOENIX (CBS5) - The Arizona Rattlers coaching staff will continue to remain at the helm of the Arena Football League world champions.

The team has announced the signing of assistant coaches Kani Kauahi and Dave Ewart to contract extensions. Kevin Guy, general manager and head coach, recently agreed to a two-year contract extension after leading the Rattlers to a third consecutive ArenaBowl championship in August.

"Kani has done an outstanding job for us and has been a big part of [helping](#) us win three championships," Guy said. "Kani does a great job game planning and teaching technique."

"We appreciate his hard work and dedication for the Rattlers organization."

Kauahi, assistant head coach, begins his eighth season with the Rattlers. Under his guidance, Arizona's offensive line fiercely protected quarterback Nick Davila, the AFL's MVP in 2014, giving up a League-low seven sacks (tied with the Philadelphia Soul).

The Hawaii native spent the early portion of his professional coaching career working with teams in the Canadian Football League, including the Hamilton Tiger-Cats (2006), Ottawa Renegades (2002-05) and BC Lions (1998-2000). He also logged one season with the San Francisco Demons (2001) of the XFL.

Kauahi began his coaching career in 1995 as the offensive line coach at Mesa Community [College](#). He also served as the assistant strength and conditioning coach for the Arizona Cardinals (1996-97).

After playing college football at Arizona State [University](#) and the University of Hawaii, Kauahi spent 11 years as a center in the National Football League – twice with the Phoenix Cardinals (1993, 1989-91). He also played for the Kansas City Chiefs (1992), Green Bay Packers (1988) and Seattle Seahawks (1982-86).

Ewart, defensive coordinator, begins his 22<sup>nd</sup> year coaching in Arena Football, his second with Arizona.

Under Ewart's guidance, Arizona's defensive line recorded 25 sacks during the regular season in 2014.

The unit turned up the heat in the playoffs, totaling seven sacks and 12 quarterback hurries in three games against the Portland Thunder (quarterfinal), San Jose SaberCats (semifinal) and Cleveland Gladiators (ArenaBowl XXVII).

"Dave has been a great addition to our program," Guy said. "His work ethic and knowledge of [teaching](#) the game was instrumental in helping develop our players and our continued success."

"We are very excited that both coaches have decided to continue to be a part of the Arizona Rattlers."

Ewart spent the previous three years as the head coach of the Tampa Bay Storm, leading the team to the American Conference semifinals in 2013 against the Jacksonville Sharks. He also served eight years as an assistant to the late Tim Marcum, AFL Hall of Fame coach. Ewart was named the Storm's sixth head coach in team history on Feb. 17, 2011.

Ewart's 2011 team recorded an AFL-record 41 sacks. As an assistant in 2010, his defensive line racked up the second-most sacks (29) in the league as the Storm went on to compete in ArenaBowl XXIII.

After serving as an assistant coach at East Tennessee State and Glenville State College in the early 1990s, Ewart began his professional coaching career in 1994 with the Cleveland Thunderbolts. He also spent time with the St. Louis Stampede (1995-96), Texas Terror (1997), Florida Bobcats (1998, 2000-01) and New England Sea Wolves (1999).

Ewart attended Salem International University, where he played on the offensive line from 1987-88 before transferring to East Tennessee State. He twice was an All-Southern Conference selection and earned Division I-AA All-American honors during his time with the Buccaneers.

Arizona turned in one of the most dominating seasons in AFL history in 2014. The Rattlers rolled up 14 straight victories – the best start in League history and the longest winning streak in a single season. The team also had won 18 games in a row dating back to 2013, a League record for the longest overall winning streak.

The Rattlers averaged an AFL-leading 63.9 points per game, scoring 70 points or more 10 times, including a season-high 83 points against the LA KISS (83-47) in Week 15. They also led the League with 164 total touchdowns.

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