



May, 2023

Coach Suzuki retirement

Dear Suzuki san, congratulations for 28 years as coach of the Aisin/Mikawa Seahorses.

Personally, I want to thank you for your service and vast contributions to the basketball world. I feel a sense of pride and honor as the only player who has shared all 6 league titles and 9 Emperors Cup championships that you have accumulated. I was also able to watch the team grow from humble beginnings to the most feared team in Japanese basketball history. This doesn't happen without a great leader.

I not only called you coach, I called you friend. I've had many great coaches, including UCLA and NBA, but you were the first coach who showed that you genuinely cared about me as a person. For the first time in my career, I was able to be myself on the court, which is one of the main reasons I was able to flourish in Japan. Thank you.

You have retired, but your legacy will live on for many years to come. Japanese basketball is growing and its because of great coaches and leaders like yourself. Please continue to support and contribute to the advancement and growth of Japanese basketball.

JR Sakuragi