



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Sue Semrau, Head Coach

I'll never forget the phone call.

Hearing that my rising sophomore Ronalda Pierce was heading to the hospital, hours after leaving our practice gym with a smile on her face, with a grim prospect of surviving was too much to handle. She passed away in the early morning hours of June 8, 2004. We later learned that Ronalda suffered from Marfan Syndrome.

Ronalda was everything you want in a player. She was determined, selfless, and full of joy. She loved the game of basketball. She had a bright future on and off the court. And she left us far too early. It is for that very reason that it is vital to develop a higher awareness of Marfan Syndrome and provide people with a chance for early detection. We honor Ronalda's life each off-season by awarding the Ronalda Pierce Heart Award to the player on our team that best exemplifies Ronalda's persevering and determined heart.

It is even more important to honor Ronalda by pushing for early detection of Marfan Syndrome. I hope you will join me in raising awareness in order to prevent more unnecessary tragedy. This is an extremely significant cause, and I – and Ronalda's family – are thankful for your thoughts, prayers, and considerations.

Coach Sue