

# sue semrau

California-San Diego '85

HEAD COACH

EIGHTH YEAR



***"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst...a spark that creates extraordinary results."***

For Seminole head coach Sue Semrau, a positive outlook with a positive attitude will be essential as she embarks on her eighth season at the helm of the Florida State program. While the Florida State women's basketball team has made great strides on the court in recent years, it has been dealt more than its share of heartache off of the court, especially over the past two years. Semrau, however, has chosen to respectfully move forward and will rely on her faith and her strength as she leads the Florida State women's basketball program onward as well.

***"True leaders are not those who strive to be first but those who are first to strive and who give their all for the success of the team. True leaders are first to see the need, envision the plan, and empower the team for action. By the strength of the leader's commitment, the power of the team is unleashed."***

Semrau has tried to pattern her coaching philosophies after coaches that she admires and respects. One of those coaches is Florida State's very own Bobby Bowden. Sure, who wouldn't want to imitate the actions of a coaching legend? But what people may not realize is that when Coach Bowden arrived in Tallahassee in 1976, he was facing a situation that was very similar to what Semrau faced when she came to FSU in 1997. The Seminole football team had won just four games combined in the two years before Bowden arrived. The Seminole women's basketball team had won just five games and had gone 0-16 in the ACC the season prior to Semrau's arrival. Both had huge challenges ahead of them and both committed themselves to revitalizing their respective programs. Bowden's success speaks for itself. He



## SEMRAU FILE

**FSU/CAREER RECORD:** 92-110 (7 years)

### COACHING STOPS:

Occidental College (Los Angeles, CA) — Head Coach/Assistant Athletic Director (1987-90)

Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, IL) — Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator (1990-93)

University of Wisconsin (Madison, WI) — Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator (1994-97)

Florida State University — Head Coach (1997-present)

**2001 ACC COACH OF THE YEAR**

took a football program that FSU was considering discontinuing and turned it into a national power. In seven seasons, Semrau has taken a program from the cellar of the Atlantic Coast Conference and turned it into a program that is respected not only in the state of Florida and in the ACC, but in the nation as well.

Semrau has definitely put Florida State women's basketball back on the map. She and her staff have pounded the pavement in the recruiting department and have secured three recruiting classes ranked in the top 10 nationally.

The daunting task that faced Semrau when she was named Florida State's third head coach in as many years certainly would have persuaded others to run the other way, but not Semrau. She had a passion and a desire to build and she wasn't going to let anything get in her way.

"I've always said you have to see the invisible, to do the impossible," she said upon her hiring in July of 1997.

Now, Florida State is wreaking the benefits of Semrau's determination. The Seminoles have made three post season appearances in the past four years, been nationally-ranked and have twice finished in the top four in the ever-challenging ACC. The Tribe's back-to-back WNIT appearances in 2003 and 2004 marked the first time since the 1990 and 1991 seasons that FSU participated in back-to-back postseason play.

Over the past two years, Semrau has guided the program to many firsts, including defeating Clemson at Clemson for the first time in FSU history. In fact, FSU had beaten Clemson just once in 24 tries, and not since the 1992, prior to the 2002-03 season and has now swept the Tigers in back-to-back years. Last season, the Seminoles earned their first ever victory at Virginia. Having never beaten the Cavaliers until the 2000-01 season, FSU now has four victories over the ACC-foe. The Tribe has also become somewhat of a thorn in Duke's side over the past few years. When Semrau guided the Seminoles to an 80-74 win over the No. 2-ranked Blue Devils on February 4, 2004, it was not only the highest ranked opponent FSU had ever beaten, but it snapped Duke's 51-ACC game winning streak. Furthermore, two of Duke's last three ACC losses have come at the hands of the Seminoles.

Florida State had a breakout season in 2000-01 as Semrau led the Seminoles to a No. 25 final ranking with a 19-12 record, a third-place finish in the ACC and its first NCAA Tournament since 1990-91. It was Florida State's first winning season since 1991-92 as well as the school's best



Sue Semrau and Florida State President Dr. T.K. Wetherell

league finish since joining the ACC in 1991. The Seminoles were the only team in the nation to defeat Duke on its home court in 2000-01 and earned their highest-ever seed in the ACC Tourney at No. 4 and advanced to the tournament's semifinals for the first time. Other firsts included defeating Virginia for the first time and FSU took two of three from the Cavaliers, including a win in the ACC Tournament. The Seminoles' win over Tulane in the NCAA Tournament marked the first time that FSU has recorded a postseason victory away from Tallahassee.

Semrau was named the Atlantic Coast Conference Coach of the Year by the Atlantic Coast Sports Writers Association in 2001 after Florida State's vast improvement.

"You would have to understand the magnitude of the task that she undertook four years ago in order to fully appreciate just how deserving this honor is for Sue Semrau," Dave Hart, FSU Director of Athletics, said. "In a conference full of outstanding coaches, Sue very much earned this recognition. I'm very happy for her."

In 1997, when Hart went searching for a women's basketball coach, he found in Semrau just what he was looking for.

"Sue's integral role in the building process at two different programs, along with her tremendous energy and reputation as a recruiter, were the most important profile characteristics in her selection as our women's basketball coach at Florida State University," Hart said.



# Coaching Staff

FLORIDA STATE



***"Learn to embrace change, and you'll begin to recognize that life is in constant motion, and every change happens for a reason. When you see boundaries as opportunities, the world becomes a limitless place, and your life becomes a journey of change that always finds its way."***

From the moment she stepped onto the Florida State campus, Semrau brought hope and excitement back to the Florida State women's basketball program. With solid coaching experi-



ence at two Division I schools, Semrau brought a great deal of wisdom and vision to a program starving for such nourishment.

Semrau's philosophy in rebuilding the Florida State program has been a simple one. Semrau runs her program in such a way where players are treated as people first, students second and athletes third. She is a relationship coach who believes in initiating relationships rather than waiting for others to do so.

Semrau's style has been embraced by all who have come in contact with her. She has won the hearts of the Florida State media, fans and most importantly, the student-athletes, which has become very evident in her recruiting success. Semrau and her staff have brought in five of the nation's top recruiting classes since their arrival. Three players have also been drafted to the WNBA since Semrau's arrival, with Brooke Wyckoff still playing for the Connecticut Sun.

Semrau's friendliness and ease with the media have made her a favorite to interview and the "Lunch with Sue" booster-sponsored luncheons, continue to grow in popularity and attendance.

Her commitment to community service has also been a priority for the program and it all starts on the court. Following every Seminole home game, fans are invited to circle the court to meet the players and coaches. But that's just the beginning. The Seminoles have performed a variety of services, including the Walker Ford Tutorial Program, in which the players donate two hours of their time on Saturday mornings to tutor elementary-aged children. They have helped package and deliver meals with Elder Care Services for the "Meals on Wheels" program, cleaned and cooked at the Ronald McDonald House, done lawn work and helped plant a garden at a local women's shelter, gone Christmas caroling at a retirement home and visited children in the Pediatrics Ward. Over the past three seasons, the Seminoles have taken their commitment to community service up a notch and beyond the comforts of the city of Tallahassee. While continuing to serve the Tallahassee community, the Seminoles also extended a helping hand to the communities in which they traveled to for competition. FSU has made visits to the Boys and Girls Club at the Coalition for the Homeless in Orlando and elementary schools in Harlem, West Chester and Wadsworth, Ohio and Martinsville, Indiana.

"Anytime we can do something to help people when we're on the road, it sinks in a little deeper than even when

we are in our own community," Semrau said. "It's not only important when we are in Tallahassee, but anywhere we go, there's a need. What I see, as a result, is a bunch of players who are very excited about giving back. I think it's a culture that not only women's basketball, but Florida State athletics has started and one that's meeting a need for people who are out there and it turns out to be a lot of fun."

From day one of her reign, Semrau emphasized a need to build consistency in every facet of the women's basketball program. With Semrau's arrival to Florida State in the summer of 1997, the Seminole women's basketball program had had three different head coaches in three years. Semrau's commitment to building a respectable program at FSU has provided stability to the program.

***"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the quality of his actions and the integrity of his intent. In the end, leaders are much like eagles...they don't flock, you find them one at a time."***



Prior to coming to FSU, Semrau served three years as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Wisconsin under Jane Albright. Semrau joined Albright at Northern Illinois in 1991 where she assisted in leading NIU to three consecutive NCAA tournament appearances.

In her three seasons at Wisconsin, Semrau contributed to the Badgers' three straight winning seasons and two NCAA tournament appearances, including the program's first ever back-to-back 20-win seasons. Wisconsin also posted its best record in program history, a 21-8 mark in 1995-96, during Semrau's tenure.

Semrau was also noted for her recruiting efforts at Wisconsin with a 1995 recruiting class that ranked eighth in the country by Blue Star Index. The Badgers' 1997 class featured the program's first WBCA Prep All-American and the first multiple *Parade Magazine* honoree. In the summer of 1996, Semrau was the head coach of a team of college alumni that competed in the Athletes in Action Spring Australian Tour.

Prior to her hiring at Northern Illinois, Semrau served as head women's basketball coach and assistant athletic director at Occidental College in Los Angeles for four years where she compiled a 51-47 overall record. She also coached soccer for two seasons and was responsible for the administrative duties of fundraising and promotions at the Division III institution. At Occidental, Semrau was a member of the NCAA regional selection committee and chaired the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference for women's basketball.

Semrau also worked as the public relations and promotions director for the L.A. Heat professional soccer team from 1986-87, and the public relations director for the Seattle Storm soccer team in the previous year.

A native of Seattle, Wash., Semrau is a graduate of Shorecrest High School where she earned all-conference honors in her senior year. She went on to attend the University of Puget Sound for two years. Semrau transferred to the University of California-San Diego in 1984 where she finished her career ranking 13th in all-time scoring and fourth in all-time assists. She graduated in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in communications and received her master's degree in athletic administration from the University of Southern California in 1988.

An accomplished speaker, Semrau is a very popular guest speaker in the community as well as with alumni groups around the state. She is also active as a volunteer with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.



*Coach Sue and John Wooden*



*Bobby Bowden and Coach Sue*

# cori close

UC-Santa Barbara '93

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH

FIRST YEAR

Cori Close joined the Florida State women's basketball staff in May as associate head coach for the Seminoles. Close comes to Florida State from UC-Santa Barbara, where she spent the past nine seasons, including the past three years as associate head coach, with the Gauchos' program.

"I believe that Cori will be a great addition to our staff as we continue our growth as a program at Florida State," head coach Sue Semrau said. "Her years of experience and her ability to teach the game and to connect with people, will have an immediate impact on our basketball program."

While at UCSB, Close's duties included overseeing the skill development of all Santa Barbara players, on-court offensive coaching and recruiting. Close was also in charge of scheduling for the program and was responsible for turning UCSB's non-conference slate into one of the nation's most challenging each year.

As UCSB's player development coordinator, Close significantly contrib-

uted to the mentoring, nurturing and motivating of the student-athletes which led to such achievements as a 98 percent graduation rate, seven WNBA players, 15 professional players overseas, 12 Big West Conference MVPs, nine district All-Americans and one national second team All-American. Close was also responsible for all offensive tactics, offensive instruction and game-time decisions leading to eight NCAA appearances, including three second round appearances and a trip to the Sweet 16, one NIT championship and 10 Big West regular season or tournament championships. Involved in all aspects of player recruitment as well, Close helped UCSB achieve three Top 10 recruiting classes.

Close was also instrumental in fostering support and increasing revenue for the UCSB basketball



*Coach Close and John Wooden*

program. She developed and implemented a comprehensive marking plan, designed fundraising initiatives, coordinated speaking, community service and radio/television appearances and created the Fastbreakers booster program. Her efforts resulted in a substantial attendance increase, which made UCSB women's basketball the largest revenue-producing program in the department of athletics.

As a player, Close was a four-year starting point guard and captained Santa Barbara's two NCAA Tournament teams in 1992 and 1993, leading both to the second round. The Milpitas, Calif., native was an All-Big West first team selection and the MVP of the conference tournament in 1993. The first player in UC-Santa Barbara history to record more than 1,000 points and 500 assists in a career, Close ranks among the top 10 in seven Gaucho career statistical categories.

Close graduated from UCSB in 1993 after majoring in sociology and was the recipient of UCSB's Distinguished Senior Award. She was a member of the Bruins' coaching staff for two seasons (1993-95) while earning a master's degree in educational administration from UCLA.

## CLOSE FILE

### COACHING STOPS:

UCLA (Los Angeles, CA) — Graduate Assistant (1993-95)

UC-Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara, CA) — Assistant Coach (1996-01);  
Associate Head Coach (2001-04)

Florida State University — Associate Head Coach (2004-present)

# angie johnson

Louisville '91

ASSISTANT COACH

EIGHTH YEAR

Angie Johnson, who is in her eighth season as an assistant coach at Florida State, is a "get it done" type of person. Perhaps it was this trait, among others, that prompted Sue Semrau to bring Johnson with her to Florida State in 1997. Johnson has seen her role with Seminole women's basketball expand with each season. She is literally in the mix in every aspect of the program and it's her attention to detail and creativity that have made her a perfect candidate for these responsibilities.

Aside from her on-the-court coaching and recruiting duties, Johnson has made the overall development of the women's basketball players her priority and this starts with their success in the classroom. She works closely with Florida State's athletic academic support staff in monitoring the academic progress of the Seminoles. Over the past several seasons, FSU women's basketball has carved its place on the ACC Academic Honor Roll, ranking among the top women's basketball

teams in the league for number of members. With Johnson's oversight, FSU has had 26 players named to the ACC Academic Honor Roll since 1997-98.

Johnson also works closely with the women's basketball support club, the Hoop Troop, and is very instrumental in the planning of such events as the annual Hoop Troop Golf Outing, the Alumni Game and the "Lunch with Sue," booster luncheons. She also oversees the team managers and assists with equipment.

Johnson, like Semrau, came to Florida State in 1997 from the University of Wisconsin, where she served as the Badgers' third assistant for three years. Some of her responsibilities at UW included opponent scouting, coordinating video exchange and arranging student-athletes community service. In her final season at UW, she also served as the team's academic liaison. Johnson was also active with the BadgerBall Booster Club, the Jane's Gem kids club and was co-director of the BadgerBall Girls Hoops Camp for two summers.

Prior to joining the Badger staff, Johnson was the assistant basketball coach at Paul G. Blazer High School in her hometown of Ashland, Kent. She was a four-year letter winner at the University of Louisville from 1987-91. A 6-0 center, she ranked among the top 10 in career rebounds (621) and games played (120). Johnson, who earned her degree in biology, was the recipient of the Ed Kallay Senior Award in 1991 and was a Woodford R. Porter Scholar.



## JOHNSON FILE

### COACHING STOPS:

Paul G. Blazer High School (Ashland, KY) — Assistant Coach (1991-94)  
University of Wisconsin (Madison, WI) — Assistant Coach (1994-97)  
Florida State University — Assistant Coach (1997-present)

# lance white

Texas Tech '96

ASSISTANT COACH

SECOND YEAR

There are those times when you just know it's right. Florida State head coach Sue Semrau experienced one of those times when she hired Lance White. White joined the Seminole family in June 2003 and is in his second season as an assistant coach for the Florida State women's basketball team. White came to Florida State from Texas Tech where he spent 10 seasons, including seven years as an assistant coach, with the Lady Raiders' top 10 program.

White has a wide array of responsibilities at Florida State. Off the court, he is the primary force behind opponent scouting and breaking down game film while on the court, his focus lies on the Seminole backcourt. White is also instrumental in Florida State's recruiting

process.

Some of White's responsibilities at Texas Tech included instructing pre- and postseason individual workouts, preparing scouting reports, perimeter and post player development and all aspects of recruiting, including mail correspondence and recruiting visits. White also served as the academic liaison, directing study hall and monitoring academic progress while also handling player relations.

White enjoyed great success during his time at Texas Tech. Over the past seven years, Texas Tech has won three Big XII championships and advanced to seven straight NCAA Tournaments, including five Sweet Sixteen and two Elite Eight appearances. He was a student assistant on Tech's 1993 National Championship team and a graduate assistant coach for two seasons before being elevated to a full-time coach.

During the summer months, White was active in the organization and execution of the summer basketball camps. He also coached the AAU Lubbock Lady Bulls who advanced to the National Tournament in Ogden, Utah in 1994 and in 1996 and was an AAU coach for the Lady Cardinal team.

White was the co-director of the annual Wyatt/White Basketball Camp in Spur, Tex., in 1995-96. He oversaw a varsity camp, a day camp and a mini camp designed especially for kindergarten through third graders.

A 1996 graduate of Texas Tech, White earned his bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science. He went on to receive a master's degree in sports administration in August of 1998. He



attended Lubbock Christian University for three semesters before transferring to Tech in January of 1993. As a high school athlete in Spur, he was a three-time All-District selection, twice All-Region, and twice third team all-state choice in basketball. His high school basketball and football teams advanced to the regional round both his junior and senior years. As a basketball player, he was listed in the Spalding Top 100 basketball players in 1991.

White is an NCAA certified recruiter and member of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. He is married to the former Melanie Smith, who works for the Department of Education for the state of Florida.



Melanie and Lance White

**WHITE FILE  
COACHING STOPS:**

Texas Tech University (Lubbock, TX) — Graduate Assistant (1996-98);  
Assistant Coach (1998-03)  
Florida State University — Assistant Coach (2003-present)

# nadia flaim

University of Windsor '98

DIRECTOR OF  
BASKETBALL OPERATIONS

SECOND YEAR

Nadia Flaim is in her second season as Florida State's Director of Basketball Operations, but has been a member of the Seminole staff since January 2000 having previously served as Program Assistant. Flaim, who received a master's degree with honors in sports administration from FSU in 2000, also spent some time as an assistant in the sports information and women's basketball offices while earning her degree.

As the Director of Basketball Operations, Flaim has a wide range of responsibilities in all facets of the program. She coordinates team travel as well as facility usage and game management of all practices and games. She assists head coach Sue Semrau with scheduling and serves as the program's liaison with the athletics department's administration. Flaim is also the director of FSU's annual Seminole Classic, oversees the graduate assistants and helps with on-campus

recruiting and summer camps as well as numerous other duties.

As the Program Assistant, Flaim administered the Hoop Troop Booster Club, Courtside Kids Club and Community Service Programs, and developed marketing materials including "Courtside Kids Corner," the team's monthly newsletter. Furthermore, Flaim was in charge of planning and organizing annual team events including the Kick-Off Golf Tournament, Alumni Weekend and Youth Basketball Clinics. She also worked feverishly to increase the program's community awareness, setting up a variety of public appearances and community services projects. Flaim continues to oversee these areas in her new position.

Prior to returning to Florida State in 2002, Flaim worked as the Director of



Communication, Community and Team Affairs for the Tallahassee Tiger Sharks, an East Coast Hockey League franchise. As part of the Tiger Sharks organization, she produced all written materials for the team, managed the website and acted as the team's media liaison while also overseeing game day operations. Before being promoted to that position, Flaim gained the title of Public Relations Coordinator for the Tiger Sharks in August of 1999 where she was able to cultivate working relationships with the media and local community groups.

A 1998 graduate of the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada, Flaim acted as the Home Game Manager for football and basketball. Flaim, who is fluent in a number of languages including French and Italian, earned her bachelor's degree with honors in communication studies.

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



**SHUN HUNTER**  
University of Alabama '03



**JENNY ROULIER**  
University of Colorado '02





Basketball

# support staff



**PATRECE ALBERTIE**  
*Head Team Manager*



**NELL BELUE**  
*Program Assistant*



**SHAUN DOWNEY**  
*Equipment Manager*



**BRANDON GOODMAN**  
*Sports Information  
Student Photographer*



**LAUREN HURST**  
*Team Manager*



**JOE MAHSIE**  
*Video Assistant,  
Seminole Productions*



**DR. BOB ORSILLO**  
*Team Optometrist*



**DARLA PARKER**  
*Student Athletic Trainer*



**STUART PEARCE**  
*Facilities, Basketball  
Training Center*



**LEXIE ROEGIERS-  
JENSEN**  
*Team Manager*



**MICHELE SMITH**  
*Graduate Assistant  
Equipment Manager*



**EDDIE STORAKO**  
*Video Technician,  
Coaches Video*



**DR. KRIS STOWERS**  
*Team Physician*



**DR. WILLIAM  
THOMPSON**  
*Team Physician*



**MARTIN UNGER**  
*Video Coordinator,  
Coaches Video*



**DR. JOHN VAN TASSEL**  
*Team Chiropractor*



**DR. ANDREW WONG**  
*Team Physician*



**MEGAN ZEAGER**  
*Seminole Athletics  
Marketing*



**BEN ZIERDEN**  
*Ticket Office*