Pepper Pike, Ohio – Ursuline College has hired Shannon Sword as head coach of the Arrows basketball program.

Sword comes to the women's college following a successful stint as the assistant coach at Ashland University, which finished as the NCAA Division II national runner-up this season.

"Shannon will be a great addition to our department and to Ursuline College," Ursuline athletic director Cindy McKnight said in a statement. "She has a good deal of NCAA Division II coaching experience, and has worked with a very successful program for years. I look forward to working with her and watching her develop our program into a competitive NCAA Division II basketball program."

For Sword, this will be her first collegiate head coaching position, and she becomes the Arrows fourth coach in program history. She has served as an assistant coach at all three levels of the NCAA (Division I, II, and III), following a successful playing career at the Division I level at Cleveland State.

"I want to build a program that mirrors the mission and values that are the foundation of Ursuline College," Sword said. "... This is a great opportunity and I look forward to getting started!"

Over the past two years, under Ashland head coach Sue Ramsey, Sword helped guide the team to a GLIAC South Championship and runner-up finish in the GLIAC in 2010-11.

This season, Ashland went 33-2, captured the GLIAC regular-season and tournament championships, and advanced to the Division II title game before losing.

Sword played four years with Cleveland State, from 2000-2004. She was a four-time letter winner and a four-year Horizon League All-Academic Team selection. Sword joined the 1,000-point club at Cleveland State and holds the school record for three-point field goal and free throw percentage in a single-season.

She was named team MVP, team captain, was an All-Horizon League First Team, ranked second in the conference in scoring, and was CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team selection.

Following her graduation from Cleveland State, Sword took a position as the head junior varsity coach/assistant varsity coach at Miamisburg High School – her hometown – and also served as head coach of the Dayton Lady Hoopstars AAU team (under-15) from 2004-2005.

In 2005-06, she began her collegiate coaching career as assistant at Manhattanville College. She then served as a graduate assistant coach at Ashland from 2006-2008, where she played a large role in the operations of the program, serving as the team academic advisor.

Following her graduate assistant position at Ashland, Sword took a position as an assistant coach at Youngstown State University. At YSU, she took on a larger role within the program, including practice planning, game strategy, scouting, film, recruiting, liaison for NCAA eligibility, alumni relations, fundraising, travel, and camps/clinics.

Sword holds a degree from Cleveland State University in Sport Management (Magna Cum Laude in 2004) and a Master's Degree from Ashland University in Education -- Sport Education/Administration in 2008 (4.0 GPA in 2008).