In the fall of 1997, Athletics Director Dr. Martin L. Zwiren made a decision that would have a major effect on the Lehman College women’s basketball program, when he named 26 year-old Queens native Eric Harrison as head coach of the women’s basketball team. Harrison who arrived at Lehman with relatively no experience as a head coach, has established himself in just seven seasons as one of the premiere young coaches in the country.

The Lady Lightning are off to an impressive 13-7 overall record, and are considered one of the favorites to capture the CUNY conference championship this season. After a conference win over Medgar Evers College, Harrison joined the illustrious 100-victory club. His 100th victory made him the first women’s basketball coach in Lehman College history to achieve this feat.

“This has been one of the most exciting seasons of my career”, said Harrison. “To have a group of players that work as hard as this is a testament to the hard work and recruiting done by our coaching staff.”

One of the people that Harrison relies on is former Lehman College player Ivelisse Rosario. Rosario, a four-year team captain, is currently in her third season as an assistant coach, and has been very instrumental in helping the team return to the level of play during her four seasons. Rosario, the all-time assists and three-point leader at Lehman is an excellent example for the young Lightning team.

“Coach Rosario is a great asset for all of us here at Lehman,” said freshman guard Kristy Faust. “Because she was a former player at Lehman, she is able to assist us in our transition from high school to the collegiate level.”

Harrison is an avid follower of basketball whose approach to coaching is based on what he has learned from two highly successful coaches – Steve Lappas at University of Massachusetts and Harry Perreta at Villanova University.

“Coach Perreta and the Villanova Basketball staff has been very instrumental in my coaching success,” Harrison added. “To learn from such great coaches gives me an opportunity to apply some of these traits to our program at Lehman.”

With the 40th Annual CUNY conference tournament being held at Lehman this season, Lightning fans are hoping that the women’s basketball team can capture the school’s first ever championship and a trip to the NCAA Division III tournament.