Lehman’s Loor Selected To Represent NYC in Empire State Games

Poughkeepsie, NY- When eighth year women’s basketball coach Eric Harrison recruited Maria Loor to join the Lehman College family, his expectations were of a very special individual who would have an impact with each individual she came in contact with. The expectations continued this past week, as Loor was chosen to represent the New York City College/Open women’s basketball team in the Empire State Games held in Poughkeepsie, New York at Vassar College. Loor was one of ten collegiate women’s basketball players chosen to represent New York City in this state wide competition featuring teams from Long Island, Central New York, Adirondack region, Western New York region and Hudson Valley region.

The New York City team featuring such players as Donette Reed (Manhattan College), Christie Marrone (Virginia Tech), and Dana Peterson (St. John’s) finished fourth, going 1-3 overall during the competitions. The team advanced to the medal round, where they eventually were defeated by Western New York for the Bronze medal. Even though the results were not too favorable for the NYC team, the experience for the sophomore forward was priceless.

"The overall experience of the Empire State Games is something that will truly benefit Maria," said coach Harrison. "Just the chance to compete with players from so many prestigious institutions is a once in a lifetime experience, that hopefully she will be able to experience again."

Loor comes off an outstanding season in which she was selected as the 2004-05 CUNYAC Con Edison Rookie of the Year, while leading Lehman to an 18-9 overall record, and an appearance in the CUNY conference semi-finals. Loor finished the season with a 12.4 ppg average, while pulling down a team high 11.4 rpg.

Loor and Baruch College’s Ally Stamiades were the only two Division III representatives on a team comprised of Division I athletes from various institutions. Loor appreciates the experience, and the significance of her being part of these prestigious games.

"The Empire State Games were a great opportunity for me to compete against some of the top players in the New York area," said Loor. "I am very excited to have had the opportunity to represent Lehman College and our women’s basketball program during these games, and I look forward to doing it again next summer."

The EMPIRE STATE GAMES competition is a program of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, is a member of the National Congress of State Games, and is a recognized State Games Program of the United States Olympic Committee. Today, more than 40 states around the country have instituted state games programs attracting nearly a half-million participants each year. New York’s Empire State Games are not only the first program of its kind in the nation but is often considered to be the most successful, setting a standard for multi-sport amateur athletic programs and offering opportunities to all of New York’s athletes.