Lehman (45 points) edged runner-up York (48 points) by just three points to garner their first-ever CUNY Athletic Conference Women’s Cross Country Championship on Sunday morning at Van Cortlandt Park.

Lehman placed three runners in the top ten, including overall champion Amy Ruston, who eclipsed her own meet record with a time of 18:40, after turning in a time of 19:00 a year ago. Two-time defending champion Hunter finished third with 77 points. Baruch (88 points), John Jay (103 points), Medgar Evers (147 points), Brooklyn (187 points), and City Tech (220) finished fourth through eighth respectively.

“I'm extremely happy for our team,” said Lightning head coach Lesleigh Hogg. “All of their hard work this season paid off with a championship trophy. Amy Ruston was her usual self but some of our athletes have never competed in the sport before, such as Olga and Lianne Torres, and both made key contributions today. Joy Browne made a sacrifice just to be here today.”

Despite nursing shin splints, Ruston, a junior, was never challenged as the Nashua, New Hampshire native finished a minute and forty-four seconds ahead of York sophomore Tyneka Greene (19:44).

“I’m just relieved that I was able to start fast and sustain the lead,” Ruston said. “I was extremely concerned before the race due to the injuries but I gained more confidence as the race went along that I would be fine. I’m just happy for the rest of my teammates and proud of them for the great job that they did today.”

Annie Ortiz placed third with a time of 19:49 and teammates Olga Torres (9th, 22:37), Lianne Torres (15th, 23:19), and Joy Browne (20th, 25:00) rounded out the scoring for the Lightning.

The Lehman cross country team will now advance to the NCAA regionals at the University of Rochester, where they will try to qualify for an opportunity to compete in the NCAA championships.

Lehman Men Finish Second In CUNY Cross Country Championship

In one of the most exciting CUNY conference championships, the Lehman College men’s cross country team finished second, just a mere eight points shy of defending champions Hunter College in a finish were the top three teams were separated by only twelve points.

Lehman’s Raul Sanchez placed fifth overall with a time of 31:52 and teammate Bill Agosto also was a top-ten finisher, crossing the line in 32:47 (8th).

“Our guys did an excellent job today,” said Lehman head coach Lesleigh Hogg. “A few points separated us from taking both titles, but we are still very proud of where both teams finished.”

The second place finish enabled all participants to advance to the NCAA regionals at the University of Rochester.

Lehman College Cross Country Final Results (CUNYAC Championships).

1 (5) Raul Sanchez 31:52
2 (8) Bill Agosto 32:47
3 (11) Daniel Gurdak 33:42
4 (14) Issaka Tall 34:00
5 (18) Freeman Blalock 34:22
6 (20) Joseph Bodden 34:33
7 (21) Patrick Thompson 34:43