

An Inside Look at

LEHMAN ATHLETICS

2005 A Lehman Year in Review

As we prepare to say goodbye to the year of 2005, we take a look back at the many great accomplishments of the Lehman College athletic teams. The year was a memorable one for Lightning athletics and with the hard work and dedication of all the student-athletes and coaches, 2006 will be a banner year for Lehman.

The year began with the excitement of the men and women's basketball teams. Both squads finished stellar seasons with the men's squad advancing to the ECAC semi-finals with a 21-7 record. The story of the season was a thrilling quarter-finals victory over New York University, where senior guard Miguel Jorge hit a turnaround jump shot at the buzzer to give the Lightning the victory.

The women's team comprised of mostly freshman and sophomores were a surprise to everyone in the conference. The Lightning went 18-9, and had the biggest turnaround in NCAA Division III. Lehman advanced to the

conference semi-finals were they eventually lost to conference champions College of Staten Island.

The two teams combined had six players selected to the CUNY conference all-star teams, while both head coaches Eric Harrison (Women's), and Steve Schulman (Men's) were named CUNY Conference Coach of the Year. Junior center Sekani Francis was named the conference's Most Valuable Player, while women's basketball freshman Maria Loor was selected as the conference's Rookie of the Year. The 6'10" Francis then went on to be selected as an ECAC all-star, and was selected as a Metropolitan SportsWriter all-star.

The winter 2005 season also saw the emergence of a new star on the Lehman campus. Freshman swimmer Darnell James was named the CUNY Conference Swimmer of the Year. James, a 5'8" sophomore from Yonkers, New York has continued his torrid pace through 2005, and will

look to continue his dominance for the new year. Specializing in the free-style events, James has already led the Lightning to victories over SUNY Maritime, and Pace University.

The 2005 season also saw history, as the women's cross country team captured the school's first ever CUNY championship. Junior Amy Ruston continued her assault on the record books, as Ruston propelled Lehman with her first place finish. Ruston then advanced to the Atlantic Regional, where she qualified for the NCAA championships. At the NCAA's, Ruston finished 41st in the nation. Ruston was named the CUNY conference Runner of the Year for the second consecutive season.

With these honors, the Lehman program has continued to be an elite program in the NCAA and CUNY conferences. With lofty expectations, an extended commitment by the athletes and coaches, the new year looks to be very promising for Lehman College athletics.

