Lehman’s Nnamani Emerges As CUNY New Rising Star

When the 2006-07 women’s basketball season began, head coach Eric Harrison had high expectations for his Lehman College squad. With a nucleus of returning players, and a wealth of talent, coach Harrison endured the question of which one of his stars would emerge as the team leader to get the Lightning to the next level.

After a year in which she was named the CUNY conference’s Rookie of the Year, sophomore Sally Nnamani has emerged as the Lightning’s go-to player, and one of the most dangerous players in the CUNY athletic conference. The 5’11” guard from Warwick, New York has been voted a team captain by her peers, and is currently the third leading scorer in the CUNY athletic conference. The Lightning are off and running to an 11-7 overall record, 5-3 in CUNY play and are one of the favorites heading into the 42nd Annual Con Edison CUNY Basketball Tournament.

Nnamani, was born in Enugu, Nigeria, and came to the United States at the age of 10. New to the United States, Sally never picked up a basketball until she was thirteen years old. Her first experiences came as an elementary school student, shooting a basketball during recess. Six years later, Nnamani is one of the top players in division III. A D3Hoops pre-season all-star, Nnamani has been both a success in the classroom as well as the hardwood. She is currently a Political Science major, and has a 3.4 grade point average. Her ability to excel at Lehman has impressed all that she has come in contact with.

“Sally is a very special individual,” says Harrison. “Her ability to balance both academics and athletics, as well as be successful in both is a testament to her hard work and dedication.”

Nnamani has given some memorable moments in her two seasons at Lehman. With Lehman trailing by eight points to St. Elizabeth’s in a non-conference game, Nnamani sparked her team with 22 second half points to finish with a game high 33 points in Lehman’s 66-56 victory. The victory enabled Lehman to keep it’s six game winning streak alive. Just a sophomore, Nnamani is only 170 points shy of the 1,000 point plateau.

“Being a student-athlete at Lehman College has been a great experience,” said Nnamani. “Here we have a great wealth of talent, and we are looking to compete for a championship,” she added.

A championship is something that Lehman fans hope will conclude the season, and with the continued growth of this rising stars, optimism for the future is bright.