

**LEHMAN COLLEGE ATHLETICS*****Lehman College Joins CUNY Athletes in Citywide Blood Drive***

By Emmy Perryman, Sports News Editor

The CUNY Athletic Conference has organized a blood drive by athletes as a way to participate in the ongoing effort to rebuild New York following September 11. "There was a surge of people donating blood directly after the 11th," said CUNYAC Sports Information Director Zak Ivkovic, "but a lot of that blood had to be discarded. So we agreed it was important to hold the blood drive now." After the athletics programs at the various CUNY colleges were polled, it was decided the event would kick off on January 24, during National Blood Donor Month.

College athletes donated blood from 12 to 5 pm on CUNY campuses in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island. Lehman, John Jay and the College of Staten Island had donor sites on their campuses while Hunter College's site was a blood center nearby.

At each college, the drive was organized and run by the local Student Athlete Committee. These committees are made up of between 10-20 student athletes, including one representative from each varsity sport. Committee members act as liaisons between student athletes and the Athletics Department of their respective schools.

"Everything went smoothly with the first phase of the blood drive," said Ivkovic, whose office is located in The APEX at Lehman College and who, himself, rolled up his sleeves to become one of blood donors. "The timing—during Registration Week—may have cut down somewhat on the turnout. So we hope this will become an annual event and that the participation will build with each year."

Ivkovic noted that "CUNY schools were hard-hit by the tragedy on September 11." John Jay lost more than 100 former students, BMCC lost eight, and Lehman has lost at least six—including two firemen and 25-year-old senior Yvette Moreno, who worked as a receptionist at Carr Futures. "We all felt that we must do something to honor their memories," he said. In February the blood drive will continue at locations in Brooklyn with athletes participating from Medgar Evers College, New York City Tech, York, and Brooklyn College.



Lehman College senior Barry Grant, a member of the men's varsity basketball team, gives blood with a smile during the CUNYAC blood drive held January 24 in The APEX on the college campus. New York Blood Center Donor Specialist Ivan Teos makes it a painless experience—and the student athletes chatted afterward over juice and cookies.

NCAA Ranks Lehman Men's Basketball as "Top 10" Program in Atlantic Region

At the halfway mark in the basketball season, the Lightning men's record stood at an impressive 12-5 overall and 5-2 in the CUNY Athletic Conference. The 5-2 mark puts Lehman on top in the CUNY North Division. In other good news, this month the NCAA Regional Committee ranked the Lehman men's team as one of the "Top 10" programs in the Atlantic Region.

The Lightning have been led by a group of veterans including junior guard Jonathan Rojas, the team's second-leading scorer averaging at 13.5 points a game. Helping Rojas lead the team is junior forward Chris Bowman who Head Coach Steve Schulman described as "steady as a rock." Bowman is ranked fifth in CUNYAC for rebounds, averaging 7.4 a game. "Chris is really playing hard and taking on a role of a rebounding and defensive specialist," Coach Schulman continued.

Assistant Coach John Sanchez added that sophomore forward Marc Domin has been "playing outstanding basketball" and has really come into his own in the second half of the season.

Several newcomers have also contributed to the Lightning's success. Freshmen forward Jeff White and guard Luis Chavez have, say their coaches, "played outstanding ball for Lehman." They were both moved up to the starting lineup and have produced favorable results.

In the last seven games that he has played, sophomore Edgar Lugo has also had a considerable impact on the team by scoring over fifteen points a game. "We're moving in the right direction," said Coach Schulman. "But we know there's a lot we can to improve in this and upcoming seasons." He is quick to point out that the team's main concern is "to stay positive and keep heading in the right direction."

Sports News Editor: Emmy Perryman

For more information about athletics at Lehman College, contact Eric Harrison, Sports Information Coordinator, at 718-960-1146.

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