Lightning Track Star Makes Transition to the Hardwood

When Paulette Baldwin first approached the women’s basketball office at Lehman College, she was a little reluctant to enter. She spoke to Head Coach Eric Harrison and expressed her interest in becoming part of his program.

“I was very surprised to hear what she said,” said Coach Harrison. “Paulette is an extremely talented individual — and we knew she would be able to help the team — but she was not a basketball player.”

Baldwin, a 5’11” forward out of Trenton, New Jersey, is nationally known for her dominance in NCAA Division III track championships. She has captured three national championships in the 55-meter hurdles, accumulated 14 All-American honors, and earned Lehman’s Female Athlete of the Year Award for three consecutive years.

To Baldwin, basketball presented a challenge to try to succeed in another sport and to help elevate another Lehman team to national prominence. Her goal was reminiscent of Olympic star Marion Jones, who starred in the world of track and field while also achieving an All-American record in basketball at the University of North Carolina.

“The accomplishments of Marion Jones definitely motivate me every day,” said Baldwin. “She is a tremendous role model, and I would love to achieve those accolades in two sports.”

In her first collegiate game against Lincoln University (PA), Baldwin led the Lightning with 17 points, while grabbing 12 rebounds — very impressive statistics for someone who hasn’t touched a basketball since her high school days at Trenton Central. She is currently the second leading scorer on the Lightning, with a 9.2 ppg, while pulling in an astounding 12.3 rpg. These numbers demonstrate the ease with which Baldwin made the transition to another sport.

“Paulette has the ability to do anything she puts her heart into,” said Lehman Track Coach Lesleigh Hogg. “Her hard work and commitment elevated our track program to national proportions, and she certainly will be up for the challenge with the women’s basketball program.”

Baldwin has not sidelined her track career, however. She is still managing to schedule her track workouts, while balancing basketball and academics.

“I am still working toward getting a shot at the upcoming Olympic Games. I just have to balance my time and manage both sports.”

Upcoming Basketball Events

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003

Lehman College vs. John Jay College

Women’s Game 5:00
Men’s Game 7:30

ADMISSION IS FREE
for this event.

For further information contact (718)960-7175.