

An Inside Look at

LEHMAN COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Lehman College 2004-05 Season in Review

The 2004-05 athletic seasons was a very memorable one for Lehman College athletics. The season was highlighted with freshman cross country sensation Amy Ruston winning the NCAA Atlantic Regional, and advancing to the NCAA Championships. This season was also special, as the men's basketball team advanced to the ECAC post-season, winning a buzzer beater over New York University in the quarter-finals. The season also saw women's basketball coach Eric Harrison record his 100th career victory. Freshman swimmer Darnell James has emerged as the premiere swimmer in the CUNY conference. James was honored in his first season as the CUNY Most Valuable Swimmer. Here is a look into the 2004-05 athletic seasons.

The highlight of this year's athletic season had to be the rise of Lehman College in the sport of Cross Country. Lehman College's freshman cross country runner Amy Ruston appeared on the scene, and has emerged as one of the top runners in the nation. A freshman from New Hampshire, Ruston captured the CUNY Athletic conference championship, before advancing to the Division III Atlantic regional where she finished in first place in the field. Her Atlantic regional win qualified Ruston for the NCAA Division III championships in Colfax, Wisconsin. In the NCAA championships, Ruston finished 70th out of a field of 240 runners.

The men's basketball team finished the season with a 21-7 record, and an appearance in the ECAC post-season tournament. In the ECAC, Lehman defeated New York University to advance to the semi-finals, before being eliminated by eventual ECAC champion Kean University. Fifth-year head coach Steve Schulman was selected as the CUNY conference Coach of the Year, while junior center Sekani Francis was honored as the CUNY conference Most Valuable Player, as well as a Metropolitan Sports Writer 1st team All-Star. Senior Miguel Jorge scored his 1,000 career point, and was selected as a 1st team CUNY All-Star, while junior guard Willy Vargas was selected as a 2nd team CUNY All-Star.

The women's basketball team has returned to the upper echelon of the CUNY Athletic Conference. The women's basketball finished the season with a resounding 18-9 overall record.

Seventh year head coach Eric Harrison was named CUNY conference Coach of the Year. Harrison recorded his 100th career victory this season in a win against Medgar Evers College. Another star has emerged at Lehman College, as freshman Maria Loor was named CUNY conference Rookie of the Year. Loor becomes the fifth freshman in Coach Harrison's tenure to be honored with the award. Sophomore Shatasia Little was selected as a first team CUNY all-star and freshman Kristy Faust was selected as a second team CUNY all-star.

The men's swim team finished second overall in the CUNY conference swim championships. Lehman was led by the freshman duo of Darnell James, and Hector Pena. James and Pena both were selected as CUNY conference all-stars, with James being named the conference Most Valuable Swimmer. The swim team placed second in the CUNY conference championships.

Senior Martinia Heath set CUNY records, as she posted a distance of 5.7 ¼ feet in the High Jump, while freshman Amy Ruston set Lehman records in the 1500, 3000, 5000, and 10,000 meter relays. Heath qualified for the NCAA championships in the high jump, and the long jump events. In the CUNY Outdoor Championships, the women's squad finished second, after placing fifth in the indoor championships.

While entertaining fans at every men and women's basketball home game, the cheer squad participated in the CUNY cheerleading championships at Lehman College. The squad finished third in the event. Senior Venus Hernandez was selected as an honorable mention CUNY Scholar Athlete.

The women's volleyball team advanced to the CUNY conference semi-finals. Lehman College sophomore Yaniza DeLosSantos was selected to the all-tournament team.

The men's track and field team finished third in the CUNY Indoor Track Championships, while placing fourth in the outdoor championships. Freshman Michael Francis led the Sprint Relay team, while sophomore Raul Sanchez anchors the Long Distance Runners.

The men's volleyball received stellar play from senior Jacsier Lantigua.

Lantigua was honored as a second team CUNY Conference All-Star.

The women's tennis team finished the season in seventh place in the CUNY athletic conference.

The men's tennis struggled this season, but did post an impressive victory over CUNY power, College of Staten Island.

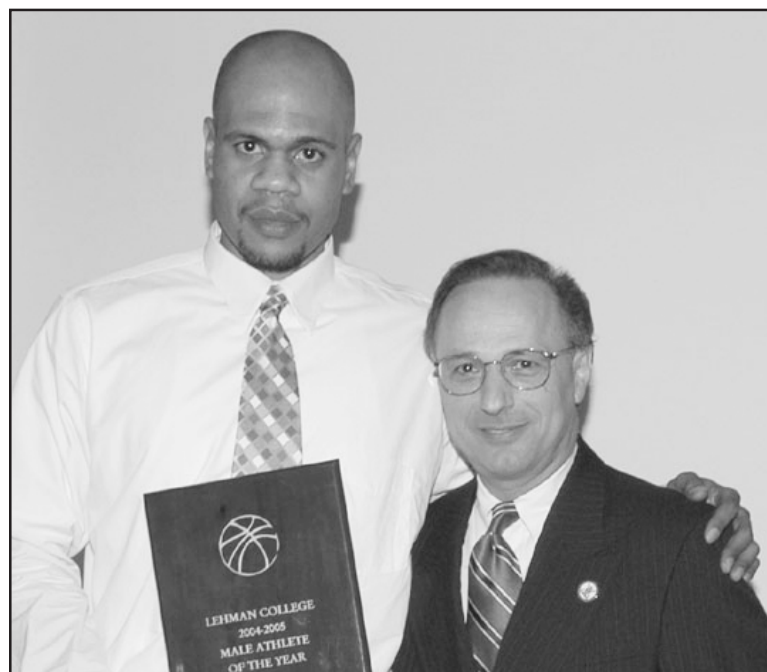
The Lehman College men's cross country team finished second in the CUNY Championships. Sophomore Freeman Blalok, junior Christian Yopez, and Cliff Turner finished 12th-14th in the championships respectively.

The women's swimming finished fifth in the CUNY conference Swim

Championships. Freshman star Liliana Luburic was named the CUNY's Rookie of the Year.

Junior outfielder David Malave was selected as a CUNY All-Star, and led the Lightning with a .378 average. Lehman had impressive wins over College of Staten Island, and New Jersey City University.

With this season of great accomplishment, the future continues to look great for Lehman College athletics. The 2005-06 seasons are approaching and Lehman will continue to make a mark on the NCAA!



Lehman College Athletic Director Dr. Martin L. Zwiren presents the Male and Female Athlete of the Year Awards to Sekani Francis (above) and Amy Ruston (below).

