

An Inside Look at

LEHMAN ATHLETICS

Women's Indoor Track & Field Season Preview

After a very successful women's cross country season in which the Lightning captured the school's first ever CUNY conference championship, Lehman is prepared to make a run at the CUNY indoor championships with the same determination as the cross country season. With a lengthy list of returning athletes, and a host of newcomers, the squad is primed and ready to leave their mark on the track world.

Leading the charge for the Lightning this season will be the lone returnee from the 2002 squad which finished second in the NCAA Division III national championships, Martinia Heath. Heath, a senior from the Bronx, New York will look to anchor the Lightning in many events, and will bring stability to an otherwise young Lightning squad.

"Martinia will be very helpful in this year's squad's development", said Lehman College head coach Lesleigh Hogg. "Her experience and will to win, will be a great asset to all of our newcomers and will be invaluable during the championship season."

Championship experience will also be provided by the dominant running of junior Amy Ruston. Ruston, the two-time CUNY Cross Country champion, returns for a second straight season in the indoor events. Her ability to compete in the long distance events, gives the Lightning an edge as she is versatile enough to compete in many events.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to continue

to help Lehman with the storied tradition of our track program," said Ruston. "Our success on the CUNY level, has inspired us to continue to embark on the national record books," Ruston added.

With Ruston and Heath leading the way, junior Ana Ortiz could be the surprise athlete on this Lightning squad. Ortiz, a transfer student who originally resides from Codem, Mexico has been very successful in her brief stay at Lehman. Ortiz finished third in the CUNY Cross Country championships, but competed with Ruston for the top spot in several events. The duo combined has established a combination which has been hard to equal in conference events.

Twin sisters, Lianne and Olga Torres will provide anchors for the Lightning squad. Both sisters, members of the Lightning softball teams, have found success in the track events, and both rounded out the cross country championship team.

If this year's squad is going to be successful, Lehman College has assembled a schedule that will truly prepare them for the CUNY championships. The Lightning will travel to the Terrier Classic, at Boston University, the Colgate Women's Games, the Yale Invitational, and the legendary Melrose Games at Madison Square Garden.

"We have assembled a schedule which we think will prepare our athletes to compete on the national level," said Hogg. "Our goal is to once again capture a CUNY title, and continue to develop our student athletes."



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