

*An Inside
Look at*

LEHMAN ATHLETICS



KATHY SANTIAGO

Senior guard Kathy Santiago looks to regain form which made her CUNY Conference Rookie of the Year.

Lehman Guard Looks To Take Lightning To The Next Level

A special story is starting to emerge on the Lehman College campus. Kathy Santiago is that special story! After a successful high school career at Norman Thomas High School where she was named the school's Female Athlete of the Year, while former Manhattan College star Luis Flores was named the Male Athlete of the Year, Santiago was recruited to Lehman College by head coach Eric Harrison. The first recruit in Harrison's tenure, the 5'8" Dominican Republic native averaged a team high 18.9 points per game to go along with 6.4 assists in leading Lehman to an 17-9 record. Santiago was named the CUNY Conference Rookie of the Year, and was selected as an All-American by several publications.

Following this outstanding freshman campaign, her career was put on hold, as family obligations became an issue, and the rising star made a choice to work full-time in order to assist her family both here and in the Dominican Republic. During the past years, Santiago has still attended classes at Lehman, and twice attempted a comeback to the Lightning squad, but was not able to commit the time to continue the pace that she set as a freshman.

"While working, and taking classes, playing basketball was very difficult during this stretch," said Santiago. "While my heart wanted to continue what I started as a freshman, I knew that it would be tough to maintain all of these things at the time."

Now six seasons later, after all the hype and accolades have faded, Santiago is in the midst of one of the greatest comebacks in collegiate history. Still a player where her names speak volumes in any basketball circles, Kathy Santiago is back, and is better than ever. Picking up where she left off in her freshman season, the crafty point guard has emerged as a front-runner for the CUNY conference Player of the Year, and is looking to lead the

Lightning to their first ever CUNY championship and an appearance in the NCAA tournament. No longer just a memory, the memories are now a reality as she has begun to show the skills which made her an All-American just years ago.

"Kathy Santiago is a great story," said ninth-year coach Harrison. "To see a player with so much determination, comeback after a long lay-off, you can only wish her the best after what she has done over the past few years."

With her focus being on a championship for the Lightning, and still being young at the age of 24, the possibilities of a professional playing career after Lehman are very much in the cards for Santiago. With the WNBA, and so many professional leagues overseas, a creative, high scoring point guard will be in big demand following her collegiate career.

"It would be a dream come true to see Kathy Santiago continue her career after Lehman," said Harrison. "After all she has been through over the years, it would be a special story if she would be able to get an opportunity to play at the next level."

Even with the dreams of pro basketball lurking, Santiago is determined to receive her degree from Lehman in the Spring. This would be the a perfect conclusion to this journey for this special individual.

"Receiving my degree at Lehman is something that is a priority in my life," added Santiago. "To be one of the first members of my family to achieve this is something that I look forward to doing, and making my family proud."

Find out more information on Kathy Santiago and the rest of the Lehman College athletic department by visiting us on the web at www.lehman.cuny.edu, or calling 718-960-7175.

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