

# An Inside Look at

# LEHMAN COLLEGE ATHLETICS

## New Coach Looks To Lead Lehman To Title Contender

As the baseball season has begun at Lehman College, the Lightning have gotten off to a rocky start of the season. After suffering a few heart breaking losses in the CUNY conference, the job for first-year head coach John Quirk is to regroup the team, and prepare for a run at the school's first CUNY conference championship since 1996. With a mixture of veterans and a talented group of newcomers, coach Quirk may surprise Lightning fans by tournament time.

The Lightning are led by slugger Kareem Benjamin. Benjamin, a power hitting sophomore gives Lehman an imposing presence in the middle of the line-up. Kareem was an honorable mention last season for the aCUNY all-star team, and is currently leading the Lightning in home runs.

The Lightning outfield will be quick with Benjamin patrolling left field and the new addition of right fielder Jose Garrido. Garrido, a transfer from the Borough of Manhattan Community College, gives coach Quirk a powerful bat in the line-up, and exceptional speed in the outfield. With the return of junior Luis Alicea from last season's squad, this trio gives the Lightning one of the best outfields in the conference.

"Our outfield is much improved this season," said Quirk. "The return of Kareem, and the addition of some talented players give us depth in these three positions."

The Lightning infield is highlighted by the return of junior second baseman Jhonny Reyes. Reyes, a slick fielding infielder from Walton High School, will give the Lightning a very solid bat at the plate, and fielder on defense. Reyes, will be combined with fellow Walton alumni Santiago Peralta, to form a lethal double-play combination.

Rounding out the infield for Lehman is the emergence of junior college transfer Andrew Rosario. Rosario, the third baseman for the Lightning is a product of Art & Design High School. After his prep career came to an end, he went to Florida to play junior college ball before emerging on the Bronx campus. Freshman Jason Caraballo will take over the reins at first base for Lehman.

The key piece of the puzzle for a Lehman championship goal, is the very exciting pitching staff assembled this season in the Bronx. Sophomore Adam Kolinowski will anchor the staff this season, and the hard throwing lefty, has Lehman fans excited.

"Adam has the potential to be a very exciting player in the CUNY conference this season," said Lehman assistant coach Ray Cornish. "Adam has a variety of pitches that will keep players off balance at the plate."

Lehman will also look to pitchers Jason Grijalba, Steven Rodriguez, and Kenny Bonet to help add depth to the rotation.

The Lightning will play a very competitive schedule this season, as aside from the demanding CUNY schedule, Lehman will play non-conference foes New Jersey City, Emerson, and Mt. St. Mary's to name a few. The Lightning hope that their hard work this season will be rewarded with a bid to the conference tournament at the College of Staten Island.

"We realize that we are a new team emerging in the conference," said Quirk. "We have a lot of work to do and will be looking to use our experience and youth for some surprising results this season."

Lehman will return to the Bronx, with a non-conference match-up against New Jersey City, on Tuesday, April 10th at 3:30 pm.



**Kareem  
Benjamin**



**Jhanny  
Reyes**