Young Group of Lightning Hope To Surprise Their Competition

Bronx, NY - Two years removed from a winning a CUNYAC championship in 2005, the Women’s Cross Country team will head into the 2007 campaign as a group of young runners looking for an identity. With hard work and determination, the Lightning hopes to fly under the radar.

Legendary skipper Lesleigh Hogg will return for his eighth season as the women’s cross country coach at Lehman College. While the primary goal of any team is to capture a championship, Hogg realizes that patience will be the key with this group of runners.

“We have nine runners on the roster, and five of them are sophomores, so we are very young,” he said.

One of those returning runners will be sophomore Dorothy Jean-Pierre, who put together a sensational campaign for the Lightning in 2006. Pierre, who served as the No. 3 runner a season ago, will be the squad’s No. 1 runner this season. Over the summer, she competed in the Empire State Games and finished in 2nd place in the 1500 meter run. Coach Hogg knows the importance of his athletes keeping in shape and staying sharp, and he feels the experience will only make Pierre better.

"Also expected to be a key contributor for the squad this season is junior Christina Bogie, who serves as captain of the Lehman College Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field teams. Joining the cross country team will be an adjustment for Bogie, but coach Hogg appreciates the commitment.

Senior Joy Browne will also return for her final season as a cross country runner for the Lightning, and coach Hogg was pleased, saying Browne’s presence on the team "gives the squad stability."

As far as competition is concerned, the chief contender in the conference, York, should be Lehman’s toughest competitor being that they won it last year.

As the 2007 season approaches, it is clear that the Lightning is intent on working hard and surprising its competition. If the young runners can perform well and make an imprint, Lehman should have no problem accomplishing their goal.

Lightning Hope To Capture Elusive First CUNYAC Championship

season as the men’s cross country coach at Lehman College. During his tenure at Lehman, Hogg has guided two CUNYAC indoor championship teams and two CUNYAC outdoor championship teams while also leading the women’s cross country squad to a title in 2005. Now, he would like to help the men’s cross country unit win its first title in program history.

Our unit this year will mostly be made up of veterans,” said Hogg. “Most of this year’s team consists of runners who competed for us a season ago. We’ve been training hard during the summer, and we are all excited about the season ahead.”

Runners expected to put together solid 2007 campaigns for the Lightning include senior Raul Sanchez and juniors Richard James and Patrick Thompson. Their performances will be crucial in the progression of the team this season, as Hogg recognizes the competition in the conference will be stiff.

"John Jay will be our chief competition being that they captured the championship last season and they are even stronger heading into this year” claimed Hogg. "Hunter is always very solid and Baruch should field a fine team of runners. We have our work cut out for us, but I am looking forward to the challenge."

Rounding out the squad for the Lightning in 2007 is senior Issa Tall, junior Joseph Bodden, sophomores Fiseha Brooks and Shane King, and freshman John Bowen.

As the 2007 season approaches, it is no secret that the Lightning is experienced from the Head Coach down. That being said, Lehman appears poised to make a run at that elusive first CUNYAC crown.