Court Is In Session

Fall marks a new beginning for the Lehman College women’s tennis team. The 2007 Lightning have set realistic team goals as well as personal goals. Last year’s team finished with an overall record of 3-9, battling tough non-conference opponents such as Rutgers-Newark, and conference powerhouse, Hunter College, who captured the 2006 CUNYAC Championship.

Head coach Zack Davis is realistic in his approach to the upcoming season. Top seeded sophomore Evauna Neville will be called upon to lead the team and set the tone for a squad that consist of no seniors. “Our girls will play hard and leave it all on the court everyday,” said Davis.

Davis also understands that competing for a conference title is still a long term goal of the Lightning. A season ago, Lehman finished with just a 3-5 record in conference competition, and the skipper would like to see his team reach the .500 mark against conference foes in 2007. Although increasing the conference win total by just one victory may seem like a small accomplishment to some, the Lightning would realize the feat as a big step forward.

In addition to the high expectations for Neville, juniors Chanda Em and Jennifer Merkel will also be expected to contribute for the Lightning in 2007. If the combination of Em and Merkel perform well, and Neville continues to build on a promising career that began last season, the Lightning will be on their way to accomplishing their preseason goal of attaining a .500 conference mark.

On his final thoughts heading into the season, coach Davis said, “It will take time, but this is a strong group with a lot of confidence.”

Lightning Falls In Non-Conference Opener

Lehman College (0-1 Overall, 0-0 CUNYAC) dropped its season-opening match on Sunday afternoon, falling to the St. Joseph’s-LI Golden Eagles by a score of 8-1.

St. Joseph’s took advantage early, scoring a 3-0 lead after doubles action. In the most contested match of the afternoon, Lehman’s team of Carry Em and Natalee Smith fell short at No. 3 doubles, losing 8-3 to St. Joseph’s Elizabeth Berthold and JoAnna Stanczak. In singles action, standout Evuana Neville fought valiantly against the Golden Eagles’ Kelly Crawford, dropping the match 3-6, 6-3, 4-6.

Despite the loss, sophomore Aurora Peters put together a fine performance at No. 4 singles, as she downed St. Joseph’s Kerri Szabo 6-3, 7-5 for the Lightning’s lone victory on the afternoon.

The Lightning will return to action tomorrow afternoon as they host the Hunter College Hawks in their home opener, with match time scheduled for 3:30pm.