

An Inside Look At

LEHMAN



COLLEGE

Athletics

Lehman College's Daniel Skilins' Diligent Efforts Revive Volleyball Program

The Lehman College women's volleyball team entered the 2008 season searching for an identity. Although a handful of familiar faces from the season before were set to return to the fray, a number of talented recruits also joined the squad with hopes of making their marks on the program. Nine matches into the new campaign and the Lightning have shown that they are a team that has turned the corner, and a lot of the credit belongs to Head Coach **Daniel Skilins**.

Following the conclusion of last season, Skilins knew that he needed to go out and seek players who specialized in certain roles and would flourish in his system. A perfect example of a player that is feeling at home under the guidance of the Lehman skipper is **Gerri-Ann Martin**, a freshman out of JFK High School. Thus far this season, she has taken the CUNYAC by storm, and she is Lehman's No. 1 outside hitter, leading the squad with 88 kills and placing third on the team in service aces with 21. Her contributions add a new dynamic to a team that didn't have a player the caliber of Martin a season ago. In addition to the JFK High School product, first-year standout **Lisa Jagdeo** was brought to Lehman by Skilins, and she has relished the role of setter, leading the team with 129 assists.

Sophomore **Jillian Acevedo**, who served as Lehman's setter in 2007, has become more of a versatile player

who can be used in many different ways. While she became an assist machine last season, this year Skilins has used her as an outside hitter, and has talked lately about using her as a defensive specialist in an attempt to better utilize all of the talent that he has on the court. Two players who were on the squad last season, **Crissette Maxwell** and **Lakeisha Gordon**, are also back in the fray and also have a solid understanding of Coach Skilins' philosophy. In addition to their on-the-court prowess, they have also provided leadership to the younger players who are going through the transition from high school volleyball to volleyball at the intercollegiate level.

Coach Skilins also brought in a player who specializes in serving, and that is freshman **Jennifer Winkler** out of Grover Cleveland High School. In nine matches this season, she has tallied 20 service aces, and she makes it extremely difficult for Lehman's opponents to set the ball when she serves. She is another piece to a puzzle filled with important role players.

Skilins has also done a terrific job putting together a coaching staff filled with terrific volleyball minds. **Wilmy Dipre**, who played volleyball at Lehman College for four seasons and served as an assistant for the men's and women's programs last season, returns once again to sit alongside Skilins. **Joel Sanchez**, who finished his four-year playing career this past



April, logged on as an assistant coach as well. He played a big role in recruiting players to the women's program and he will be crucial in the development of a young squad.

Lehman is currently 6-3 through nine matches, and that also includes a 3-1 mark in CUNYAC competition. A season ago, the Lightning found sat at 2-7 through nine matches, and the team didn't

win its sixth match until October 13th. Fast forward a year to 2008 and the Lightning have their sights set on establishing themselves as a legitimate threat to take home a CUNYAC championship. If they continue to improve and the players' chemistry continues to get better, the Lightning could very well find themselves playing in a championship match in the near future.