

# 2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament Central

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## One and Done . . . Again

The USM men's basketball team fell to Kansas State in what is officially classified as the second round of the 2012 Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament. With the loss, the Eagles fall to 25-9 on the 2011-12 season. The loss also puts the program's NCAA Tournament record at 0-3, with the other two losses coming in 1990 and 1991.



The team loses a number of key seniors with the close of the 2011-12 season, including Angelo Johnson, Darnell Dodson, Torye Pelham and Maurice Bolden. These four players combined to score 27 of USM's 64 points (i.e., more than 42% of the total) against Kansas State.

## Pep Band's Racial Slurs Give USM a National Black Eye

There is little argument with the idea that the biggest story regarding USM on day 1 of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament was not the team's 64-70 loss to Kansas State, but instead involved the racial slurs aimed by the institution's pep band at a freshman player on the KSU squad. Video of the spectacle went viral shortly after conclusion of the game, and the story became a national one during the same time. The situation became so heated that USM president Martha Saunders issued an official press release condemning the act and apologizing to the KSU family. As it stands, the harm that the pep band did to USM's reputation, as well as that of the State of Mississippi, may easily exceed any monetary benefit to the USM athletics department from tournament participation. More on this situation can be found at [USMNEWS.net](http://USMNEWS.net).

## Eustachy's Former Team Rising from the Ashes

Iowa State took out defending NCAA Champion Connecticut in the Round of 64 at the 2012 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament on 15-Mar-2012. The Cyclones defeated the Huskies 77-64 to advance to the Round of 32.



Before today, ISU had not played in an NCAA Tournament game since its second-round loss to North Carolina back in 2005; it hadn't won an NCAA Tournament game since its first round win against

Minnesota that same year. As long-time followers of USMNEWS.net are aware, the ISU basketball program was left in disarray about a decade ago after then-head coach Larry Eustachy thrust the program and institution in a major scandal centered around him drinking and partying with co-eds from another institution (see photos below).



ISU is currently 23-10 (and 39-26 overall) under second-year head coach [Fred Hoiberg](#), a school legend who appears to have the Cyclones headed in the right direction.