2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament Central

Is APR a Better Predictor than RPI?

A recent report here at USMNEWS.net indicated that eight of the 68 teams participating in the 2012 NCAA Tournament have Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores that fall below the NCAA's allowable minimum of 925. Among these is none other than the USM Golden Eagles. Table 1 below reports those eight schools, along with their wins and losses in the 2012 NCAA Tournament.

Table 1
NCAA Tourney Performance of Eight Low APR Schools

School	Wins	Losses
Colorado State	0	1
Connecticut	0	1
Mississippi Valley State	0	1
New Mexico State	0	1
Norfolk State	1	1
Ohio	2	0
St. Bonaventure	0	1
Southern Miss	0	1
TOTALS	3	7

As the information in Table 1 above indicates, the cumulative record of the eight low APR institutions is only 3-7 through the round of 32. Of these eight, only Ohio remains in the 16-team field. Many of the Table 1 teams came into the tournament with low RPI scores, and thus received relatively low seeds. So, it seems as though, in this case at least, that APR scores are about as good at predicting NCAA Tournament success as RPI scores.

Back to One for C-USA?

Conference-USA received two bids to this year's NCAA Tournament. These went to USM and Memphis. Both teams were ousted in their first games of the tournament. As reported earlier, USM fell to Kansas State, 54-60. Memphis fell to St. Louis, 54-61. With C-USA going 0-2, one has to wonder whether the NCAA will reconsider inviting multiple C-USA teams in the near future.