

Are Eustachy's Eagles Ready for Big Time?

Since the USM Golden Eagles fell to Kansas State in their first game of the 2012 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, a number of other pieces of the puzzle have fallen into place. The string below summarizes what has happened on USM's side of the bracket.

USM < Kansas State < Syracuse < Ohio State

The string above indicates that after beating USM, Kansas State fell to Syracuse. Syracuse would later fall to Ohio State, which is now set to face Kansas in the Final 4. As such, the string above may need to be updated further in a future issue in this series. As it stands now, the string above is long enough to suggest that, even after eight years in Hattiesburg, Eustachy's program remains quite a distance from the big time.

Twenty Five Years Ago in the Big Apple

This month [ushers in](#) the 25th anniversary of USM's 1987 National Invitation Tournament championship. The Eagles, coached by USM legend M.K. Turk, defeated Nebraska and LaSalle in New York City's Madison Square Garden to win the tournament.



USM fans likely welcome celebration of the 25th anniversary of the program's NIT success, [especially](#) given the [bad taste](#) left by former USM president Shelby Thames' ill-advised decision to establish "NITChampsburg, MS" – a patch of ground between USM's [Reed Green Coliseum](#) and fraternity row. Thames' action was [roundly ridiculed](#) almost immediately upon its inception.