

All My Children?

USM Sports Programs not Treated Equally, at Least not by Gender

A number of USMNEWS.net readers have commented about their perception of how USM's sports programs are being supported, or not, on the basis of gender by the upper levels of athletics administration at USM. This is a subject that USMNEWS.net reporters and editorial writers have touched on in the past. This report examines this perception by way of the 2010-11 data. The three major sports are generally considered to be football, basketball and baseball. The women's counterparts to these are soccer, basketball and softball. Table 1 below compares the winning percentages by gender for USM from 2010-11.

TABLE 1 – ARE USM SPORTS TREATED EQUALLY BY GENDER? 2010-11

Men's Sport	2010-11 Record	Women's Sport	2010-11 Record	Record Difference	Sig Level
Football	0.615	Soccer	0.211	0.404	0.010
Basketball	0.688	Basketball	0.333	0.355	0.002
Baseball	0.672	Softball	0.309	0.363	0.000

The Table 1 data (from 2010-11) show a clear pattern of the performance of the three major men's sports programs exceeding that of their female counterparts. In fact, the performance *differences* exceed the performance *levels* across the women's sports programs themselves by anywhere from 0.022 to 0.193. This is simply amazing, and it provides some hearty evidence that the Richard Giannini administration USM athletics, and by implication the Martha Saunders administration of USM, clearly favored the men's USM sports programs over their women's counterparts. The evidence here is strong enough to warrant examination of the 2009-10 data. This is done in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2 – ARE USM SPORTS TREATED EQUALLY BY GENDER? 2009-10

Men's Sport	2009-10 Record	Women's Sport	2009-10 Record	Record Difference	Sig Level
Football	0.538	Soccer	0.235	0.303	0.045
Basketball	0.588	Basketball	0.300	0.288	0.010
Baseball	0.600	Softball	0.472	0.128	0.089

The Table 2 data (from 2009-10) show a clear pattern where the performance of the three major men's sports programs exceeds that of their women's counterparts. Again, the data provide evidence to support the perception of USMNEWS.net readers – that USM's women's sports programs are given little attention relative to that paid to men's sports programs. Continued evidence of favoritism like that in Table 2 warrants examination of the 2008-09 data. This is done below in Table 3.

TABLE 3 – ARE USM SPORTS TREATED EQUALLY BY GENDER? 2008-09

Men's Sport	2008-09 Record	Women's Sport	2008-09 Record	Record Difference	Sig Level
Football	0.538	Soccer	0.289	0.249	0.079
Basketball	0.469	Basketball	0.625	-0.156	0.104
Baseball	0.606	Softball	0.482	0.124	0.084

The Table 3 (for 2008-09) results are also interesting. They reveal two additional cases of what appears to be favoritism toward men's sports programs (football and baseball). The remaining 2008-09 case, USM basketball, arguably supports an equal treatment conclusion. Still, eight of

the nine seasons examined heretofore in this report support a gender-based management program – one favoring men’s sports – in Golden Eagle athletics.

Given that Saunders did not begin her administration at USM until the 2007-08 academic year, it seems more appropriate to turn around and move to the present. Although the basketball results are partial, it seems worthwhile to examine the 2011-12 athletics seasons. This is done in Table 4 below.

TABLE 4 – ARE USM SPORTS TREATED EQUALLY BY GENDER? 2011-12

Men’s Sport	2011-12 Record	Women’s Sport	2011-012 Record	Record Difference	Sig Level
Football	0.857	Soccer	0.275	0.582	0.000
Basketball	0.840	Basketball	0.375	0.465	0.000

The Table 4 results make the strongest case for favoritism of all those examined here. There, both cases strongly support the perception by USMNEWS.net readers that women’s sports at USM are perennially thought of as back-burner items by USM’s central administrators. The 2011-12 performance *differences* (to date) far exceed the performance *levels* across the women’s sports programs themselves by anywhere from 0.090 to 0.307. These numbers are much higher than those reported for 2010-11 in Table 1 above.

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that the results reported here should be startling to members of the USM family. Having women’s sports get what appears to be the silent treatment from the Saunders administration vis-à-vis their men’s sports counterparts is troubling.