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## Aunt Martha's "Banner Year"

USM President, Martha Saunders, stood before USM faculty, staff and students, along with local media, at the University's Fall 2007 Convocation and proclaimed that USM's athletics would be producing a banner year during 2007-08. How has Saunders' proclamation stood up to the test of time? If **Table 1** below is any indication, not so well.

**Table 1**  
**USM Athletics: 2007-08 Performance**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Losses</b>	<b>Pct.</b>
Volleyball	13	21	38.2
Soccer	8	11	42.1
Football	7	6	53.8
Women's Basketball	21	14	60.0
Men's Basketball	19	14	57.6
Softball*	22	22	50.0
Baseball*	25	12	67.6
Women's Tennis	9	6	60.0
Men's Tennis	8	14	36.4
Women's Golf	36	30	54.5
Men's Golf*	35	28	55.6
Women's Track*	3	8	27.3
Men's Track*	0	6	0.0
Totals	206	192	51.8

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\* Season not yet completed.  
**Source:** southernmiss.cstv.com

As the data above indicate, only USM's football team finished its year after participating in a top-level national format/tournament. Overall, USM's sports programs have lost (192) almost as much as they have won (206). This is certainly not any sort of "banner year" by any stretch of the imagination.

Saunders' USM blog told the world that she (Saunders) hired the coach who led the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater to the Division 3 national championship in 2007. Maybe USM fans should give her a chance to replace each current USM coach before complaining about the banner year of 2007-08.