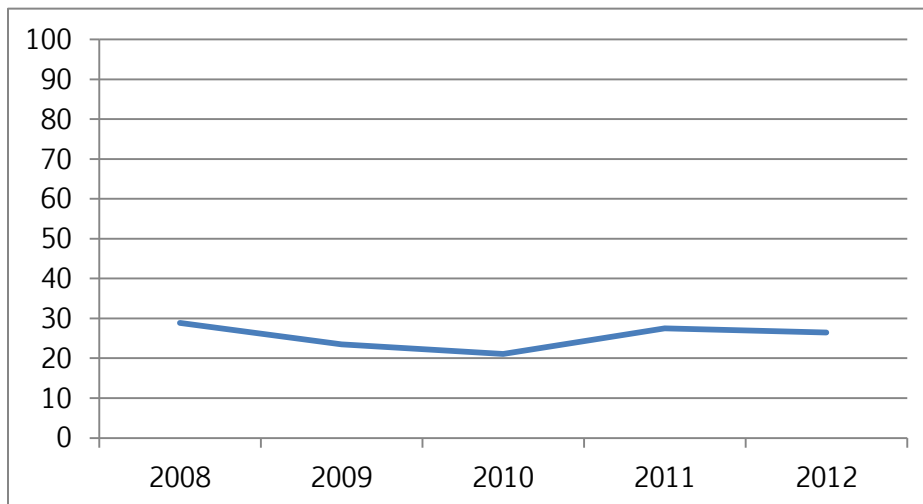


Ebke Fired After Five Losing Seasons

HATTIESBURG – Reports from *The Hattiesburg American* [indicate that](#) USM women’s soccer coach Scott Ebke has been fired by USMAD Jeff Hammond after completing five losing seasons. Ebke’s most recent season is just completed, with his Lady Eagles going 4-12-1. Ebke’s overall record at USM is a disappointing 20-65-7. The trend under Ebke since his arrival back in 2008 is shown below in Figure 1. As can be seen there, USM’s annual winning % bounced around between 20% and 30% under Ebke’s leadership.

Figure 1: Soccer Winning % under Ebke



As long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are aware, Ekbe is one of the sports coaches brought to USM by former USM president Martha Saunders. He is also the fourth of these to have since parted ways with the university. Former USM softball coach Howard Dobson’s USM career ended in 2011 with a 93-124-2 (0.429) record. Raynie Theis’ USM career guiding women’s tennis ended in 2012 with a record of 24-43-0 (0.358). Ebke’s record was, as mentioned above, 20-65-7 (0.255), which is much worse than either Dobson’s or Theis’, even though he was given as much or more time to succeed than either of these two former coaches. The remaining coach in the group is Larry Fedora, who led the football program for four years (2008-11), producing an overall record of 34-19-0 (0.642). Of course, Fedora was not let go. Instead, he took over the University of North Carolina’s football program after the 2011 season.

A detailed look at the other coaches brought on board by Saunders, courtesy of USMNEWS.net’s *Aunt Martha’s Coaches* series, is provided in Table 1 below. Eight other Saunders hires are listed there, including Fedora’s replacement, Ellis Johnson, and replacements

for both Theis and Dobson. These are Dominic Modise and Kirsten Voak/Jon Malgradi, respectively.

Table 1
USM Career Records of Aunt Martha's Coaches

Name	Sport	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win%
Berry, Scott	Baseball	107	67	0	61.5%
Dobson, Howard*	Softball	93	124	2	42.9%
Ebke, Scott*	Women's Soccer	20	65	7	25.5%
Fedora, Larry*	Football	34	19	0	64.2%
Johnson, Ellis	Football	0	10	0	0.0%
Kroll, Ki	Men's Tennis	12	34	0	26.1%
Modise, Dominic	Women's Tennis	0	0	0	0.0%
Stephen, Kevin	Track & Field	47	109	1	30.2%
Sutherland, Abbey	Women's Volleyball	44	47	0	48.4%
Theis, Raynie*	Women's Tennis	24	43	0	35.8%
Tyndall, Donnie	Men's Basketball	1	0	0	100.0%
Voak, Kirsten & Malgradi, Jon#	Softball	<u>13</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>27.7%</u>
		395	552	10	41.8%

* No longer affiliated with USM

Hired as co-head coaches in 2011

Two of these three replacements are doing quite poorly. The softball combo of Voak/Malgradi produced a dismal 13-34-0 (0.277) record in 2012, while Johnson's 2012 football effort is only 0-10-0 (0.000) thus far. Clearly, these are fire-able performances if not corrected in a reasonable period of time, at least according to sources. It is likely that Ki Kroll (men's tennis), and possibly even Kevin Stephen (men's and women's track and field), are on the proverbial hot seat as well. Overall, Saunders' sports hires are only 395-552-10 (0.418), a record that is disappointing at best.