

## Ellis Johnson Expected to be Named New HC at USM

HATTIESBURG – According to ESPN’s Chris Low, South Carolina defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson [will become](#) USM’s new head football coach, succeeding Larry Fedora, who will depart Hattiesburg on 25-Dec-2011 in order to take the reins at North Carolina. Johnson, who reportedly earns \$750,000 per year at SC, is widely recognized as one of the better defensive minds in the country. He is also not unfamiliar with USM and Hattiesburg, having served as USM’s defensive coordinator in the late 1980s. A [morning report in](#) *The Hattiesburg American* indicates that USM has scheduled a 4pm (CST) press conference in the Trent Lott Center in order to make its decision known.



*Ellis Johnson*

Fedora leaves the USM program having produced an overall record of 33-19, including an unprecedented 11-win season (thus far) in 2011 (11-2 overall), which is something that has many USM fans nervous about this head coach search. Sources tell USMNEWS.net, however, that much of Fedora’s record at USM is overhyped, given the quality of the opponents that USM has defeated (and occasionally has been defeated by) since the beginning of the 2008 season. Table 1 below lists Fedora’s wins and losses by season ([2008](#), [2009](#), [2010](#), [2011](#)):

TABLE 1: Fedora at USM

Wins	Losses
<a href="#">Louisiana-Lafayette</a>	<a href="#">Auburn</a>
<a href="#">Arkansas State</a>	<a href="#">Marshall</a>
<a href="#">UAB</a>	<a href="#">UTEP</a>
<a href="#">Central Florida</a>	<a href="#">Boise State</a>
<a href="#">East Carolina</a>	<a href="#">Rice</a>
<a href="#">SMU</a>	<a href="#">Memphis</a>
<a href="#">Troy</a>	<a href="#">Kansas</a>
<a href="#">Alcorn State</a>	<a href="#">UAB</a>
<a href="#">Central Florida</a>	<a href="#">Louisville</a>
<a href="#">Virginia</a>	<a href="#">Houston</a>
<a href="#">Memphis</a>	<a href="#">East Carolina</a>
<a href="#">Tulane</a>	<a href="#">Middle Tennessee State</a>
<a href="#">Marshall</a>	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>

Tulsa	East Carolina
Prairie View A&M	UAB
Kansas	Tulsa
Louisiana Tech	Louisville
Marshall	Marshall
Memphis	UAB
Tulane	
Central Florida	
Houston	
Louisiana Tech	
Southeastern Louisiana	
Virginia	
Rice	
Navy	
SMU	
UTEP	
East Carolina	
Central Florida	
Memphis	
Houston	

Table 1 above shows that Fedora's portfolio is light on significant wins. Five of the 33 wins (15.2% of the total) came against Memphis and Tulane, two of the worst football programs in Division I-A. Another three wins (9.1% of the total) came against non-Division I-A schools. Putting these two together accounts for about one in four of Fedora's total wins. On the right side of the ledger, three total losses (in only four contests) to UAB is a very disconcerting situation. Throwing in losses to Memphis, Rice and Marshall only makes things more troubling. Still, this aspect of the story is now a potential problem for North Carolina, not USM, to deal with in the future.