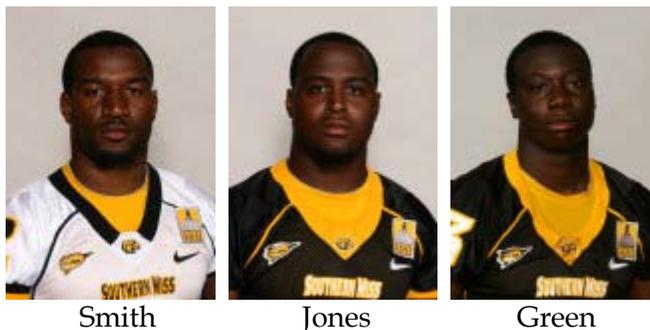


Three USM Football Players Shot at Nightclub

HATTIESBURG – [According](#) to [numerous](#) media [outlets](#), three USM [football players](#) were shot [outside](#) of Remington’s Hunt Club [at about](#) 1:20 a.m. on 14-Nov-2010. The three players have been identified as Martez Smith, a 22-year-old senior, Deddrick Jones, a 23-year-old junior, and Tim Green, a 21-year-old junior. Smith is a starting linebacker, Jones is a back-up linebacker, and Green is a starting defensive lineman. The three players were transported from the Hunt Club to Forrest General Hospital, where they were listed in critical condition. Later on 14-Nov-2010, however, doctors managed to stabilize each of the three USM athletes.



According to various [news](#) outlets, the incident began inside the Hattiesburg nightclub, but eventually spilled out into the parking lot, where shots were fired and the three USM football players were wounded. One national outlet [describes](#) the Hunt Club, shown below, as a “sprawling” party venue, where “scantly clad women” are mixed in with the club’s patrons, which number in the thousands on weekends, requiring 20 security personnel.



The insert below, taken from the Hunt Club’s website, gives some indication as to the actual size of the nightclub, which does appear to be “sprawling.” A number of other

inserts, each depicting “the good times” available to USM students and others at the Hunt Club, appear at the end of this report.



The Hattiesburg Police Department is currently being assisted by the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Marshals office in investigating the incident. Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour has contacted USM president Martha Saunders, pledging other state-level resources to investigating the incident if needed. No arrests have been made thus far in the investigation.



Barbour

Saunders

Fedora

USM head football coach Larry Fedora issued a brief statement, saying that “[d]uring this difficult time our thoughts and prayers are with these three members of our Southern Miss family, Martez, Tim and Deddrick, as well as their families. These three men are an integral part of the success of our football program, and we will continue to keep them in our hearts and hope for a speedy recovery.” The shootings that left the three USM football players wounded occurred within hours of a road victory (in Orlando) by the Golden Eagles over Central Florida, which was ranked 25th in the nation going into the game. USM rose to 7-3 on the season with the win, while Fedora’s record at USM rose to 21-15.

In its own [presser](#), USM is referring to the student-athletes as being “injured” rather than “wounded.” In it, Saunders also offered an official statement: “At Southern Miss this afternoon our number one concern is for the health and welfare of these students and for their family members who await their recovery. We will do all we can to assist these young men and their families, as well as assist the Hattiesburg Police Department in its investigation of this event.” Sources say this incident further [highlights](#) the

[degradation](#) of the academic culture at USM – much of which has occurred under Saunders’ watch, and represents [a change](#) that now has USM [resembling](#) a so-called [party school](#). This incident also highlights points made in a [recent USMNEWS.net report](#) that challenges USM chief financial officer Russ Willis’ view that athletics enhances USM’s image nationwide. That report discusses some of the problems that have occurred with the USM football program under Fedora, problems [that had](#) even before the current incident continued to plague the program this season. Now, having players out after 1:00 a.m. will likely put the focus back on what many Eagles fans refer to as a serious lack of discipline in Fedora’s fledgling football program.

Nights at the Hunt Club - A Pictorial







