

## USM Reports Almost Two Dozen NCAA Violations

HATTIESBURG - According to [two](#) separate 27-Aug-2011 [reports](#) for *The Hattiesburg American* by Patrick Magee, the USM athletics department reported 21 separate NCAA violations across seven sports during only a two-year period under current president Martha Saunders. According to these reports, the infractions range from current USM football coach Larry Fedora giving a radio interview (in 2008) at a local high school game, to current USM head women's basketball coach Joye Lee-McNelis using her son, himself a prospective student-athlete, in multiple practice sessions (in 2010) with the Lady Eagles. Among the more egregious self-reported violations are (1) former USM head men's tennis coach agreeing to pay one of his players \$200 for a singles victory during a 30-Oct-2009 tennis match at the University of Alabama, (2) Viator's decision to take the USM men's tennis team to the Bahamas during 2008 for what amounted to only a practice session, (3) Viator's \$150 payment in 2009 to a member of the men's tennis team to write a term paper for another member of that team, (4) Lee-McNelis' instruction to an ineligible player (a non-qualifier) to participate in team workouts and drills, (5) Lee-McNelis' failure to prohibit a game-day simulation for women's basketball recruits, (6) participation of an academically ineligible football player during the 2009 season, and (7) assistant men's golf coach Jim Garren's provision of impermissible money benefits (totaling more than \$800) to a recruit's parents in Nov-2010.

Table 1 - USM's Self-Reported Infractions

Sport	# Reported Infractions	Coaches (Others) Involved
Baseball	2	unnamed, unnamed
Football	8	Larry Fedora, unnamed, Lanny Mixon, unnamed, Gary Camp, Richard Vogel
Men's Basketball	3	Larry Eustachy, Greg Heiar
Men's Golf	1	Jim Garren
Men's Tennis	3	Teddy Viator, Marc Lux
Track & Field	2	Kevin Stephen
Women's Basketball	4	Joye Lee-McNelis
	<b>23</b>	

Interestingly, USMNEWS.net's own accounting of the details provided by *THA's* Magee comes up with 23, not 21, total self-reported violations. These are summarized in Table

1 above. In order to provide a more detailed account for USMNEWS.net readers, [the list reported by Magee](#) is provided below (by sport):

### **Baseball**

- Transfer player's eligibility was manipulated by USM officials in 2009
- Three USM cheerleaders attended, and were photographed at, a recruit's signing ceremony in 2010; photos appeared on the internet

### **Football**

- Fedora interviewed by media at local high school game in 2008
- Brochure for USM football camp was deemed too large during 2009
- Player who had failed to sign a student-athlete statement/consent form was allowed to practice with team in 2009
- Associate athletics director Dick Vogel sent out a media clip e-mail regarding football recruiting in 2009
- Academically ineligible player participated during the 2009 season
- Lanny Mixon, the USM reporter for rivals.com, uploaded photographs of recruits' on-campus visits in 2011 to the internet
- USM strength & conditioning coaches filmed player workouts and uploaded video to YouTube in 2011
- A non-coaching member of the football staff assisted in coaching duties during USM's 2011 spring football game

### **Men's Basketball**

- Eustachy made unauthorized visit to basketball program in Jackson to scout a player
- Assistant coach Greg Heiar spoke to media about a basketball recruit in 2010
- Player competed in a summer league in Pennsylvania in 2011 without authorization

### **Men's Golf**

- Assistant coach Jim Garren provided impermissible monetary benefits to parents of a recruit in November of 2010

### **Men's Tennis**

- Viator arranged for trip to Bahamas for team tennis practice in 2008
- Viator arranged to make a \$200 payment to player for a singles victory at Alabama during 2009.
- Viator paid player \$150 to write term paper for another player in 2009

### **Track & Field**

- Recruit was brought to campus for official visit without authorization
- USM football player was allowed to participate in USM track during 2011 without authorization

### **Women's Basketball**

- A non-qualifier participated in workouts, drills, etc. in August of 2010
- Lee-McNelis allowed her son and a team manager to practice with the team during in October of 2010
- Lee-McNelis allowed her son to practice with team in December of 2010

- Game-day experience simulated for prospects at Dec-2010 game

Again, USMNEWS.net's accounting shows the number of violations to have been 23, not the "21" listed by Magee. In either case, sources say the so-called "educators" in USM's athletics department, beginning with Richard Giannini at the top, and including Saunders above him, have a lot of explaining to do.