

Will Modise be Fired?

HATTIESBURG - The USM women's tennis team is now 0-14 under first-year coach Dominic Modise. That record resulted from a 21-Mar-2013 loss *on its own courts* to tiny William Carey University. That record now has some followers asking if Modise, a Martha Saunders administration hire in 2012, will be retained for the 2014 season.



A screenshot of a tennis match result. The title is 'WOMEN'S TENNIS'. The date is 'Thursday, Mar 21' and the match is 'FINAL'. The score is 'William Carey 4' and 'Southern Miss 3'. Below the score, it says 'RESULTS' and 'Hattiesburg, Miss.'.

Team	Score
William Carey	4
Southern Miss	3

The question from followers is appropriate given USM's [decision to terminate](#) first-year football coach Ellis Johnson back in Dec-2012. Although that firing occurred after Johnson's team went 0-12 on the season, the decision to fire Johnson meant that USM faced a \$2.1 million over the next three years. Now USM is faced with a decision on whether or not to fire a tennis coach whose performance has been worse than Johnson's, and whose ouster will not cost the institution anything. If new USM athletics director Jeff Hammond balks at this opportunity and retains Modise, other coaches who have dismissed, including perhaps Raynie Theis, may have grounds for legal action. The Hammond administration is already [under fire](#) for allegations of [harassment](#) of female executives. Giving Theis an argument in this case might not be a good move for a unit already reeling from a \$1.5 million budget deficit.