


From eLLLLLLLLLoss to the Pitch

USM Administrators Making Weekends Worst Part of the Week for Many in USM Community

By the time Sunday evenings roll around, many in the USM community are more than ready to put a fork in the weekend and get back to the work week. This is strangely so, according to sources, because the USM sports teams are becoming more and more comfortable with losing, and big, particularly the USM football team. This weekend, 26-Oct, 27-Oct and 28-Oct, was little different. On 27-Oct-2012, Ellis Johnson's Golden Eagles football team was thrashed, 17 to 44, in Houston by Rice University. The win raised Rice's 2012 record to only 2-6, while USM fell to a dismal 0-8 on the 2012 campaign.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
 Southern Miss (0-8, 0-4 C-USA)	3	7	7	0	17
 Rice (2-6, 1-4 C-USA)	7	14	17	6	44

The blowout loss also dropped Johnson's overall record to 0-8, ensuring no better than a 4-8 record to the 2012 season (and to Johnson's USM career, after one year, atop the USM football program). As expected, the firestorm of protests of the jobs being done by Johnson, and his boss, USM athletics director Jeff Hammond, continued in full force throughout the weekend. One website, www.fireellisjohnson.com, not only updated Johnson's overall record, the site's manager(s) provided some monetary details concerning the potential cost of "buying out" Johnson and his coordinators. That update is shown in the insert below.

GOLDEN EAGLE FOOTBALL
Rice 44
Southern Miss 17
0 - 8

How much would it cost to rid Southern Miss of this disaster through buyouts?

Johnson: \$2,100,000.00*
Buckley: \$200,000.00
West: \$190,000.00
Bustle: \$190,000.00
Drayton: \$0 (1 yr contract)
Chachere: \$0 (1 yr contract)
Fobbs: \$0 (1 yr contract)
Hunter: \$0 (1 yr contract)
Peavey: \$0 (1 yr contract)
Constani: \$0 (1 yr contract)

Total: \$2,680,000*

*\$2.1m paid can be paid in monthly installments through Dec. 2015. (See 9 C.)

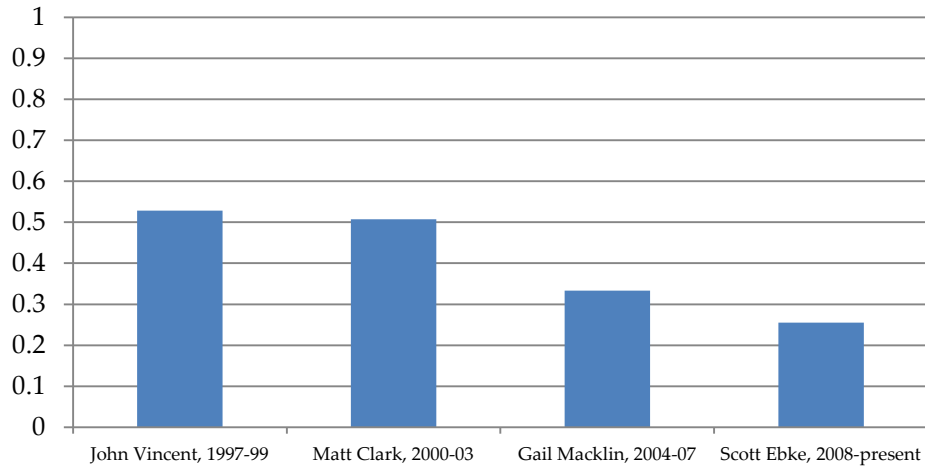
The Fake Ellis Johnson Twitter account also remains quite active, according to sources. This account seems to be aimed at providing some humor, surrounding biting criticism of Johnson and Hammond, for the USM faithful. Following on the heels of what was arguably the best season in USM history, the current 2012 season looks as though it may become the worst.



Compounding the bad weekend phenomenon for USM fans is Scott Ebke’s USM soccer program, which concluded its 2012 season with a loss on 26-Oct-2012. That loss pulled the team’s 2012 record down to 4-12-1 (0.265), and Ebke’s overall record at USM (since 2008) to a disastrous 20-65-7 (0.255). Ebke’s year-by-year performance is shown in the table inserted just below. Ebke’s best season at USM was his first, in 2008, when the Lady Eagles finished a dismal 5-13-1 (0.289). Sources point out that this, his best record, came with players (athletes) recruited to USM by his predecessor, Gail Macklin.

Season	Wins	Losses	Ties	Pct
2008	5	13	1	0.289
2009	4	13	0	0.235
2010	3	14	2	0.211
2011	4	13	3	0.275
2012	4	12	1	0.265
Totals	20	65	7	0.255

A look at Ekbe against his predecessors is provided by the figure below. USM’s soccer performance has diminished, beginning with the institution’s first-ever coach John Vincent in 1997, with each successive coach, all the way to Ebke.



One has to wonder, given the information in the table and the figure above, just how much longer USM's soccer program can continue on with Ebke.