

Bend it Like Latin

A FRESH LOOK AT THE STALE USM SOCCER PROGRAM

by Victoria Tyler

Much has been [reported](#) about USM's use of roughly \$7 million in student and taxpayer [money](#) to [support](#) the institution's \$19 million athletics department. Some of the [discussion](#) thus far has centered on the dismal state of USM's soccer program, which is led by Scott Ebke. After taking charge of the program before the 2008 season, Ebke became the first new coach of the Martha Saunders administration of USM.



USM president Martha Saunders enjoying her time with the USM Lady Eagles basketball team in late 2007. The lack of student and overall attendance at the game, as seen in the photos above, attests to Susan Green-Lewis' recent [point](#) about this and other USM sports programs.

The table below contains data on how Ekbe's USM soccer program has performed since 2008 against the rest of Conference USA, the benchmark for coaches at USM. As the table makes clear, the program is not doing well.

Table 1 – Scott Ebke in Conference USA, 2008-10

Opponent	Won	Lost	Tied	Cumulative Record
Central Florida	0	1	0	0-1-0
East Carolina	0	3	0	0-3-0
Houston	0	2	0	0-2-0
Marshall	0	3	0	0-3-0
Memphis	0	3	0	0-3-0
Rice	0	2	0	0-2-0
SMU	0	2	0	0-2-0
Tulane	0	1	0	0-1-0
Tulsa	0	1	0	0-1-0
UAB	1	2	0	1-2-0
UTEP	0	2	0	0-2-0
Totals	1	22	0	1-22-0

Against conference foes, the USM Lady Eagles soccer program is a dismal 1-22-0 (wins-losses-ties) since Ekbe took the reins. That includes 0-3-0 marks against East Carolina, Marshall, and Memphis. Other teams, which Ekbe stands 0-2-0 against at the moment, are almost certain to join this group of three in the coming days and weeks. At 1-22-0, Ekbe has won only 4.3% of his Conference USA matches. As Susan Green-Lewis has pointed out, there is little wonder why USM students do not support this program through their attendance. Through the 47 USM soccer competitions that Ebke has headed to date, he has managed only 12 wins, and six of those have come against Mississippi Valley State, Jackson State, and Northwestern State Louisiana. Overall, Ebke stands at 12-33-2 (27.7% success), and will likely fall to 12-41-2 (23.6% success) by the end of the 2010 season, his third in Hattiesburg. By then, his Conference USA record will likely be 1-29-0 (3.3% success). For a look at Ebke's overall performance from 2008 to the present, see Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Scott Ebke Overall, 2008-10

Match	Opponent	Won	Lost	Tied	Cumulative Record
1	South Alabama	✓			1-0-0
2	Northwestern State Louisiana	✓			2-0-0
3	Arkansas – Little Rock	✓			3-0-0
4	Troy			✓	3-0-1
5	Ole Miss		✓		3-1-1
6	Louisiana – Lafayette		✓		3-2-1
7	Mississippi Valley State	✓			4-2-1
8	Mississippi State		✓		4-3-1
9	Memphis		✓		4-4-1
10	UAB	✓			5-4-1
11	East Carolina		✓		5-5-1
12	Marshall		✓		5-6-1
13	Colorado College		✓		5-7-1
14	UTEP		✓		5-8-1
15	Houston		✓		5-9-1
16	Rice		✓		5-10-1
17	Tulane		✓		5-11-1
18	SMU		✓		5-12-1
19	Central Florida		✓		5-13-1
20	South Alabama		✓		5-14-1
21	Nicholls State	✓			6-14-1
22	LSU		✓		6-15-1
23	Southeastern Louisiana	✓			7-15-1
24	Murray State	✓			8-15-1
25	Mississippi Valley State	✓			9-15-1
26	Memphis		✓		9-16-1
27	UAB		✓		9-17-1
28	East Carolina		✓		9-18-1
29	Marshall		✓		9-19-1
30	Colorado College		✓		9-20-1
31	UTEP		✓		9-21-1
32	Houston		✓		9-22-1
33	Rice		✓		9-23-1
34	Tulsa		✓		9-24-1
35	SMU		✓		9-25-1
36	Mississippi Valley State	✓			10-25-1
37	Mississippi State		✓		10-26-1
38	Samford		✓		10-27-1
39	Vanderbilt		✓		10-28-1
40	Southeastern Louisiana			✓	10-28-2
41	Jackson State	✓			11-28-2
42	Ole Miss		✓		11-29-2
43	Northwestern State Louisiana	✓			12-29-2
44	Marshall		✓		12-30-2
45	East Carolina		✓		12-31-2
46	UAB		✓		12-32-2
47	Memphis		✓		12-33-2
48	Rice				
49	Houston				
50	UTEP				
51	Colorado College				
52	SMU				

53	Tulsa				
54	Central Florida				
55					

Surely if one twists and bends Ebke's USM soccer program the way the USM executive cabinet twisted and bent the USM religion, Greek, Latin, and philosophy programs in its search for \$15 million to trim from the FY 2012 budget, it will break much easier than those aforementioned academic programs.