

Could USM Care Less about Women's Athletics?

DATA SUGGEST NOT

The USM women's tennis team bowed out of the first round of the 2013 C-USA tennis championships, losing 0-4 to Tulane. In doing so, the team, led by first-year head coach Dominic Modise, fell to 0-20 to close out the 2012-13 season. As reported by USMNEWS.net during the spring of 2012, former coach Raynie Theis seemed to be pushed out of the head coaching position in a [very unusual](#) way. Theis' overall record at USM was not outstanding by any measure. Still, it was 24-43, which was a much better mark than USM has gotten thus far from Modise, whose overall record is the same 0-20 mentioned above.

On the same day (18-Apr-2013) that Modise's netters ended their 2013 season, the USM softball team dropped a pair of games to Georgia Tech in Atlanta. With those losses, that group's 2012-13 record fell to 11-35. This particular team has *two* head coaches in Kirsten Voak and Jon Malgradi. This pair is in its second year [at the helm](#), having produced an overall record of 24-69 since the beginning of the 2012 season. Compare that mark to the 93-124-2 record of their predecessor, Howard Dobson. To be sure, Dobson's mark is anything but stellar. At the same time, it is light years ahead of the Voak/Malgradi tandem.

These performances come on the heels of USM athletics director Jeff Hammond's decision to retain women's basketball coach Joye Lee-McNelis. Lee-McNelis' lady cagers have, in her nine years at the top, produced only two winning seasons, the last of which came a number of years ago. Her overall record is 126-150, including several wins over non-Division 1 schools. Sources indicate that Lee-McNelis has reigned over several of the worst seasons – including *the* worst – in USM women's basketball history. Despite this resume, first-year USM AD Hammond saw fit to retain Lee-McNelis. At the same time, Hammond also praised USM volleyball coach Abby Sutherland, despite her team producing a 2012 record of only 8-20. With Lee-McNelis' 2012-13 record of 15-16, these four programs have generated a combined 2012-13 record of only 34-91. If one adds in the women's soccer teams' 2012 mark of only 4-12-1, the overall record stands at 38-103-1. Keep in mind that Kevin Stephen's women's track team is, so far during 2012-13, only 3-8, bringing the total to 41-111-1. In comparison to these numbers, the 2013 women's golf team's record thus far of 38-36 seems phenomenal.

Could USM care any less about women's athletics that it apparently does currently? Sources say no, at least according to the data.