

# Dumpster Fire

## USM's Streak of 17 Consecutive Winning Seasons Goes Up in Smoke

Not only was USM's Homecoming 2012 spoiled by the 24 to 59 drubbing at the hands of the Marshall Thundering Herd on 20-Oct-2012, the loss dropped USM's record to 0-7 on the 2012 season. With only 5 games remaining, the 0-7 start means that for the first time since 1993, USM will suffer a losing season in 2012.



The image shows an ESPN College Football Gamecast scoreboard for a game between Marshall and Southern Miss. Marshall is leading 59 to 24. The scoreboard includes a quarter-by-quarter breakdown of the final score.

ESPN College Football Gamecast																				
MARSHALL	Final	SOUTHERN MISS																		
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The 35-point loss at home to a mediocre MU team also means that for the first time since 2001 the USM football team will be sitting home during the 2012-13 college football bowl season. With C-USA's six football bowl contracts, whose payouts range from \$500,000 (New Orleans Bowl) to \$1.4375 million (Liberty Bowl), USM's cash-strapped athletics department can hardly take being left out of the bowls this year. What could compound USM's financial distress – the institution's athletics department is currently dealing with a deficit of more than \$1 million – is the extraordinarily poor showing of C-USA football in 2012. Heading into the weekend of 27-Oct-2012, only a single C-USA team, Tulsa, has qualified for a 2012-13 bowl game. And although USM is the only school currently disqualified from participation, five other schools – UTEP, UAB, Tulane, Memphis, and Rice are all only a single loss away from joining USM at home for the holidays. In addition to these, SMU, Marshall, and Houston are currently in very precarious positions. In a worst case scenario, C-USA loses two of its bowls, and the \$1.0357 million that will not go to C-USA as a result. This is money that USM would have shared with the conference's 11 other members. Meanwhile, the USM family is pulling its proverbial hair out over on the BigGoldNation message boards. The Ellis Johnson regime is off to a disastrous 0-7 start, while the new Jeff Hammond regime (over all USM sports) is off to a dismal 10-32-1 beginning at this point. As a result, there are very few USM fans who are confident in either man's ability to lead his respective organization. What's more is that they all seem to recall that it was former USM president Martha Saunders who brought them into the fold.