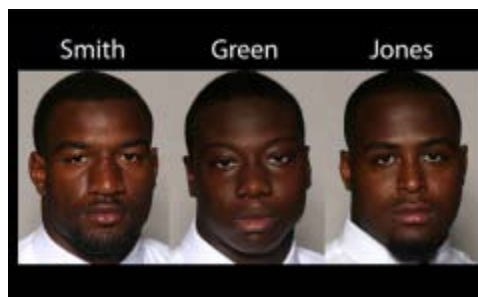


ESPN.com on Top of Nightclub Shooting Story

NEW DETAILS EMERGE

ESPN.com’s Andrea Adelson has been assigned to cover the [saga](#) surrounding the [shooting](#) of three USM football players – Martez Smith, Deddrick Jones, and Tim Green (pictured below, USM Athletics) – outside of a Hattiesburg nightclub at 1:30am on 14-November-2010. Backed by ESPN’s vast resources, Adelson’s reporting is, according to sources, likely to be one of the richer sources of information about this tragic episode. According to Adelson’s [most recent report](#), USM head football coach Larry Fedora stated that there is no curfew confronting USM players on Saturday nights after a game is played, explaining why the players could have been at the Hunt Club at 1:30am, as noted above.



According to Adelson, Fedora stated on 15-Nov-2010 that “[w]e constantly talk about making good decisions with our football team. These are 18-, 19-, 20-year-old kids. Unless you are that age you probably do not think the same way they do. I know I don't.” Sources, however, tell USMNEWS.net that Fedora’s use of the term “kids” is misguided. As reported by *The Hattiesburg American*, *The Student Printz*, other statewide media, and national news outlets, Smith, Jones, and Green are 22, 23, and 21 years old, respectively. Sources also say that Fedora’s term doesn’t even apply to a large segment of the team, which is relatively mature, at least by age. Table 1 below shows some of the interesting aspects of the USM football team’s age profile.

Table 1 – Age Oddities, USM Football 2010

Age	Eligibility Class			
	Frosh	Soph	Jr	Sr
23			1	6
22			8	7
21		3	10	
20	2	2		
Totals	2	5	19	13

Table 1 above presents the results of research by USMNEWS.net staff regarding the age of USM football players. USM officials provide the ages of many of the team’s players, though a significant number of them are left out of this process by these same USM officials. Thus, the data above provide *minimum numbers* for the “oddities” represented there. Still, from the

available data, the USM football team has six 23-year old-seniors and one 23-year-old junior. The roster also includes eight 22-year-old juniors and seven 22-year-old seniors. In addition to 10 21-year-old juniors, there are three 21-year-old sophomores. Finally, Table 1 points out that there are two 20-year-old freshmen on the Golden Eagles gridiron unit. With this type of age profile, sources tell USMNEWS.net that Fedora's overall record of 21-15 (since 2008) is not as good as it appears to be on paper. The data also indicate that Fedora's references to "kids," as highlighted above, is misplaced. (Sources also question Fedora's decision to allow, using his term, "kids" to stay out as long as they want on Saturday evenings/into Sunday mornings.)

Meanwhile, *The Hattiesburg American* also continues to provide reports on the shooting. In a [recent update](#), *THA* notes that:

- Jones has undergone surgery to remove a bullet from his lung, though it is not yet known if the bullet was successfully removed.
- Smith is paralyzed.
- Green is unable to talk, though he is able to write out his thoughts on paper.

Turning to other aspects of the story, reports coming into USMNEWS.net accuse the Martha Saunders administration of USM of trying to "manage" the flow of information regarding this event, even to the point of preventing some information from reaching the public. Sources note, to add to this, that USM vice president for student affairs, Joe Paul, seemed to cut the 14-November-2010 press conference short, prematurely ending the question-answer session being held by the Hattiesburg Police Department (see photo below, *The Student Printz*).



The Saunders administration has also not offered any kind of monetary reward to date that might lead to the capture of the alleged shooters in this case. As [reported earlier](#) by USMNEWS.net, this was quickly done by Saunders in response to the "Impeach Saunders!" graffiti that was chalked across the USM campus on 5-November-2010. In that case, Saunders is offering [a \\$1,000 reward](#) for information leading to arrests. Also, since USMNEWS.net's original report, little has been reported about the risqué nature of the Hunt Club, where the shootings occurred (see photos below).



Finally, the online discussions that are occurring at *THA* are generating comments on all angles of this story. A sampling of these is inserted below (newest first):

BluePlateSpecial wrote:

Patrick, Your article was very appropriate and well written. It simply points out facts and provides background to place this recent incident in historical context. Don't let the various ethnic groups alter your journalism. The facts about this shooting are not know. What is known is that a young kid's life is dramatically changed and two others are never going to forget last Saturday night. All that matters is these kids recover and piece together their lives and the police get the criminals who now have no hesitation to shoot people. I say round up a posse, catch them and hopefully they will resist arrest so the Hattiesburg Police can use their range training with those 9mms. Patrick, keep up your honest and fair reporting. A coach is a father to the team and has to be accountable for their actions. Everyone needs to pray for these guys and that justice be served.

11/15/2010 7:49:49 PM

lawcumsaw wrote:

Stop blaming the victims. Yes, we all take chances in life. Go to a bar and the probabilities are greater that you will get shot than when you are at a grocery store or in church. But that does not mean it is the victim's fault. People may get shot anywhere nowadays, but there is no reason to shoot someone unless the shooter REASONABLY perceives that their own life or the life of someone else is in imminent danger. Disrespect is not a reason to shoot, nor is a "threat" that can simply be walked away from.

11/15/2010 7:16:55 PM

FranklinBulldog wrote:

Fedora cares much more about his salary and career - than all else. If it weren't for the AMOUNT of his salary, he wouldn't be here. Likewise, if he was offered more money elsewhere, he'd be gone in a second. He's not committed to USM, certainly not as Bower, or any other USM coaches were. He likes to quote military leaders, but doesn't appear to know much about leadership, himself. His bunch of athletes have little discipline and are hell-bent on doing whatever they want to do, regardless the instructions/direction of their coach. These type incidents under Fedora's watch, in such a short time, are now a trend. But in the end, none of this matters. All that matters to Fedora, Saunders, and Gianinni are money and saving face. It was very obvious in Fedora's "press conference" that he is out of touch with what really matters in this particular incident. All he cares about is the players getting back on the field, but what's at stake is much more important.

11/15/2010 6:52:38 PM

WillyLoman wrote:

Is Fedora acting as the lawyer for these guys? Why can they speak to the law authorities only through Coach Fedora? It is sad that now they have created a buddy system and placed the team on lock-down AFTER the damage has been done.

11/15/2010 3:49:41 PM

southernbelle58 wrote:

This should prove to all concerned that athletes should be housed on campus. There have been too many problems since athletes were moved off of campus. I wish all three of the players the best.

11/15/2010 3:38:39 PM

k3s793 wrote:

Coach Fedora said there was no curfew on Saturday night. While he wasn't asked directly about alcohol, he did make a statement to the effect that when alcohol is involved bad things happen. Anyone who thinks these guys weren't sipping on a little coke & rum is fooling themselves. You can go to the WAPT TV website and watch video from the press conference.

11/15/2010 1:25:37 PM

MAC12334 wrote:

It is sad but too many times I see football players bullying people. They act all bad until something like this happens. They all need counseling on how to respect the public.

11/15/2010 12:56:36 PM

Eagle1973 wrote:

Father, God we come to you in prayer for Martez, Tim, and Deddrick. We ask for your healing hand to be on them, place them in your care and heal their wounds. We also pray for their family members asking for Your peace to be with them and pray You would hold them tight and comfort them during this time. Father may we always put You first as we trust in Your care and mercy for the entire USM community. You will be done.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

11/15/2010 12:55:03 PM

malcom1212 wrote:

CSI could solve this case in an hour. Fedora got some counselors available. Where is the statement from auntie martha. OH she would not touch this one with a ten foot pool. She is reading a novel on her Kindle.

11/15/2010 12:52:34 PM

wheelerdealer wrote:

This is just a bad situation for the City, University, Team, and Players. I pray and hope for the best for all!

11/15/2010 12:38:02 PM

rmichellereid wrote:

I'm the person that said that they were leader's and role models and if you do not know any of the three personally then you really may not know. I have had the privilege of knowing DJ, Tez, and Tim not just on the field but also have known them off the field too. I am not from the hood by a long shot either. I know last year when my son was doing his science project 2 of them helped with his experiment he had. I see the smile in my son's face when he sees one of his boys as he calls them and they are asking him how are his grades are and askin him is he minded his mom and making sure that always tell him to be good to his mom

11/15/2010 12:24:17 PM

adesertking wrote:

USM president Martha Saunders said at the time that it was a "gang from the Coast" that was involved in the altercation with multiple USM football players.

Is she as stupid as she appears to be? Is it not the police departments place to comment on a ongoing case?

11/15/2010 12:19:15 PM

SMACKFACE wrote:

Willard you are right. Gerbils or hamsters are not safe in Larry's habitat. These 3 guys are not that good on the field to go round starting a ruckus in a bar. I have no idea if they started the trouble or if trouble found them. Either way the fact is they are at the center of an ugly incident. I don't know these players but they are not at a private school and play a very public sport. So their conduct on and off the field is fair game. Want privacy? Quit the team. Now they will probably go around telling people they were wounded in Iraq. The spotlight is now on the professionalism of the HPD and their crime fighting capability. They need to solve this within "The First 48." Another CUSA police force, Memphis PD, could have this one done fast. They solved a Memphis players murder within 2 days. Godd luck running the prison Martha. USM is a highlight on the front page of MSN, Huffington Post, Washington Post, NYT, ESPN, Fox Sports... New Eagle you are a fool.

11/15/2010 10:17:14 AM

jarhead76 wrote:

USM administrative "leaders" have a habit of hiding problems, smoothing them over with PR, and not confronting the fundamental issues. So, it is highly predictable that USM administrative "leaders" will revisit the same problems over and over again. Our political "leaders" hire (usually in secret) and support them. We should fire these "leaders", and if the new ones don't do any better, fire them, too. Keep going until we find leaders of courage and integrity.

11/15/2010 10:00:15 AM

AbbyD wrote:

Control you players, Coach. If you're not boss off the field, you won't be boss on the field. They have a responsibility to behave when they're in Hattiesburg; you are the one who should see that they do.

11/15/2010 7:43:57 AM
