

Eagles End 2011 Season on Low Note

Late Season Collapse Led by Academic Problems

The end-of-season [academic suspension](#) of pitchers Geoffrey Thomas and Jonathan Thompson led, as USMNEWS.net sources predicted, to a quick end to USM's postseason play. Coach Scott Berry's Eagles went 1-2 in the 2011 C-USA Tournament, and followed that letdown with an 0-2 performance in the 2011 Atlanta Regional. There, the Eagles fell to Mississippi State, the eventual champion, and Georgia Tech. With the 0-2 mark in NCAA play, the Eagles fell to 39-19 overall, while Berry's two-season record fell to 75-43.

Surely, USM president Martha Saunders journeyed by air – via the USM Beechcraft King Air – to the Atlanta Regional, only to see the Eagles' collapse. Saunders has also seen both seasons under Berry end shy of the 40-win mark, something that sources say may be creating at least a small amount of uneasiness in the top USM executive. Now, attention turns to football, a constant source of angst among USM executives, and women's soccer and volleyball, two minor sports that are trending downward currently.