

## Eagles Calling for Replacement of Lee-McNelis

*Lady Eagles Coach Struggling in all Phases*

Fans attendance has plummeted to only a few. Wins have become rare. Now, sources tell USMNEWS.net that many USM fans are calling for (see USM's rivals.com site) USM athletics director Richard Giannini to replace Lady Eagles basketball coach Joye Lee-McNelis. With USM's first-round game against Memphis in the C-USA Tournament looming, the Lady Eagles are only 10-19 (0.345) overall, and 19-40 (0.322) since the beginning of the 2009-10 season. At the end of her seventh season at the helm, Lee-McNelis has produced the three worst seasons on record since 1977-78, the third year in the program's history, and the first after the program's head coaching situation was stabilized.

TABLE 1 – Five Worst Seasons Since 1977-78

Rank	Season	Pct	Head Coach	Record
1	2009-10	0.300	Joye Lee-McNelis	9-21
2	2004-05	0.321	Joye Lee-McNelis	9-19
3	2010-11*	0.345	Joye Lee-McNelis	10-19
4	1998-99	0.393	Kay James	11-17
	2001-02	0.393	Rick Reeves	11-17

\* Season not yet completed.

With USM president Martha Saunders having delivered almost 50 termination notices to tenured and tenure-track faculty since fall of 2009, and with 20-25 of these not passing an appeals phase, it will be interesting to see, according to sources, whether Lee-McNelis retains her high-paying position at USM. Saunders publicly lauded these USM faculty as being high-quality teachers, yet they were still faced with termination. It seems that Lee-McNelis, on the other hand, does not have a record worthy of retention. Will Saunders stand by her commitment to quality in this case? Only time will tell.