

# General Hammond or General Tso?

## *A Look at the USMAD's Midyear Scorecard*

Judging by the USM athletic director's midyear scorecard for 2012-13, many Hattiesburg locals are likely much more fond of General Tso's Chicken (at local eateries) than they are of General (Jeff) Hammond's Golden Eagles sports teams. To date, three USM sports teams – football, women's soccer and women's volleyball – have concluded their 2012-13 seasons. Table 1 below shows just how those three campaigns went for USM.

Table 1

Team	Record	Notes
Football	0-12	Hammond dismissed head coach Ellis Johnson after just one season. Given USM's mishandling of Johnson's contract, the university must pay him \$2.1 million over the next 3 years, even though Auburn will pay him \$2.4 million to coach defense over that same period.
Soccer	4-12-1	Hammond was forced to dismiss long-time soccer coach Scott Ebke after the 2012 season. Ekbe, hired by former USM president Martha Saunders, had an overall record of 20-65-7 as USM's coach.
Volleyball	8-20	Despite producing an 8-20 record in 2012, and dipping to an overall record of 44-47 as USM's head coach, Abby Southerland was publicly praised (via webcast) by Hammond.

As Table 1 indicates, Hammond's first fall as USM's permanent athletics director produced an overall record of only 12-44-1 across three sports. As a result, two coaches were fired, and one was publicly praised. None of the three coaches had, or has, a winning overall record at USM. Sources add that spring semester 2013 promises to be just as interesting, as a number of coaches are struggling to keep their spring sports programs above water.