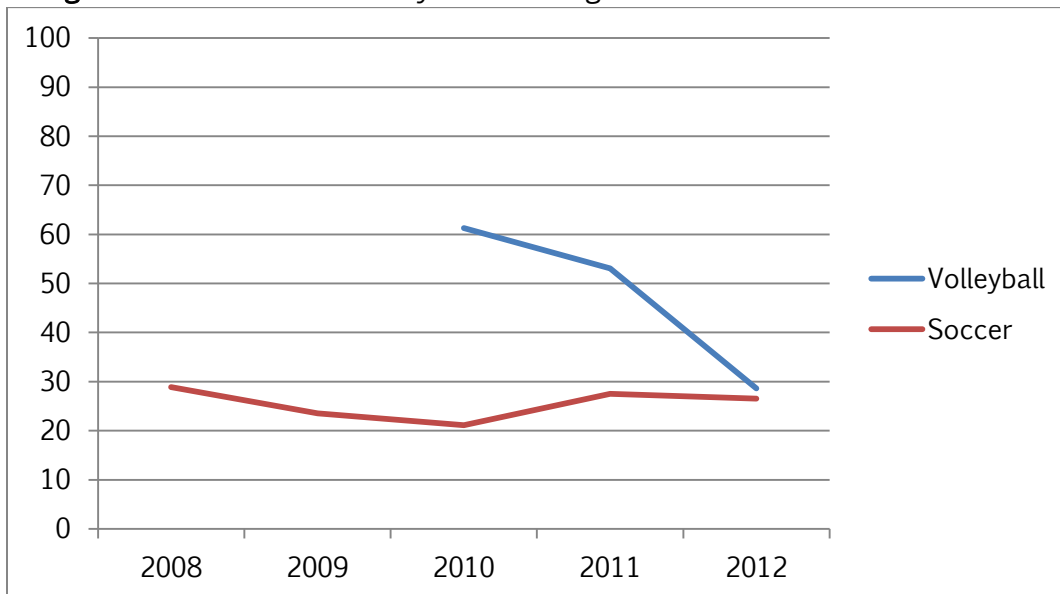


In the Books

JEFF HAMMOND'S FIRST TWO 2012-13 SPORTS SEASONS COMPLETE

With the USM women's volleyball team's 1 to 3 loss to UAB on 11-Nov-2012, the first two seasons of the 2012-13 academic year – the first under new USM athletics director Jeff Hammond – are now in the books. Abby Sutherland's women's volleyball team finished a dismal 8-20 on the fall 2012 season, a performance coming on the heels of the 4-12-1 season that Scott Ebke's USM women's soccer team completed during fall 2012. These two campaigns bring Hammond's record as USM's athletics director to a sloppy 12-32-1. The weekend loss brings Sutherland's overall USM record to 44-47 (since 2010), while Ebke's USM record overall is 20-65-7 (since 2008).

Figure 1: Soccer and Volleyball Winning % under Ebke and Sutherland



The trends shown in Figure 1 above suggest that Hammond has been facing some tough decisions to make in the near future vis-à-vis these two fall sports programs. Having spent five full seasons atop the USM soccer program without surpassing the 30% mark in a single season, many fans are not surprised that Hammond parted ways with Ebke earlier this month (Nov-2012). As for Sutherland's volleyball program, the trend above depicts a stone sinking through the depths of the water, with the pace picking up speed the deeper it gets. Sources point out, however, that in one of his recent "keep-up-the-spirits" videos for the USM family, Hammond touts, in an over-the-top fashion, Sutherland's leadership qualities in his one-on-one conversation with her. Simply making such a video likely ensures a fourth year as head coach for Sutherland.