

Learning from Larry?

Another Look at Joye Lee-McNelis' Destruction of USM Women's Basketball

After [seven complete](#) seasons [at the helm](#) of the University of Southern Mississippi women's basketball program, Joye Lee-McNelis' career USM record is a troubling 98-116 (0.458). If [contests against](#) William Carey are thrown out, that record falls to an even worse 96-116 (0.453). Using the template provided by USMNEWS.net's report on USM men's basketball coach Larry Eustachy entitled "The Eustachy Code," this report eyes a heretofore unseen dimension of Lee-McNelis' destruction of women's basketball at USM – that of the seemingly inordinate degree of roster turnover that has occurred since Lee-McNelis took the reins in 2004-05. Below is a list of the names of players who have played basketball for Joye Lee-McNelis at USM since that first year. The list contains a whopping **54** names over eight seasons, from Andrea Barber to Erica Williams.

USM Women's Basketball Players Under Joye Lee-McNelis
Barber, Andrea
Biland, Liz
Bland, Janairrika
Boehnel, Ashley
Bradford, Nia
Brooks, Nora
Brown, Kassietta
Carey, Tanecka
Carter, Deondra
Celmina, Ance
Chaney, Kristin
Dunbar, Geneshia
Eugene, Amber
Faulkner, Jamierra
Fletcher, Hannah
Foley, Emer
Gatling, Erin
Grant, Erica
Gurganus, Kelsey
Harrell, Ashley
Heard, Bianca
Helgeson, Stephanie
High, Tandra
Hubbard, Tiffany
Huffman, Ashley
Husband, Shasta
Jackson, Jenae
Johnson, Brittany
Johnson, Danielle
Jones, Dianca

Kelly, Ashlee
Love, Pauline
Manuel, Rachael
Martin, Ashley
Mays, Shanice
McNelis, Whitney
Miller, Wendy
Murphy, Robin
Patterson, Anna
Pierce, Niesha
Pierce, Nitesha
Pittman, Lauren
Plummer, Sadreka
Prest, Hallie
Reed, Kendra
Rigg, Kimberly
Rucker, Candace
Sanders, Jasmine
Silovsky, Kalee
Stueber, Shannon
Urbanowska, Ewa
Vigers, Rachel
Washington, Tanesha
Williams, Erica

According to the NCAA, Division 1 women's basketball rosters are limited to 13 scholarship players. With the 54 *unique* names listed in the table above, Lee-McNelis could have completely stocked 4.2 season's rosters with unique players only. This equates to 6.8 new players each season (i.e., $54/8 = 6.8$). Thus, the low level of commitment she has shown to those young women who have chosen to join "the USM family" in this way is quite disturbing. A 22-March-09 [OPPOSINGVIEWS column](#) goes even further, referring to the 30% turnover on college basketball rosters as an unethical, sleight of hand practice. In Lee-McNelis' case, with 6.8 new players per year, roster turnover for the USM Lady Eagles averages a problematic 52.3% per year over her first eight years. Though not quite as bad as roster turnover for men's basketball at USM under Larry Eustachy over the past eight seasons, it does appear as though Lee-McNelis may be learning from him in this regard. Recent reports of Lee-McNelis' [violations of NCAA rules](#) only adds to this disturbing situation.