

Special Report

So, how was *Your* Weekend?

Another disastrous weekend for USM athletics has come and gone. This one, spanning 9-Nov-2012, 10-Nov-2012 and 11-Nov-2012, saw only a single victory, that of the USM men's basketball team over Western Kentucky to open the 2012-13 season. The inserts below provide the chronology of events that made up USM's most recent sports weekend.

Women's Basketball

Final	1	2	T
 Hampton (1-0, 1-0 away)	36	42	78
 Southern Miss (0-1, 0-1 home)	12	29	41

Women's Volleyball

MEMPHIS (12-18, 7-8)	25	22	25	14	15
					
SOUTHERN MISS (8-19, 4-11)	22	25	20	25	11
					
Match Over - Memphis defeats Southern Miss, 3 - 2					

Football

Final	
 Southern Miss 6 (0-10, 0-6 C-USA)	 SMU 34 (5-5, 4-2 C-USA)
7:00 PM ET, November 10, 2012 Gerald Ford Stadium, DALLAS, TX	

Men's Basketball

Final OT	
 W Kentucky 64 (0-1, 0-1 away)	 Southern Miss 67 (1-0, 1-0 home)
8:30 PM ET, November 10, 2012 Reed Green Coliseum, Hattiesburg, MS	

Women's Volleyball

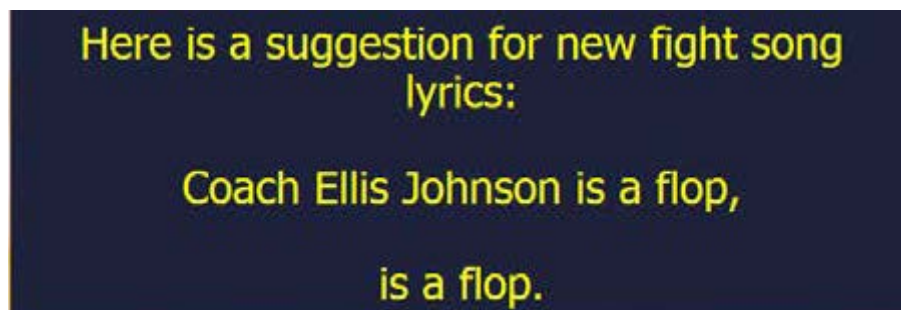
UAB (18-13, 10-5)	25	25	23	25
				
SOUTHERN MISS (8-19, 4-11)	14	15	25	20
				
UAB leads Southern Miss, 2 - 1				

In defeating WKU, new head coach Donnie Tyndall secured his first victory atop the USM men's program. That win, however, was hard fought, requiring home court advantage and an overtime session to take down the Hilltoppers of WKU, even though USM surged to large leads at different points in the 10-Nov-2012 contest. The big part of the weekend took place in Dallas, as the USM football team fell to Southern Methodist by a score of 6 to 34. The loss dropped the Eagles to 0 wins and 10 losses on the 2012 season, the first under Ellis Johnson. Abby Sutherland's USM volleyball team dropped two matches *in Hattiesburg* over the weekend to fall to 8 wins and 20 losses on the 2012 season. On 9-Nov-2012, the Lady Eagles fell to Memphis by a score of 2 to 3, while on 11-Nov-2012 they were defeated 1 to 3 by UAB. Finally, Joye Lee-McNelis' Lady Eagles basketball team was trounced by Hampton on 9-Nov-2012 to open the 2012-13 season. With the 41 to 78 loss *in Hattiesburg*, Lee-McNelis' program appears to still be heading down the same dismal road it has been travelling since her arrival almost 10 years ago.

Of course, the loss on the gridiron at the hands of the Mustangs prompted another update at www.fireellisjohnson.com. This is inserted below.

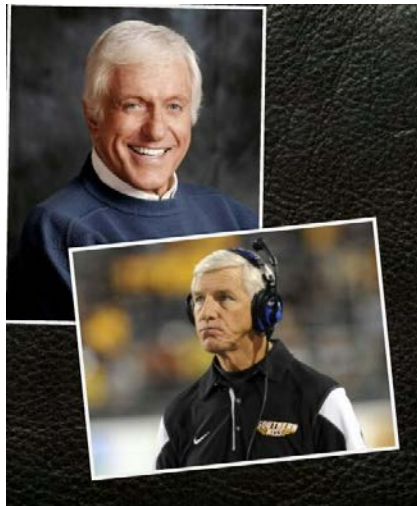


That website's moderator also provided a suggestion for a new USM fight song, as shown below.



So write your check today,
make Ellis go away,
so Southern football will have a shot!
Fire 'em, fire 'em, fire 'em.
Send Ellis Johnson far away,
far away.
Because he's bad - bad - without victories,
tell Ellis GOOD-BYE!

Also as expected, the [@fakEllisJohnson](#) Twitter handle updated with this weekend's latest loss on the football field, as shown below.



All of these activities occurred near the time when USM's faculty senate was meeting (on 9-Nov-2012) with USM's interim president Aubrey Lucas and USM athletics director Jeff Hammond. As *The Hattiesburg American's* higher education

correspondent Ed Kemp reported in the paper on 11-Nov-2012, faculty senators grilled both Lucas and Hammond about the athletic department's progress in dealing with a nearly \$1.5 million operating deficit. Both stated that they are looking into "big money" contests, wherein USM sports teams, particularly football, travel in order to earn large payouts. One example is USM's future game against Nebraska, which is scheduled for Hattiesburg next season. If moved to New Orleans, USM would receive a net payout of about \$1.2 million, while a move to Kansas City would, according to Kemp's report, net USM about \$2 million.

At one point in the faculty senate meeting, as reported by Kemp, senators explained to Lucas and Hammond that transfers of money from the E&G accounts to athletics hurt the academic affairs side of the institution. Perhaps the most troubling aspect of the meeting was Lucas' response to this point. He noted that academics is not the only division harmed by such transfers, as the physical plant and other areas also give up funds as a result of intra-institution transfers to athletics. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Lucas' response is simply another example of how his legacy at the institution is being tarnished by this latest stint as interim president.