

Special Report

What Would MSU do with Dobson?

According to an 18-May-2011 *Hattiesburg American* [report out of](#) Starkville, Mississippi State University athletics executives have decided to part ways with MSU head softball coach Jay Miller. Miller, whose current contract expires on 30-June-2011, leaves MSU with an overall record of [295-253 \(53.8%\)](#), including a [78-89 \(46.7%\)](#) mark over the past three seasons. Given this action, one has to wonder what MSU athletics director Scott Stricklin would do with USM head softball coach Howard Dobson, who has been struggling since coming to USM a few years ago. With the end of the 2011 season, Dobson owns a [93-124-2 \(42.9%\)](#) overall record, including [68-94 \(42.0%\)](#) over the past three seasons. Clearly, Miller has been better than Dobson both [overall](#) and over [the past three years](#).

Table 1 - Miller vs. Dobson

Coach	Overall Record	Last 3 Years
Miller, Jay (MSU)	295-253	78-89
Dobson, Howard (USM)	93-124-2	68-94

It doesn't end there, either. With his 2011 finish at only 17-38 (30.9%), Dobson's first class of recruits now graduates having produced the worst single season record of the Dobson-era at USM, *and* the worst single season record since the USM softball program was resurrected in the late 1990s. To add to this, Dobson's first season at the helm produced 30 losses, *and* the second worst single season record since the USM softball program was resurrected in the late 1990s. Sources sum this all up by pointing out that USM faculty are getting suspended from classrooms at a record pace under USM president Martha Saunders, while Saunders' (and USM athletics director Richard Giannini's) sports coaches are allowed to hang around for years and years, *over-promising* and *under-producing* all the while.