

Super Terrific

The 38-24 win-loss record may not be much to brag about, but Corky Palmer's Golden Eagles have gotten hot in the 2009 post-season. One week after making it to the C-USA tournament finals, the Eagles won (on 1-June-09) the Atlanta Regional (see celebration photo below). Next week the Eagles head south to Gainesville, to take on the Florida Gators in USM's first-ever Super Regional.



The Eagles' 2009 post-season run thus far, depicted below (wins in black, losses in gold), has been one for the ages.

Tulane • East Carolina • Tulane • Rice • Elon • Georgia Tech • Georgia Tech • Georgia Tech

Both East Carolina and Rice, two post-season foes, are in the round of 16 (the Super Regionals) now, along with USM. Both, like USM, are two wins away from Omaha, NE, and the College World Series. Though it has been a fitting way for Palmer to end his stellar career at USM, it is also a sad time for the institution's sports program. Life after Palmer does not hold the kind of promise that has carried USM's baseball team to seven straight Regionals. To understand that we only had to watch Lu Harris-Champer's Lady Bulldogs of Georgia storm their way to a 3rd place finish in this year's Women's College World Series of softball. Harris-Champer, then Harris, took the Lady Eagles to two straight WCWS about 10 years ago. That feat stands today as arguably the greatest moment(s) in USM athletics history. Instead of rewarding Harris-Champer, the USM athletics administration (i.e., Richard Giannini) practically pushed her out of the proverbial door, relegating the USM softball program to the proverbial trash heap in the process. Now it's Palmer's time to walk away, and even if his exit is not under duress, losing Palmer might just be the blow that breaks the back of USM's athletics program. Only time will tell. When, however, the old-timer among the coaches of that program is Larry Eustachy, it just doesn't seem like time is on your side.