

# The Farm

## News Briefs from Southern Miss

23-October-2012

### Unmitigated Disaster

The recent report, "[Dumpster Fire](#)", explains just how disastrous Saturday's (20-Oct-2012) loss to Marshall was to the USM football team, the athletics department and the institution in general. As noted, the loss dropped USM to 0-7 on the year, eliminating the team's chances for a 2012-13 bowl bid and putting to an end a streak of consecutive winning seasons that has gone on for 17 years.

Schedule and Results		
SOUTHERN MISS. FOOTBALL Record: 0-7 (0-3)		
2012 <span>More Schedules   TV Times</span>		
Date	Opponent	Result
Sep. 1	at Nebraska	L 20-49
Sep. 15	East Carolina	L 14-24
Sep. 22	at Western Kentucky	L 17-52
Sep. 29	Louisville	L 17-21
Oct. 6	Boise State	L 14-40
Oct. 13	at UCF	L 31-38
Oct. 20	Marshall	L 24-59
Oct. 27	at Rice	12:00pm
Nov. 3	UAB	6:30pm
Nov. 10	at SMU	TBA
Nov. 17	Texas-El Paso	7:00pm
Nov. 24	at Memphis	3:30pm

The loss continues to fuel dissatisfaction among the USM fan base, providing fodder for [www.fireellisjohnson.com](http://www.fireellisjohnson.com) website (see screen below, left) and the [@fakEllisJohnson](https://twitter.com/fakEllisJohnson) Twitter account (see screen below, right).



With the 2012 football disaster, combined with the pre-existing budget deficit in the athletics department of well over \$1 million, the USM football program now has the burden of playing several so-called "money games" against the likes of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and/or LSU in order to balance the budget that was mismanaged during the administration of former USM president Martha Saunders, the same USM president who hired head coach Ellis Johnson to guide the football program. As sources put it, the football team now has to face the prospect of several potential on-the-field beatings in order to keep USM's struggling sports enterprise afloat. How this actually plays out over time remains to be seen.

## **“Sorry, Jane” – A *Guest Editorial***

Looking over [the list](#) of semi-finalists to fill the provost opening at the University of West Florida, a position being sought by former USM president Martha Saunders, one has to feel for semi-finalist Jane Halonen. Halonen is currently the Dean of Arts and Sciences at Pensacola-based UWF, and, without knowing all of the ins and outs of things over at UWF, one has to think that this is the logical next step in her higher education administration career. Now, however, Halonen’s career plans appear to be in jeopardy, as Saunders is almost certainly pulling every string in order to grab the provost slot at UWF.

Never mind that Saunders is moving down the proverbial ladder of success, having ruined her opportunities as president at two separate universities, the potential move to UWF to assume the provost post smacks of an easy way to live in her Pensacola beach house and not have to actually drive all the way to Long Beach to “teach” at USM’s branch campus. The fact that “UWF provost” is likely to pay Saunders a whole bunch more than “USM-GC professor,” and the possibility that getting back into the Florida retirement system is a better deal than adding to only 5 years in Mississippi’s, adds salt to the wounds that Halonen must now be tending. One has to feel for Halonen in this situation.