

On November 14, 2010: The Cause of the Shooting is not Known
On January 2, 2012: The Cause of the Shooting is not Known

November 14, 2010: "HATTIESBURG, MS ([WDAM](#)) - Three members of The University of Southern Mississippi football team were shot outside of Remington's Hunt Club in Hattiesburg early Sunday morning. School officials say LB Tim Green, LB Martez Smith and DL Deddrick Jones are in "fair and stable condition" at a local hospital...The cause of the altercation is not known at this time."

Let's repeat that. As of January 2, 2012, the cause of the shooting of three USM football players is not known. Or perhaps more accurately, the public does not know the cause.

Former-Coach Fedora, Former-AD Giannini, and President Saunders were at the hospital almost immediately after the events. What did they learn? Did they learn the cause of the shootings? Just as interestingly, given their penchant for public relations are they concealing the cause for what they believe to be the good of USM and USM's football program? Or, are they hiding the cause for their own good?

Let's not forget that secrecy and spin can lead to the Penn State, Jerry Sandusky approach to university sports. It's not if, it's when USM big-money sports will get caught in a Penn State, Jerry Sandusky calamity. The calamity may not be a cover-up of alleged sexual abuse of children, but it is likely to be something painful to the entire community and professionally devastating to the participants.