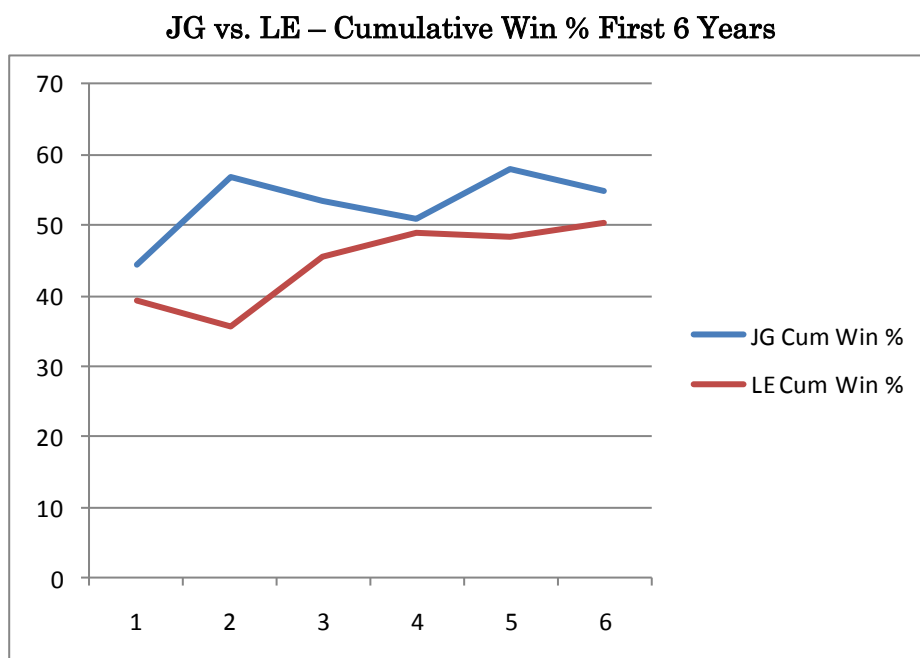


# Why LE?

Many USM sports fans are wondering why USM president Martha Saunders is hanging on to men's basketball coach Larry Eustachy (LE). After six years on the job, LE's record is 95 wins against 94 losses, for a win percentage of 50.3. Only this season, 2009-10, has LE's crew made the postseason, and that came via an invitation (possibly paid for) to the underwhelming CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT). USM promptly lost in round one to Louisiana Tech in Ruston. After only six years at the helm, LE's predecessor, James Green (JG), had accumulated 97 wins against 80 losses, for a 54.8 win percentage. At the same time, JG had earned one C-USA title and two trips to the National Invitation Tournament, a much more prestigious even than the CIT.

The insert below shows each coach's cumulative winning % over the first six years (for each). Clearly, JG eclipses LE using this measure.



One aspect of the comparison above that hasn't been addressed heretofore is LE's penchant for playing the likes of William Carey, Belhaven, etc. When this level of competition is removed from each coach's USM resume, a different picture emerges. The insert below, repeats the cumulative winning % comparison above, only without competition against Spring Hill, Reinhardt, and the like in each case. Compare this one with its predecessor above. The difference between the two coaches is even more glaring.



The national scandal that occurred a few years back was especially egregious, given that it involved LE, then head coach at Iowa State, and a number of co-eds at a competing institution. That scandal was captured in photographs, some of which are inserted below.



Some are saying that USM Athletics under current athletics director Richard Giannini is a rudderless ship. As stories like this one are allowed to continue, it's difficult to argue the opposite.