

Will John Clark Go as Far as Paris this Year?

On “Senior Night” in Norman, Oklahoma, Oklahoma women’s basketball star Courtney Paris told the home crowd (see below) that the OU Sooners would win the 2009 NCAA Championship. She didn’t stop there. Paris said that if the 3rd-ranked Sooners failed to bring home the title she would repay OU the cost of her basketball scholarship, which is estimated to be **\$64,000**.



So, here we have an *amateur* athlete promising to give back **\$64,000** to the university she owes nothing to in the even she doesn’t lead her teammates to the national title.¹ With the University of Connecticut’s dominance in women’s basketball this year, a year that already includes a UC win over OU by a score of 106-78 (in Nov-08), experts give little hope to OU’s ability to get through the NCAA tournament unscathed.²

While we can all learn much from the “team first” actions of Courtney Paris, particularly in a day and time when athletes often provide bad examples for the youth of America, given recent USMNEWS.net reports the CoB’s Center for Financial Services director John Clark perhaps has the most to learn from Paris recent actions. A [recent report](#) here at USMNEWS.net indicates that even USM’s “resident bad boy,” head basketball coach Larry Eustachy, has promised to return to USM the \$25,000 bonus he has earned over the 2008-09 basketball season. While a great move on Eustachy’s part, sources say that his \$300,000 income outside of the bonus still affords for him a good time in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Paris, being an *amateur* athlete, has no such income.

Why John Clark? The [previous report](#) said it all – Clark earns, on top of his taxpayer-supported salary of **\$110,000**, a **\$10,000** bonus for serving as the CoB’s CFS director. Unlike Paris, who has performed extraordinarily, Clark has *underperformed*, much like Eustachy. Some would even go as far as to say that, and unlike Eustachy, Clark *hasn’t performed at all*. The CFS lights are (usually) never on, and nobody’s (usually) home. It’s time for Clark to go as far as Paris, and give back for a change.

¹ Paris, a 6’4” senior from Piedmont, California, just recently won the Big 12 Conference’s Player of the Year Award. This marked the third consecutive year the Award has gone to Paris. Under her leadership, the 27-3 (W-L) Sooners are currently ranked 3rd in the nation, while Paris is averaging 16.1 points and 13.7 rebounds per game.

² Thus, experts say Paris should now begin her financial planning program.