

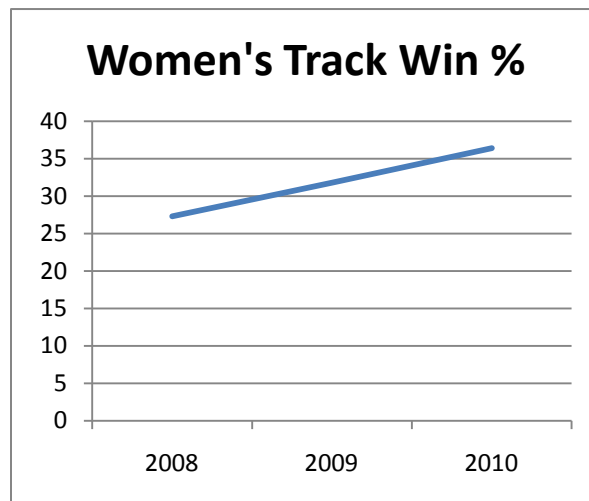
Aunt Martha's Money Pits

A Look at How USM's Prez is Managing Athletics

The "Banner Year" series here at USMNEWS.net has pointed out that USM's varsity sports programs appear to be slipping under USM president Martha Saunders' stewardship. This report examines how Saunders has been managing, or as the data below suggest, **mis**managing, the track programs at USM. The numbers in Table 1 below make the case that USM's country track programs have been seriously unproductive since Saunders' arrival back in spring of 2007. The overall win percentage for these two money pits from 2007-08 through 2009-10 is an embarrassing 23%.

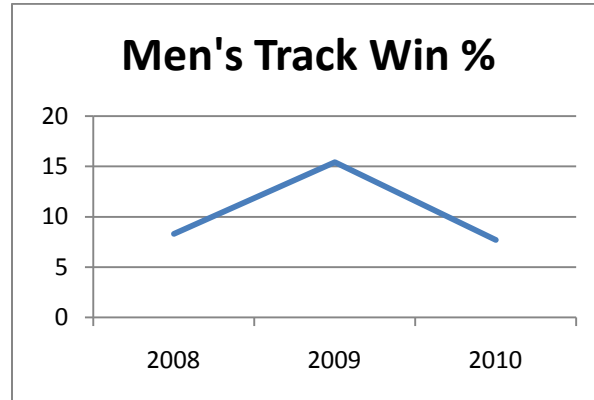
Sport	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %
Women's Track	16	39	0	29.1
Men's Track	4	28	0	12.5
Totals	20	67	0	23.0

A look at the individual trends yields a mixed bag of sorts, along with some very bad news. Though the women's track totals are dismal, the trend for women's track shown below offers some hope to Lady Eagles fans. At the current rate the team should pass the 40% mark in 2011. Still, unless there are some dramatic changes, it could be years before the team beats the 50% mark, which is nothing to cheer about by itself.



Men's track is stuck in the mud under Saunders. As the trend below indicates, men's track has produced two seasons of below 10% winning over the past three seasons, and none over 20% during the same 2007-08

through 2009-10 time frame. What is worse is that the current trend has the Eagles headed toward a winless season, which it almost gave Eagle fans in both 2007-08 and 2009-10.



The final installment in this series examines the baseball team, historically the shining light of the USM sports department.