

SOUTHERN MISS.

2026 Soccer Game Notes

Aug. 23 - SUNDAY - 6 P.M.

Game 3 - Sunday, Aug. 23 • Starkville, Miss.

Mississippi State

2026 Record: 2-0-0

Head Coach: Kevin O'Brien



Southern Miss Golden Eagles

2026 Record: 1-1-0 (SBC 0-0-0)

Head Coach: DANNY OWENS (1st Season)



Series History

Aug. 23, Sunday

- Mississippi State leads the all-time series 9-2-2, with the Bulldogs having won each of the last three meetings dating back to 2016. The two programs last met on Sept. 8, 2022 in Hattiesburg, with Mississippi State earning a 2-0 victory. Southern Miss's most recent win in the series came on Sept. 8, 2013, when the Golden Eagles claimed a 3-0 shutout at home. The Golden Eagles' only other win in the series came in the first-ever meeting on Sept. 3, 2002 in Starkville, a 3-2 result. Saturday marks the first meeting between the programs since 2022 and the first-ever match-up with Danny Owens on the Southern Miss sideline.

Live Stats: [SouthernMiss.com](https://smmtt.info/3SnVBv5)

<https://smmtt.info/3SnVBv5>

TV/Stream: ESPN + -
<https://smmtt.info/4bYOeko>

Quick Kicks

- Southern Miss enters Sunday at 1-1-0 after opening the season with a 4-0 win at Alabama State and a 1-0 loss at McNeese.
- The Golden Eagles have scored more goals through two matches of 2026 (4) than they did in any three-match stretch during the entire 2025 season.
- USM outshot McNeese 13-12 and dominated corners in Sunday's road loss but couldn't find the equalizer.
- Goalkeeper Logan McGruder has started in both matches, posting a shutout at Alabama State and turning aside five shots at McNeese.
- Southern Miss has hit the woodwork twice through two matches, with both chances coming from Lorilee Taylor (59th minute) and Ava Bynes (84th minute) at McNeese.
- Head coach Danny Owens used 21 different players in the McNeese match, showcasing the depth of his first Southern Miss roster.
- Sunday's match against Mississippi State is the first meeting between the two programs since Sept. 8, 2022, when the Bulldogs won 2-0 in Hattiesburg.
- Mississippi State leads the all-time series 9-2-2 and has won the last three meetings dating back to 2016.

Schedule & Results

1-1-0 0-0-0 0-0-0 1-1-0 0-0

OVR SBC H A N

2026 SCHEDULE

AUGUST (1-0-0)

13	at Alabama State	W, 4-0	6 p.m.
16	at McNeese	L, 0-1	5 p.m.
23	at Mississippi State		6 p.m.
27	SOUTHEASTERN		4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER (0-0-0)

3	JACKSONVILLE STATE		4 p.m.
6	SOUTHERN		2 p.m.
10	at Nicholls		7 p.m.
18	JAMES MADISON*		4 p.m.
24	at Arkansas State *		4 p.m.
27	LOUISIANA TECH*		1 p.m.

OCTOBER (0-0-0)

3	LOUISIANA *	Noon
8	at Coastal Carolina *	6 p.m. CT
11	TROY *	1 p.m.
16	at South Alabama *	6 p.m.
21	at App State *	6 p.m. CT
25	GEORGIA SOUTHERN *	1 p.m.

NOVEMBER (0-0-0)

1	at ULM *	1 p.m.
9	Sun Belt Championship Quarterfinals ¹	TBD
11	Sun Belt Championship Semifinals ¹	TBD
14	Sun Belt Championship Championship ¹	TBD

* Sun Belt Conference match / **BOLD** denotes home matches
/ All times CT

¹ Sun Belt Tournament (Foley, Ala.)

Southern Miss Stats

Goals-Shots: 4-29
Assists: 4
SOG: 11
Goals/Game: 2.00
Shot%: .138
SOG-Attempts: 11-29
SOG%: 37.9%
Corners: 15
GAA: 0.50
Saves: 7

Mississippi State Stats

Goals-Shots: 5-32
Assists: 4
SOG: 16
Goals/Game: 2.50
Shot%: .156
SOG-Attempts: 16-32
SOG%: 50.0%
Corners: 25
GAA: 0.50
Saves: 2

Program Information

General

Name of School:.....The University of Southern Mississippi
City/Zip:.....Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Founded:1910
Enrollment:13,170
Nickname:Golden Eagles
School Colors:.....Black and Gold
Arena:.....Marshall Bell Track & Field and Soccer Complex
Capacity:.....1500
Affiliation:.....NCAA Division I
Conference:.....Sun Belt Conference
President:.....Dr. Joe Paul
Athletics Director:.....Jeremy McClain
Athletic Dept. Phone:.....(601) 266-5017

History

First season:1997
Overall all-time record:176-273-50 (through 2025)
Conference Titles.....0
Sun Belt Tournament Appearances.....2

Athletic Communications

Assistant Director of Athletics:Jack Duggan
Office Phone:(601) 266-4503
GA/Soccer Contact:Myers Morgan
Cell Phone:(985)-264-5958
E-mail Address:M.Morgan@usm.edu
Director of Comms./Sec. Contact.....Jack MacDonald
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Mailing Address: 118 College Drive,
#5161 Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Web Address:SouthernMiss.com
Twitter@SouthernMissSoc/ @USMGoldenEagles
Instagram@SouthernMissSoccer / @SouthernMissAthletics
Facebookfacebook.com/southernmisssoccer

Coaching Staff

Head Coach:Danny Owens
Record at School:.....1-0-0(1st Year)
Soccer Office Phone:.....(601) 266-6539
Assistant Coaches:.....Ryan Weir
Athletic Trainers:Tori Riebock
Volunteer Assistant Coach:Anita Gudmundsdottir
Graduate Assistant:.....Amber Fortenberry

Team Information

Overall Record Last Year:2-14-1
Conference Record/Finish:(1-9-0), 7th in West
Returners.....7
Newcomers.....21

Preview

Southern Miss Travels to Starkville to Face Mississippi State

HATTIESBURG, Miss. – Southern Miss women's soccer hits the road Sunday for a non-conference match against Mississippi State at the MSU Soccer Complex in Starkville. This marks the second road test of the season for Coach Owens' squad after dropping Friday's match at McNeese.

Game Details

Sunday, Aug. 23, 2026 - 6 P.M. CT
Starkville, Miss. - MSU Soccer Complex
Stream – <https://smttt.info/4bYOeko>
Live Stats – <https://smttt.info/3SnVBv5>

The Golden Eagles are looking to bounce back after a tough 1-0 loss to McNeese, where Southern Miss dominated in shot volume with 13 shots on frame but couldn't find the finish. Coach Owens will use Sunday's road trip as an opportunity to get back on track before the conference schedule intensifies. The non-conference slate provides a chance to work through the details and build consistency heading toward September.

Mississippi State, coached by Kevin O'Brien in his first year with the program, has opened strong with three straight wins. The Bulldogs defeated South Alabama 3-0 on August 12 in their regular-season opener before using exhibitions against Memphis and Southeastern Louisiana to prepare for conference play. The Bulldogs bring momentum and home-field advantage to Sunday's matchup.

Southern Miss and Mississippi State have a long history dating back to 2002. The last meeting came in 2022, with Mississippi State securing a 2-0 victory at home. The Golden Eagles' most recent win over the Bulldogs came in 2013, a dominant 3-0 performance in Hattiesburg. Recapturing that form on the road would mark a significant statement for Coach Owens' program.

For Southern Miss, the focus will be on executing in the attacking third and converting opportunities. Logan McGruder made five saves in the McNeese loss, keeping the Golden Eagles competitive throughout. Getting that second win on the road after the Alabama State opening victory will be critical for building momentum.

Up Next

Southern Miss returns home to open the promotional calendar on Thursday, August 27 against Southeastern at 4 p.m. at Marshall Bell Track & Field/Soccer Complex. Admission is free.

For more information and to stay up to date with the Golden Eagles, visit SouthernMiss.com and follow the women's soccer team on Twitter (@SouthernMissSOC) and Instagram (@southernmisssoccer).

– #SMTT –



SouthernMissSoc



Southernmisssoccer



SouthernMissSoccer

Head Coach Danny Owens



Danny Owens enters his first season as the head coach of the Southern Miss women's soccer program, taking the reins after being named the program's fifth head coach on Dec. 5, 2025.

Owens arrives in Hattiesburg following one of the most decorated coaching runs in NAIA women's soccer history. Over 21 seasons at William Carey, he compiled a 358-72-19 overall record with 19 winning campaigns, guiding the Crusaders to 12 regular-season conference championships, 11 conference tournament titles and 17 NAIA National Tournament appearances.

His final season at William Carey in 2025 saw the Crusaders finish 20-2, capture the Southern States Athletic Conference tournament championship and reach the Round of 16 of the NAIA National Tournament. The Crusaders held the No. 1 national ranking at the end of the regular season.

The 2024 campaign was equally dominant. Owens led William Carey to a 20-2-1 record and a No. 5 final ranking in the NAIA Coaches Top 25 Poll, another SSAC tournament title and an NAIA National Tournament appearance. His staff was named the 2023 NAIA National Coaching Staff of the Year, the second such honor of his career after also earning the distinction in 2018.

William Cary ('00)
Southern Miss Record: 1-1-0
(1st Season)

Head Coach-Southern Miss

Year	Record
2026	1-1-0

Record at William Carey: 358-72-19 (21 seasons)
Winning Seasons: 19 of 21
Regular-Season Conference Titles: 13
Conference Tournament Titles: 12
NAIA National Tournament Appearances: 17
NAIA National Championship Match Appearances: 4
NAIA National Championships: 1 (2018)
NAIA Final Fours: 6
NAIA Quarterfinals or Better: 11
2018 NAIA National Coach of the Year
National Coaching Staff of the Year: 2018, 2023

The 2018 season stands as the crowning achievement of Owens's William Carey tenure. That squad captured the NAIA National Championship, one of four national title match appearances under Owens's leadership. His Crusaders also reached six NAIA Final Fours and advanced to the NAIA quarterfinals or beyond 11 times during his 21 seasons at the helm.

Owens's individual coaching accolades are equally impressive. He was named NAIA Regional Staff of the Year four times, Southern States Athletic Conference Coach of the Year 11 times, and his programs have consistently produced All-Americans, All-Region and All-Conference honorees at every level.

Prior to William Carey, Owens spent time as the head girls' soccer coach at Our Lady Academy (OLA) in Bay St. Louis, Miss. His teams at OLA compiled a 60-12-7 overall record and captured three consecutive Mississippi High School State Championships, laying the foundation for the championship culture he would later build in Hattiesburg.

Owens's ties to William Carey extend well beyond his coaching career. A former Crusader men's soccer player from 1996-99, he was voted team captain and most valuable player during his senior season. He earned All-Gulf Coast Athletic Conference, All-NAIA Region XIII and First Team NAIA All-American honors as a player, helping William Carey to three NAIA National Tournament appearances and two NAIA Final Fours during his playing career.

Owens was inducted into the William Carey Sports Hall of Fame in 2013 and also holds an inaugural spot in the William Carey Men's Soccer Hall of Fame. In 2004, he was inducted into the Inaugural Wall of Fame at Bishop Sullivan High School (formerly St. Michael's High School) in Baton Rouge, La.

Owens earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from William Carey in 2000, then completed a Master of Science in Psychology with an Industrial/Organizational concentration. He currently holds a USSF National "B" License along with United Soccer Goalkeeping I and II licenses.

Longtime William Carey assistant Ryan Weir joined Owens on the move to Hattiesburg, taking on the role of associate head coach on Owens's first Southern Miss staff. Aníta Guðmundsdóttir was hired as assistant coach and Amber Fortenberry rounds out the staff as graduate assistant.

Owens's early recruiting reflects his deep in-state roots. His first Southern Miss roster features 11 Mississippi natives, the highest in-state count on the program's roster in recent years. Four former William Carey players followed Owens to Hattiesburg: Argentina Estrada, Lauren Entremont, Alessia Navarro and Ella Jefcoat.

Match Notes

Mississippi State Individual Notes

Junior forward Hailey Johnson has emerged as the Bulldogs' primary scoring threat through the opening week, leading Mississippi State with two goals and four points in the first two matches. Johnson found the back of the net in both the 3-0 season-opening win over South Alabama on Aug. 12 and the 2-1 road win at UAB on Aug. 16, becoming the only Bulldog to score in each of the first two matches. Junior forward Ashley Tutas leads MSU with three points on a goal-and-assist performance across the opening weekend, scoring the game-winner at UAB and adding an assist against South Alabama. Reganne Morris and Kati Anne Shepherd have also found the back of the net, giving head coach Nick Zimmerman four different goal scorers through 180 minutes.

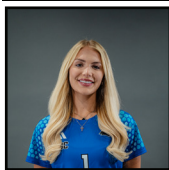
Junior goalkeeper Jenny Harrison has gone the distance in both matches, posting a 0.50 goals against average with a .667 save percentage and a shutout in the opener against South Alabama. The Bulldogs have dominated the run of play early, outshooting opponents 32-9 and holding a 25-7 advantage in corner kicks through two games. Kati Anne Shepherd leads Mississippi State with five shots on the young season, while junior midfielder Kyli Switalski leads the team in assists with a perfect 3-for-3 mark on shots on goal. Redshirt sophomore Reese Black has also chipped in with a goal and an assist off the bench across both matches.

Southern Miss Individual Notes

Redshirt senior goalkeeper Logan McGruder has been the steady presence in net through the opening week, going the distance in both matches. McGruder posted the shutout in the 4-0 season-opening win at Alabama State on Aug. 13 and followed with a five-save performance Sunday at McNeese, giving up just one goal on 12 opposing shots. Her seven combined saves already match nearly half of Southern Miss's entire keeper save total from the first quarter of the 2025 season.

Head coach Danny Owens rotated the roster deep at McNeese, using 21 different players in the 1-0 loss. Junior transfer Ava Bynes (San Marcos, Calif.) led all Golden Eagles with three shots and clipped the woodwork in the 84th minute, while junior forward Lorilee Taylor also hit the woodwork in the 59th minute. Senior defender Ella Jefcoat and Taylor were the only field players to go all 90, and graduate midfielder Ryan Smith picked up the team's first yellow card of the 2026 season in the 82nd minute.

Starting XI Last Game



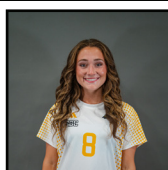
No. 1 Logan
McGruder
GK



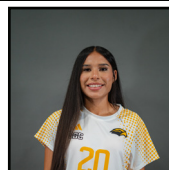
No. 3 Argentina
Estrada
D.



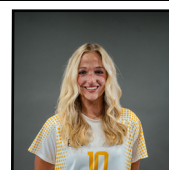
No. 6 Georgia
Gray
D



No. 8 Lauren
Entremont
D



No. 20 Leslie
Rodriguez
M



No. 10 Vail
Wartes
M.



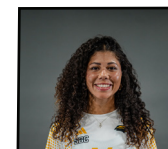
No. 13 Ella
Jefcoat
M



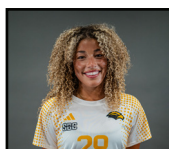
No. 14 Lorilee
Taylor
D



No. 15 Ryan
Smith
M



No. 16 Shaelynn
Quick
M



No. 29 Ava
Bynes
F

Team Notes

2025 Southern Miss Soccer Season Recap

Season Overview

Southern Miss finished the 2025 campaign with a 2-14-1 overall record and a 1-9-0 mark in Sun Belt Conference play, placing 10th in the standings and missing the conference tournament for the second straight season. Head coach Mohammed El-Zare led the program through his final year in Hattiesburg before Danny Owens was hired to take over on Dec. 5, 2025.

Highs & Memorable Moments

First Program Shutout of the Year: After a difficult non-conference stretch that saw the Golden Eagles start 0-5-1, Southern Miss picked up its first win of the season with a 1-0 shutout of Louisiana Tech at home on Sept. 7, halting an opening-month losing streak.

Statement Road Win: In their conference road opener, the Golden Eagles traveled to Troy and returned home with a 1-0 victory on Sept. 18, claiming their only Sun Belt win of the season and one of just two shutouts on the year.

Early-Season Grit: Southern Miss battled to a 2-2 draw against Jackson State on Sept. 3, one of the offensive highlights of the year in what became a difficult scoring season for the program.

Team Leaders: Graduate midfielder Ryan Smith led the Golden Eagles in both points (6) and goals (3), while junior forward Lorilee Taylor paced the team in assists (2). Sophomore defender Addison Siders led all Golden Eagles in minutes played (1,377), and Chloe Taylor joined Smith with the team's only game-winning goals of the season.

Season Challenges

The 2025 season proved difficult by nearly every offensive and defensive measure. Southern Miss scored just 12 goals, the fewest in program history, while allowing 59, the most ever surrendered by the program in a single season. The 3.47 goals against average was also a program worst, and the team's .147 winning percentage was the lowest since Southern Miss soccer began play in 1997.

Sun Belt Tournament & Season Finale

Missed Postseason: Southern Miss finished 10th of 10 teams in Sun Belt play and did not qualify for the eight-team Sun Belt Conference Tournament held Nov. 3-9 in Foley, Ala.

New Era on the Horizon: Just weeks after the season ended, Southern Miss hired William Carey's Danny Owens on Dec. 5, 2025, bringing 358-plus career wins and the 2018 NAIA National Champion to Hattiesburg to lead a program rebuild.

The 2026 Golden Eagles roster features 28 players, comprised of seven returners and 21 newcomers, including seven true freshmen and 14 transfers. It is head coach Danny Owens's first roster at Southern Miss.

Class Breakdown:

Freshmen: 7

Sophomores: 4

Juniors: 8

Redshirt Juniors: 2

Seniors: 4

Redshirt Seniors: 2

Graduate: 1

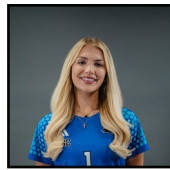
2026 Photo Roster



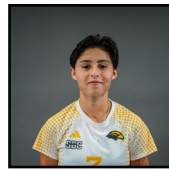
No. 0 Victoria
Nissen
GK/5-6/Fr.



No. 00 Jenni
Dahne
GK/5-6/Jr.



No. 1 Logan
McGruder
GK/5-8/R-Sr.



No. 5 Argentina
Estrada
D/5-5/Sr.



No. 4 Eduarda
Flores Fuculo
D/5-8/Jr.



No. 5 Addie
Siders
D/5-7/So.



No. 6 Georgia
Grey
D/5-9/Fr.



No. 7 Maiko
Kikuchi
M/5-1/Jr.



No. 8 Lauren
Entremont
D/5-3/So.



No. 9 Zara
Werema
F/5-7/R-Fr.



No. 10 Vail
Wartes
M/5-8/Jr.



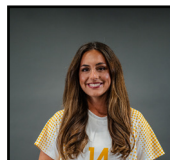
No. 11 Alessia
Navarro
M/5-4/Sr.



No. 12 Olivia
Tribolet
F/5-4/Sr.



No. 13 Ella
Jefcoat
D/5-5/Fr.



No. 14 Lorilee
Taylor
D/5-5/Jr.



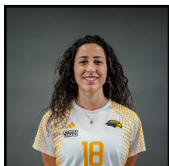
No. 15 Ryan
Smith
M/5-3/Gr.



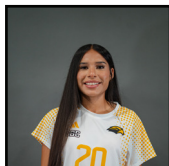
No. 16 Shaelynn
Quick
M/5-4/R-Sr..



No. 17 Ashton
Stringfellow
D/5-7/Fr



No. 18 Jimena
Castro
M/5-5/Jr.



No. 20 Leslie
Rodriguez
M/5-3/Fr.



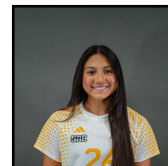
No. 21 Ameera
Edwards
F/5-3/So.



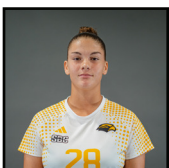
No. 24 Hailey
Martinkovic
D/5-4/Jr.



No. 25 Laylah
Johnson
F/5-3/R-Jr.



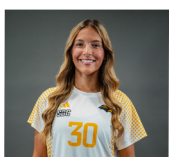
No. 26 Hellen
Sanchez-Millan
D/5-1/Fr.



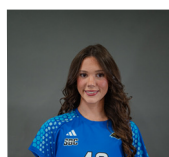
No. 28 Oliwia
Loeman
F/5-8/So.



No. 29 Ava
Bynes
F/5-4/R-Jr.



No. 30 Avery
Aldrette
M/5'10/Jr.



No. 40 Avery
Papania
GK/5-7/Fr.



2026 Southern Miss Soccer Roster

#	NAME	POS	HT	YR	HOMETOWN
30	Avery Aldrette	M	5-10	Jr.	Tulsa, Okla.
29	Ava Bynes	F	5-4	R-Jr.	San Marcos, Calif.
18	Jimena Castro	M	5-5	Jr.	Toledo, Spain
0	Jenni Dähne	GK	5-6	Jr.	Oyten, Germany
21	Ameera Edwards	F	5-3	So.	Mobile, Ala.
8	Lauren Entremont	D	5-3	So.	Brandon, Miss.
3	Argentina Estrada	D	5-5	Sr.	Cancun, Mexico
4	Eduarda Flores Fuculo	D	5-8	Jr.	Porto Alegre, Brazil
6	Georgia Gray	D	5-9	Fr.	Glasgow, Scotland
13	Ella Jefcoat	D	5-5	Sr.	Soso, Miss.
25	Laylah Johnson	F	5-3	R-Jr.	Gulfport, Miss.
7	Maiko Kikuchi	M	5-1	Jr.	Tokyo, Japan
28	Oliwia Loeman	F	5-8	So.	Rijkevorsel, Poland
24	Hailey Martinkovic	D	5-4	Jr.	Port Saint Lucie, Fla.
1	Logan McGruder	GK	5-8	R-Sr.	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
11	Alessia Navarro	M	5-4	Sr.	Caracas, Venezuela
00	Victoria Nissen	GK	5-6	Fr.	Herlev, Denmark
40	Avery Papania	GK	5-7	Fr.	Baton Rouge, La.
16	Shaelynn Quick	D	5-4	R-Sr.	Florence, Miss.
20	Leslie Rodriguez	M	5-3	Fr.	Grand Prairie, Texas
26	Hellen Sanchez-Millan	D	5-1	Fr.	Chunky, Miss.
5	Addison Siders	D	5-7	So.	Sumrall, Miss.
15	Ryan Smith	M	5-3	Gr.	Biloxi, Miss.
17	Ashton Stringfellow	D	5-7	Fr.	Sumrall, Miss.
14	Lorilee Taylor	F	5-5	Jr.	Madison, Miss.
12	Olivia Tribolet	F	5-4	Sr.	Madison, Miss.
10	Vail Wartes	M	5-8	Jr.	Brandon, Miss.
9	Zara Werema	F	5-7	Fr.	Little Elm, Texas

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach	Danny Owens, First Season
Associate Head Coach	Ryan Weir, First Season
Assistant Coach	Aníta Guðmundsdóttir, First Season
Graduate Assistant	Amber Fortenberry, First Season