

Darnell's contract terminated

By Jason Gillikin
Editor in Chief

Gary Darnell, the head coach of Western Michigan University's football team, will have his contract terminated after this Saturday's season-ending game at Marshall University.

In a late-night press conference on Sunday, Kathy Beauregard, WMU director of intercollegiate athletics, announced the university's decision.

"After last season, which was our third consecutive losing season, we discussed the need for the program to have a winning record in 2004 for Gary to continue as head coach," Beauregard said, in a prepared statement. "For the benefit of our student-athletes and fans, we simply cannot afford another year of decline and now is the time for new leadership to be brought in."

The football team's record, with one game remaining, is 1-9, and 0-7 in the Mid-American Conference. According to the athletics administration, the team is 15-30 overall over the last four years.

Although Darnell has two years left on his contract, the university will exercise the buyout clause in his contract. A search for a new head coach will begin immediately.