



2003 LSU BASEBALL

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2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Monday, June 2

Overall Record: 43-19-1

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

SEC TOURNAMENT RUNNERS-UP

NCAA BATON ROUGE REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Last week's results (3-0):

NCAA BATON ROUGE REGIONAL, ALEX BOX STADIUM

Friday—def. Northeastern, 11-8

Saturday—def. Tulane, 13-5

Sunday—def. UNC Wilmington, 9-8 in 11 innings

This week's games:

NCAA SUPER REGIONAL

Friday or Saturday—Baylor, time TBA

Saturday or Sunday—Baylor, time TBA

Sunday or Monday—Baylor, time TBA (if necessary)

Notes on the week:

- LSU won its eighth consecutive NCAA regional championship by sweeping three games of the Baton Rouge regional. The Tigers' eight consecutive regional championships is the second longest streak in NCAA history, trailing only the 10 consecutive regionals that Miami has won since the 1994 season.
- The Tigers continued their remarkable run of success in regional championship round games, as the win on Sunday over UNC Wilmington improved the Tigers to 20-1 with the chance to advance on the line. All but three of those games have been played at Alex Box Stadium; the exceptions were one game vs. Cal St. Fullerton in 1987 at the University of New Orleans, and two vs. Texas A&M in 1989 at College Station.
- The only loss for the Tigers in the regional championship round came in 2001, when LSU fell to Virginia Commonwealth. However, the Tigers beat the Rams in the "if necessary" game to advance.
- LSU continued its phenomenal success in regionals at Alex Box Stadium, improving to a sterling 55-10 (.846) in home regional games. The Tigers have now gone undefeated in seven home regionals, going 4-0 in 1986, 1991, 1994, 1996 and 1998, and going 3-0 in 2000 and 2003. Three of those five undefeated regionals (1991, 1996, 2000) led to a national championship for LSU.
- LSU has won 13 of the 15 regionals contested at home, with Cal St. Fullerton winning in Baton



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Rouge in 1992 and 1995. Counting the two-game sweep of UCLA in the 2000 super regional, LSU is 57-10 (.851) in all NCAA games at home.

- LSU also maintained the highest overall winning percentage in the NCAA tournament, improving to 97-34, a .740 winning percentage, in 19 all-time appearances. LSU is 65-15 in regional play, 29-13 in the College World Series and 3-6 in super regional play.
- This year's regional marks the first time since the current format in 1999 that the Tigers swept all three of the other teams in the regional without dropping into the loser's bracket. LSU also faced all three teams in 1999 and 2002, but only after falling into the loser's bracket with a second-game loss.
- Since 1999, the Tigers have bested a Colonial Athletic Association team three times in the regional championship round, this year beating UNC Wilmington. The Tigers topped VCU in 2001 and East Carolina in 1999, which at the time was still in the CAA; the Pirates bolted for Conference USA following the 2001 baseball season.
- The Tigers also continued their tradition of winning post-season games in which they score 10 or more runs. With 11-8 and 13-5 wins over Northeastern and Tulane, respectively, in the first two games of the regional, LSU improved to 45-1 all-time in NCAA Tournament games in which they tally in double figures. The only loss came in the second round of the 1999 Baton Rouge regional to East Carolina (11-10).
- LSU is 61-2 all-time
- Under coach Smoke Laval, LSU is 33-1 when scoring 10 or more runs, with the only loss being a 12-11 setback at Housotn last February 24.
- Sophomore CF J.C. Holt had possibly the best weekend of his career at LSU, going 9-for-14 (.643) with six runs scored, eight RBI and a 1.286 slugging percentage in the three games to earn Most Outstanding Player honors. Holt, who returned to the starting lineup full-time this weekend when Quinn Stewart was injured in pre-game warm-ups on Friday, is now hitting .488 (20-for-41) in 10 career NCAA Tournament games.
- Holt started the regional by hitting two home runs in the win over Northeastern, and added to that by going 4-for-5 with 4 runs scored and 5 RBI. The runs scored and RBI marks were new career highs, while the four-hit game was the fifth for Holt's career. Two of the previous four-hit games came in the 2002 NCAA regional against Southern and Louisiana-Lafayette.
- Holt went 3-for-4 with 3 RBI on Saturday and 2-for-5 on Sunday to cap the incredible weekend, giving Holt three consecutive multi-hit games for the first time this year.
- The three-game binge moved Holt's average up 25 points from .279 to .304, the first time his average has been above .300 since March 5.
- The big hero of the regional, of course, was sophomore RF Jon Zeringue, whose 11th-inning home run on Sunday lifted LSU over UNC Wilmington and into the super regional round. It was Zeringue's 12th home run of the year and the Tigers' eighth of the weekend, eight more than LSU hit in four games of the SEC Tournament the previous weekend at Birmingham.
- Zeringue's home run was the first game-winner for LSU since Matt Heath beat Long Beach St. with a solo shot in the bottom of the 11th in a 5-4 Tiger victory on March 3, 2002. The last time LSU won an NCAA Tournament game on a walkoff home run was the 1996 College World Series championship game, when Warren Morris' two-out, two-run shot in the bottom of the ninth felled Miami, 9-8.
- The win over UNC Wilmington gave LSU its first extra inning victory of the season after four losses, and was the Tigers' first since a 5-4, 10-inning win at Florida last May 10. LSU's last extra inning game in the NCAA Tournament was a 4-3, 13-inning win over Tulane in the opening game of the 2001 super regional.
- Despite missing out on all-tournament team honors, Zeringue enjoyed a solid 5-for-13 weekend



in the regional, leaving his season average at .341. Since he returned to the starting lineup on March 22, Zeringue is LSU's leading hitter at .384 with 11 home runs, 31 RBI and 40 runs scored.

- While Holt got hot for one weekend, Ivan Naccarata has been hot for one month. The junior third baseman was a unanimous selection to the all-tournament team by batting a sizzling .533 (8-for-15) with 5 RBI and 6 runs scored in the regional. Naccarata's big day came in the Saturday victory over Tulane, when he went 4-for-5 with a pair of doubles, three RBI and four runs scored.
- Since May 2, Naccarata has been the Tigers' top hitter, batting a cool .424 (28-for-66) with 19 runs scored and 15 RBI. In that stretch, Naccarata has been deadly in clutch situations, batting .474 (9-for-19) with runners in scoring position and .458 (11-for-24 with two out). In the last month, Naccarata has raised his average from .296 to .333.
- In the Tigers' seven post-season games, Naccarata is the Tigers' leading hitter, batting .481 (13-for-27) with nine runs scored and nine RBI.
- The four hits and four runs scored were season highs for the Canadian, while the two-double game was his second in two weeks, after doing so in the regular season finale at Arkansas on May 18.
- Sophomore DH Ryan Patterson showed why he was named first team All-SEC, earning all-tournament team honors by batting .412 (7-for-17) in the regional with a key home run on Sunday.
- Patterson is now second on the Tigers with a .357 season batting average, and his 14 home runs lead the team, one ahead of Clay Harris' 13.
- Also earning all-tournament honors was sophomore 2B Blake Gill, who batted .385 (5-for-13) in the regional with a three-run home run to break open the Tulane game on Saturday. Gill is batting .400 (10-for-25) with 10 runs scored and 7 RBI in the post-season.
- Also earning all-tournament team honors for the regional were junior SS Aaron Hill and freshman catcher Matt Liuzza.
- Hill reached a personal milestone in the regional by banging out his 50th double in the first inning of Sunday's win over UNC Wilmington, moving him into seventh place on the LSU career doubles list. Hill also has 27 doubles this year, tied for second on the single-season record charts with Eddy Furniss' 27 in 1998.
- On the mound, junior RHP Nate Bumstead also earned all-tournament team laurels by going 7 2/3 innings on Saturday against Tulane, scattering nine hits and improving to 11-2 on the year. Bumstead is the second first year pitcher in the last three years to win that many games in his initial year at LSU, as Lane Mestepey was 11-3 in 2001.
- Returning the win column was senior RHP Jake Tompkins, who gave up four runs on eight hits in seven innings on Friday against Northeastern to win his third game of the year. Tompkins is now 3-0 with a 2.65 ERA in 20 1/3 innings pitched in the NCAA Tournament.
- Redshirt freshman LHP Jason Determann returned to the bullpen this weekend and pitched in each of the last two games of the regional. Determann went 1 1/3 inning on Saturday to close win over Tulane, and then on Sunday, he improved to 6-0 on the year by pitching four innings of relief vs. UNC Wilmington.
- For the season, Determann is 6-0 with a 2.81 ERA, and has walked just seven batters in 57 1/3 innings.
- Bo Pettit failed to get the win in Sunday's championship game, but with nine strikeouts in seven innings, Pettit tied Chad Ogea for ninth on the LSU career strikeout with 296, and needs four more to become the ninth Tiger pitcher to notch 300 Ks for a career.



On deck for this week:

- The Tigers are in the super regional for the fifth consecutive year, leaving LSU as one of only four schools to reach college baseball's Sweet 16 since the current format was instituted in 1999, along with Florida St., Miami and Stanford. Two other teams had reached the first four super regionals as well, but USC did not qualify for the post-season, and Clemson was 1-2 in the Auburn regional.
- LSU is 4-4 vs. teams in this year's super regionals. The Tigers were 1-1 vs. Houston, 1-2 vs. Long Beach St. and 2-1 vs. South Carolina.
- For the second consecutive year, the Tigers will face a team from Texas in the super regional, but this time, the opponent is Baylor, the lone private school from the Big 12. The Bears reached the round of 16 for the first time since 1999 by sweeping through the Hattiesburg regional with wins over Murray St., Southern and Southern Miss and comes in at 44-21 overall.
- LSU and Baylor have met seven times, the last time being a three-game sweep by the Tigers in Baton Rouge to open the 1997, the first baseball season of the Big 12. LSU also won a 1993 South Regional elimination game over the Bears, 13-6.
- Baylor, which has been ranked throughout the 2003 season, finished fourth in the rugged Big 12 behind Nebraska, Texas A&M and Texas. The Bears then finished second in the Big 12 tournament, losing to Texas in extra innings.
- The Tigers last faced a Big 12 opponent in the post-season in the 2000 College World Series, defeating Texas in the opening round. LSU is 8-4 against current Big 12 members in the post-season, going 4-0 vs. Texas A&M, 2-0 vs. Oklahoma, 0-3 vs. Oklahoma St., 1-1 vs. Texas and 1-0 vs. Baylor
- LSU and Baylor have three common opponents this year: Houston, Long Beach St. and Centenary. Both the Tigers and the Bears were 1-2 vs. Long Beach and 1-0 vs. Centenary, while LSU was 1-1 vs. Houston compared to Baylor's 3-0.
- Should LSU win the right to host the super regional, as is expected, it will be the Tigers' second super regional at home. In 2000, the Tigers swept UCLA in Baton Rouge to advance to Omaha, where the Tigers won the national championship. LSU is just 1-6 on the road in super regional games, getting swept in 1999 at Alabama and 2002 at Rice, and lost 2 of 3 to Tulane at Zephyr Field in 2001.
- If the super regional Baylor is trying to become the fifth team to win a regional and super regional on the road. The others were Cal St. Fullerton and Oklahoma St. in 1999 and San Jose St. and USC in 2000.





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