

# LSU TIGERS VIRGINIA TECH

SEPTEMBER 1, 2002 • 1:30 P.M. (CDT)
BLACKSBURG, VA. • LANE STADIUM/WORSHAM FIELD (65,115)

# #14/14 LSU (0-0, 0-0)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>		
SEPT	EMBER			
1	at Virginia Tech (ABC)	1:30 p.m.		
7	The Citadel	7 p.m.		
14	Miami (Ohio)	7 p.m.		
28	* Mississippi State	7 p.m.		
ОСТ	OBER			
5	UL-Lafayette	7 p.m.		
12	* at Florida	TBA		
19	* South Carolina	7 p.m.		
26	* at Auburn	1 p.m.		
NOV	EMBER	-		
9	* at Kentucky	12:30 p.m.		
16	* Alabama	7 p.m.		
23	* Ole Miss	7 p.m.		
29	* at Arkansas (CBS)	1:30 p.m.		
DECEMBER				
7	SEC Championship	7 p.m.		

# #16/16 VIRGINIA TECH (1-0, 0-0)

Dat	Date Opponent Time				
ΑU	AUGUST				
25	Arkansas State	W, 63-7			
SEF	TEMBER				
1	LSU	1:30 p.m.			
12	Marshall	6:30 p.m.			
21	at Texas A&M	6 p.m.			
28	at Western Michigan	TBA			
OC	OCTOBER				
10	* at Boston College	6:30 p.m.			
19	* Rutgers	TBA			
26	* Temple	TBA			
NO	VEMBER				
1	* Pittsburgh	TBA			
9	* at Syracuse	TBA			
20	* West Virginia	6 p.m.			
30	Virginia	TBA			
DE	CEMBER				
7	* at Miami (Fla.)	Noon			

# **RADIO • LSU NETWORK**

Jim Hawthorne, play-by-play Doug Moreau, analyst Jordy Hultberg, sideline

## **TELEVISION • ABC**

Tim Brandt, play-by-play Ed Cunningham, analyst Sam Ryan, sideline

# LSU OPENS SEASON ON ROAD FOR FIRST TIME SINCE '95

LSU opens its 109th season of football on Sunday against Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., the first road season-opener for the Tigers since 1995. LSU last opened a season on the road against Texas A&M (lost, 33-17) in College Station on Sept. 2, 1995. The contest will also mark the first time in school history in which the Tigers play a regular-season game on Sunday. LSU enters the Virginia Tech contest coming off a 10-3 season, a campaign which saw the Tigers claim their first outright SEC title since 1986 and win its first New Year's Day game since 1968. The Tigers closed the season with a 31-20 win over No. 2 Tennessee in the SEC title game and followed that with a 47-34 victory over No. 7 Illinois in the Sugar Bowl. LSU heads into Sunday's contest riding a 6-game winning streak, the longest such streak since the 1973 team won nine consecutive games. LSU is 2-0 in season openers under Nick Saban and the Tigers are 76-27-5 all-time in openers, which includes a 10-12-2 mark on the road. LSU has won seven straight season-openers, including a 48-17 victory over Tulane last year in Baton Rouge.

# **TIGERS CLAIM SEC TITLE IN 2001**

LSU won its first outright SEC title since 1986 and then followed it up with a 47-34 win over Illinois in the Sugar Bowl to cap a 10-3, the sixth 10-win season in school history. LSU wrapped up the regular-season with SEC wins over Alabama, Arkansas and Auburn to clinch a berth in the SEC title game. The Tigers responded with a 31-20 victory over No. 2 ranked Tennessee to earn a spot in a BCS bowl. The win over Illinois in the Sugar Bowl marked the Tigers' first New Year's Day victory since a 20-13 victory over Wyoming in the Sugar Bowl. LSU finished the year ranked No. 7.

# LSU VS. VIRGINIA TECH: THE FACTS

Date/TimeSunday, Sept. 1 at 1:30 p.m. (CT)LocationBlacksburg, Va. (Lane Stadium/Worsham Field - 65,115)TelevisionABC (live to a national audience)The Seriesfirst meetingLast Meetingfirst meeting

# **THE SERIES**

LSU and Virginia Tech meet for the first time on the football field on Sunday, Sept. 1 in Blacksburg, Va. ... The Tigers are 11-5 all-time against current members of the Big East Conference ... LSU last played a current member of the Big East in 1989 when Syracuse posted a 23-10 win over the Tigers in the Hall of Fame Bowl in Tampa ... LSU is 8-3 vs. Miami (Fla.), 2-0 vs. Boston College, 1-1 vs. Syracuse and 0-1 vs. Rutgers ... The game will also mark the first time in which the Tigers have played a football game in the state of Virginia and will also mark LSU's first non-SEC game on the east coast since a 1985 win (23-13) over North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

LSU :		VIRGINIA TECH	
Record	0-0 (0-0 SEC)	Record	1-0 (0-0 BIGEAST)
Ranking	No. 14 Associated Press	Ranking	No. 16 Associated Press
	No. 14 ESPN/USA Today		No. 16 ESPN/USA Today
Last Game	Jan. 1 at New Orleans	Last Game	Aug. 26 at Blacksburg, Va.
	Def. Illinois, 47-34		def. Arkansas State, 63-7
Coach	Nick Saban	Coach	Frank Beamer
Career Record	61-33-1/ninth year	Career Record	150-88-4/22nd year
LSU Record	18-7/third year	VT Record	108-65-12/16th year
vs. Va. Tech	first meeting	vs. LSU	first meeting

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LSUsports.net

Phone - 225.578.8226 Fax - 225.578.1861

# MEDIA SERVICES

# **NICK SABAN INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **MONDAY PRESS LUNCHEON**

Each Monday at 11:30 a.m. in the Press Conference Room, which is located on the fifth floor of the LSU Athletic Administration Building, Coach Saban meets with the media. Luncheons are weekly beginning Monday, August 26 through Monday, November 25 with the exception of the open date weeks (Sept. 19 and Oct. 28). Nick Saban's Press Luncheon prior to the Citadel game will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 3. A transcript of coach Saban's opening statement and the first few questions can be found on the internet at www.LSUsports.net

#### SEC TELECONFERENCE

The 12 SEC coaches are featured on a weekly teleconference each Wednesday at 10 a.m. (CT) during the regular season, beginning August 28. Coach Saban speaks for seven minutes starting at 10:07 a.m.. To access the teleconference dial (706) 645-9713.

#### WEDNESDAY POST PRACTICE

Coach Saban meets with the media immediately after practice on Wednesday's during the regular-season in the Lawton Room, which is located adjacent to Gate 5 of Tiger Stadium.

#### **BY APPOINTMENT**

Coach Saban is available by appointment each weekday from 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m. Contact Michael Bonnette in the LSU Sports Information Office to schedule an interview with Coach Saban.

#### LSU PLAYER INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

#### FOLLOWING THE PRESS LUNCHEON

LSU players will be made available immediately following head coach Nick Saban's press luncheon each Monday afternoon. Requests must be made on (or prior to) the Sunday following the game.

# **POST PRACTICE**

LSU players are available after practice Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment. Interview requests must be to the LSU SID Office by 8 a.m. on the day of the interview. Contact Brian Miller for player interviews.

## **TRUE FRESHMEN NOT AVAILABLE**

True freshmen are not available for any interviews throughout the season unless cleared in advance by the coaching staff and sports information department.

# **LSU SATELLITE NEWSFEED**

Video highlights of LSU football are available via satellite each Monday during the regular-season. The feed is available each Monday beginning August 26 from 3:30-3:45 p.m. CT. The coordinates are Telstar 5, Transponder 19 (C-Band feed). The uplink frequency is 6.305 Horizontal and the downlink frequency is 4.080 Vertical. If there is any trouble with the feed, call (225) 336-2268 or (225) 336-2269.

# WHO TO CONTACT

#### SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE

(225) 578-8226

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Michael Bonnette

mbonnet@lsu.edu

**Associate Sports Information Director** 

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#### **ELECTRONIC MEDIA • TELEVISION**

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#### **ELECTRONIC MEDIA • RADIO**

(225) 578-1882

Radio Director

Jim Hawthorne lsuradio@lsu.edu

# ON THE INTERNET

#### WWW.LSUSPORTS.NET

The Official Website of LSU Athletics is home to all the football knowledge you need. Schedules, results, rosters, bios, statistics and game notes can be found and are always up to date. The GAMEDAY section, updated daily, has all relevant info for the upcoming game.

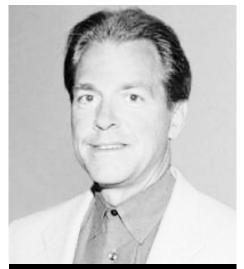
#### **WWW.SECSPORTS.NET**

Updated standings, results, schedules, statistics and notes are on the site each Sunday during the season with the rest of the SEC release added on Monday.

#### WWW.MEDIATEAMLINK.COM

LSU information is available 24-hours-aday via Media Teamlink, an internet site that allows media to receive documents via email or fax as soon as they are updated. Register your name, email address and fax number for or contact Pivotal Communications at (770) 399-0096 for this **FREE** service.

				' -		
Michael Bonnette mbonnet@lsu.edu		Т	HIS WEE	K		Brian Miller bmiller@lsu.edu
MONDAY 26	TUESDAY 27	WEDNESDAY 28	THURSDAY 29	FRIDAY 30	SATURDAY 31	SUNDAY
Press Lunceon 11:30 a.m Athletic	J	SEC Teleconference 10:00-11:24 a.m.	closed practice	closed practice	Team departs for Blacksburg, Va.	<b>LSU vs. Va. Tech</b> Blacksburg, Va.
Building, 5th Floor	with players in the Media Room	Saban - 10:07 a.m. (706) 645-9713	no interviews	no interviews	no interviews	1:30 p.m. CST
Player Interviews		n (n (				Post Game
12:45 p.m. Media Room		Post Practice (approx. 6 p.m.)				Coach Saban is available in the
		Coach Saban in				interview area
Satellite Feed 3:30-3:45 p.m.		Lawton Room				Players are
GE 3, Transponder 5 (C-Band feed)		Media may meet with players				available outside locker room



#### SABAN FILE

Full Name: Nick Lou Saban

Born: Oct. 31, 1951

Birthplace: Fairmont, W.Va.

Wife: Terry Constable of Fairmont, W.Va.,

Wedding Day: Dec. 18, 1971 Children: Nicholas and Kristen

#### **COACHING EXPERIENCE**

1973-74	Grad. Asst. Coach	Kent State
1975-76	Linebackers Coach	Kent State
1977	Outside LB Coach	Syracuse
1978-79	Secondary Coach	West Virginia
1980-81	Secondary Coach	Ohio State
1982	Secondary Coach	Navy
1983-87	Secondary Coach	Michigan St.
	Def. Coordinator	_
1988-89	Secondary Coach	Oilers (NFL)
1990	Head Coach	Toledo
1991-94	Def. Coordinator	Browns (NFL)
1995-99	Head Coach	Michigan St.
2000-	Head Coach	LSU

#### **EDUCATION**

**High School:** Monongah (WV) HS, 1969 **College:** Kent State, 1973 (business) **Masters:** Kent State, 1975 (sports admin.)

#### **PLAYING EXPERIENCE**

1965-69	Monongah HS	Baseball
	Monongah HS	Basketball
	Monongah HS	Football
	Kent State	Football (DB)
1971-72	Kent State	Baseball (SS)

# ACTIVE HEAD COACHES WITHOUT A LOSING SEASON

<u>COACH</u>	TEAM )	<u> (EARS</u>
R.C. Slocum	Texas A&M	14
Paul Pasquloni	Syracuse	12
Phillip Fulmer	Tennessee	11
Nick Saban	Tol./Mich. St./LS	U 9
Mike Bellotti	Oregon	8
Lloyd Carr	Michigan	8
Tommy Bowden	Tulane/Clemson	8
Bob Pruett	Marshall	6

# NICK SABAN

HEAD COACH . THIRD YEAR

You can call LSU head coach Nick Saban the complete package. Brought to Baton Rouge following the 1999 season to revive what many considered a sleeping giant, Saban has transformed the LSU football program into one that wins championships, while graduating players at the same time.

Armed with a plan that gives his players a chance to be successful on the field as well as the classroom, Saban's impact on the program has been immediate and it's been powerful.

In just two short years at LSU's head coach, Saban's on-field success has been unmatched as he has guided the Tigers to 18 victories, a pair of bowl wins, including one in a BCS game, and the 2001 Southeastern Conference title.

Off the field, Saban has spearheaded a fundraising effort that has raised more than \$15 million for a state-of-the-art academic center for student-athletes. The new LSU Academic Center for Student-Athletes is all part of Saban's plan to give his players the best opportunity to best successful when they finish their football career.

Saban didn't waste anytime making his impact felt as the he guided a team coming off back-to-back losing seasons to an 8-4 mark and a win over 15th-ranked Georgia Tech in the Peach Bowl to rekindle the fire of a proud football tradition in Baton Rouge.

Saban's influence on the Tigers went much further in 2001 as he led LSU to the school's first outright Southeastern Conference title since 1986 with a 31-20 win over second-ranked Tennessee in the SEC title game and followed that win a 47-34 victory over Illinois in the Sugar Bowl, LSU's first New Year's Day Bowl win since 1968.

Beating Tennessee to win the league title is one thing, but the fashion in which Saban and the Tigers did so speaks volumes on the impact he has had on his squad. Playing without two of their offensive standouts, quarterback Rohan Davey and running back LaBrandon Toefield, not only did the Tigers respond to Saban's challenge to step up, they were dominant, outscoring the high-powered Vols offense 21-3 in the second half. LSU's defense allowed just 50 yards rushing.

Losing Davey and Toefield and still overcoming the adversity to win the title game, or any game for that matter, has been a trademark of Saban-coached teams. Teaching the players to trust and believe in each other has been a characteristic that Saban has branded on his squad. Saban preached to his team to play for 60 minutes, to become a dominant team on every play of every game, and to not worry about what the scoreboard read. The players responded.

After the Tigers dropped a 35-24 decision to Ole Miss in Baton Rouge in late October, LSU was practically counted out of the SEC Western Division race. Saban, however, pressed on saying the Tigers would continue to focus on getting better, playing one game at a time, and not worrying about anybody but the next opponent. It worked as the Tigers began to peak during their November run, a stretch that saw LSU win at Alabama, then beat nationally-ranked foes Arkansas and Auburn at home to advance to the SEC title game.

The win over second-ranked Tennessee in the SEC Championship game and then No. 7 Illinois in the Sugar Bowl were just two more steps along the way for the Tigers as Saban continues to restore the winning tradition to an LSU program that will soon be a fixture among the nation's elite in college football.

Prior to LSU, Saban spent five years as the head coach at Michigan State, where he built the Spartans into a perennial BigTen contender after going to four bowl games in five seasons.

SABAN YEAR-BY-YEAR				
<u>Year</u>	<b>School</b>	Record	Conference	<u>Notes</u>
1990	Toledo	9-2	7-1 (1st)	MAC Co-Champions
1995	Michigan State	6-5-1	4-3-1 (5th)	Independence Bowl
1996	Michigan State	6-6	5-3 (5th)	Sun Bowl
1997	Michigan State	7-5	4-4 (6th)	Aloha Bowl
1998	Michigan State	6-6	4-4 (6th)	Beat No. 1 Ohio State
1999	Michigan State	9-2	6-2 (2nd)	BigTen Runner-Up
2000	LSU	8-4	5-3 (2nd-W)	Peach Bowl Champions
2001	LSU	10-3	5-3 (1st)	SEC and Sugar Bowl Champions
2002	LSU	0-0	0-0	
Total	Ninth Year	61-33-1	40-23	Six Bowls; Two Conference Titles

# TRACKING THE TIGERS

IIVAC	171110	TILL LIGH	.113
Week	$\mathbf{AP}$	Coaches	BCS
Preseason	14	13	
Aug. 27	14	14	
Sept. 1			
Sept. 8			
Sept. 15			
Sept. 22			
Sept. 29			
Oct. 6			
Oct. 13			
Oct. 20			
Oct. 27			
Nov. 3			
Nov. 10			
Nov. 17			
Nov. 24			
Dec. 1			
Dec. 8			
Final			

## **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

	ASSOCIATED I	IVE	,
No	<u>Team</u>	Rec.	<b>Points</b>
t1	Miami (FL) (27)	0-0	1,758
t1	Oklahoma (27)	0-0	1,758
3	Texas (13)	0-0	1,689
4	Tennessee (3)	0-0	1,616
5	Florida State (4)	1-0	1,589
6	Florida	0-0	1,327
7	Colorado	0-0	1,286
8	Georgia	0-0	1,212
9	Nebraska	1-0	1,157
10	Ohio State	1-0	1,142
11	Washington	0-0	1,127
12	Washington State	0-0	1,089
13	Michigan	0-0	1,042
14	LSU	0-0	822
15	Oregon	0-0	744
16	Virginia Tech	1-0	642
17	Louisville	0-0	583
18	Michigan State	0-0	458
19	Marshall	0-0	450
20	USC	0-0	410
21	Maryland	0-0	280
22	South Carolina	0-0	264
23	Texas A&M	0-0	244
24	Penn State	0-0	208
25	North Carolina State	1-0	161

#### **ESPN/USA TODAY**

No	Team	Rec.	<b>Points</b>
1	Miami (FL) (42)	0-0	1,466
2	Texas (10)	0-0	1,424
3	Oklahoma (7)	0-0	1,400
4	Tennessee	0-0	1,266
5	Florida State (2)	1-0	1,216
6	Colorado	0-0	1,085
7	Florida	0-0	1,072
8	Nebraska	1-0	1,037
9	Washington	0-0	936
10	Michigan	0-0	886
11	Ohio Štate	1-0	878
12	Georgia	0-0	858
13	Washington State	0-0	756
14	LSU	0-0	<b>751</b>
15	Oregon	0-0	663
16	Virginia Tech	<b>1-0</b>	644
17	Michigan State	0-0	414
18	Louisville	0-0	407
19	USC	0-0	359
20	Maryland	0-0	340
21	South Carolina	0-0	243
22	Marshall	0-0	240
23	Penn State	0-0	181
24	North Carolina State	1-0	177
25	Wisconsin	1-0	176

#### IN THE POLLS

LSU dropped to No. 14 in the nation by the USA Today/ESPN Coaches poll. The Tigers remained No. 14 by the Associated Press.

#### **TABBED TO DEFEND**

LSU was selected to defend their 2001 SEC Western Division title by the media. The Tigers received 43 first-place votes and 140 total points, while Alabama was second with 24 first-place votes and 203 total points. Mississippi placed third, followed by Auburn, Arkansas and Mississippi State. Tennessee, the defending SEC Eastern Division champion, was picked to defend their title as well. The Vols got 41 first-place votes and 136 total points.

#### PRESEASON ALL-SEC

Six Tigers were selected preseason All-SEC by the media. Junior RB **LaBrandon Toefield**, senior return specialist **Domanick Davis** and senior LB **Bradie James** were each selected to the first-team, while sophomore WR **Michael Clayton**, junior DT **Chad Lavalais** and senior FS **Damien James** were tabbed as second-team All-SEC selections.

# **BRADIE JAMES AND LABRANDON TOEFIELD TEAM CAPTAINS**

Senior linebacker **Bradie James** and junior running back **LaBrandon Toefield** have been named team captains for the LSU football team, coach Nick Saban announced on Aug. 22. The two players were selected in a vote of the 105 players that are in fall camp. Saban also noted that senior running back Domanick Davis, senior defensive Kenderick Allen and sophomore quarterback Matt Mauck all received "a good amount of votes" and that those three will alternate being a third team captain on game day.

#### **TOEFIELD ON DOAK WALKER LIST**

Junior **LaBrandon Toefield** is one of 42 preseason running backs in the nation named as a Doak Walker Award candidate. The award is given annually to the nation's top running back. Eight semifinalists will be selected on Nov. 19, and the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee will vote on the winner in late November. The winner of the award will be announced live on ESPN's Home Depot College Football Awards Show on Dec. 12.

# JAMES ON LOMBARDI, BUTKUS AND NAGURSKI LISTS

Senior linebacker **Bradie James** has been selected to the preseason watch lists for the Lombardi Trophy, the Butkus Award and the Bronko Nagurski Trophy. The Lombardi Trophy is awarded to the best defensive player to line up within five yards of the line of scrimmage and the Butkus goes to the nation's best linebacker. The Nagurski Award is given to the nation's best defensive player. James is one of 49 Division 1-A players named list for the 33rd annual Lombardi Award and one of 69 players named to the watch list of the Bronko Nagurski Trophy. The West Monroe, La., native is one of 67 players on the preseason list for the Butkus Award. The winners of these awards will be announced live on ESPN's Home Depot College Football Awards Show on Dec. 12.

# MICHAEL CLAYTON ON WATCH LIST FOR BILETNIKOFF AWARD

Michael Clayton, one of the top freshmen receivers in the nation last year, is one of 32 players named to the watch list for the Biletnikoff Award. Clayton is one of only six sophomores on the watch list. Last year, LSU's record-setting receiver **Josh Reed** won the Biletnikoff Award after hauling in a school-record 94 passes for a Southeastern Conference record 1,740 yards and seven touchdowns. As a true freshman for the Tigers in 2001, Clayton caught 47 passes for 754 yards and six touchdowns. He capped the season with eight catches for 120 yards against Illinois in the Sugar Bowl. For his efforts, Clayton earned Freshman All-SEC and Third-Team Freshman All-America honors.

# LAVALAIS JOINS JAMES ON LOMBARDI WATCH LIST

LSU defensive tackle **Chad Lavalais** earned a spot on the Lombardi watch list for the first time in his career. He is one of 121 players from across the country named to the Lombardi Award watch list, the Executive Committee of the Rotary Lombardi Award announced on Aug. 22. He is joined on the watch list by fellow Tiger **Bradie James**. Eligibility for the Lombardi Award is limited to down linemen and those defensive players who line up within five yards of the football. The watch list will be trimmed to 12 semifinalists in late October and will then be cut to four finalists in mid-November. The winner of the award will be announced on Dec. 11 in Houston.

#### DONNIE JONES NAMED TO RAY GUY WATCH LIST

**Donnie Jones** has been named to the Ray Guy Watch List, the Greater Augusta Sports Council announced on Aug. 26. Jones, a Baton Rouge native, is one of the 34 players from across the nation named to the watch list. The Ray Guy Award is awarded annually to the nation's top punter. Last year, Jones averaged 43.7 yards on 47 punts. He had 13 punts downed inside the 20-yard line. Jones also set a pair of SEC Championship game records last year in LSU's 31-20 win over Tennessee. Jones averaged 45.2 yards against Tennessee, an SEC Championship game mark, and he also had the longest punt in the history of the title contest with a 58-yard kick.

#### BEN WILKERSON NAMED TO RIMINGTON TROPHY WATCH LIST

LSU sophomore **Ben Wilkerson** is one of 36 players named to the watch list for the Rimington Trophy. The award was established in 2000 and is given to college football's top center. The trophy is named for Nebraska's Dave Rimington, college football's most decorated offense lineman. Wilkerson and Oklahoma's Vince Carter are the only two sophomores on the list. A Hemphill, Texas native, Wilkerson started the final nine games for the Tigers last year, helping LSU to an 8-1 mark. He is also the snapper on LSU's field goal attempts. In 2001, Wilkerson earned Second Team Freshman All-America Freshman All-SEC honors. The winner will be announced on Dec. 14.

#### ROBINSON BACK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Senior receiver **Reggie Robinson** is back in action in 2002 after missing all of last season due to a herniated disc in his neck. Robinson started all 12 games for the Tigers in 2000 and grabbed 31 receptions for 391 yards and two touchdowns. He has collected 77 receptions for 1061 yards and six scores in 30 career games.

#### **SOLD OUT**

Tiger fans have become some of the best in the nation when it comes to following their team. LSU sold all 6,600 of its tickets for the season opener against Virginia Tech long before any other game this year. Last season, Tiger fans placed the highest demand on the ticket office in school history for the their allotted tickets for both the SEC Championship Game and the Sugar Bowl.

# SABAN HAS FACED VIRGINIA TECH BEFORE

While this will be LSU's first football game against Virginia Tech, Tiger coach Nick Saban will be making his fifth appearance against the Hokies. Saban has been as assistant coach in four games involving Virginia Tech and he's 2-2 in those contests. Saban was the linebackers coach at Kent State in 1975 and 1976 before taking over as the secondary coach for West Virginia for the 1978 and 1979 games. Saban will be coaching for the third time at Lane Stadium.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Position</u>
1975	Kent State 17, Va. Tech 11	at Kent State	LB's coach
1976	Va. Tech 42, Kent State 14	at Va. Tech	LB's coach
1978	Va. Tech 16, W. Virginia 13	at Va. Tech	Secondary coach
1979	W. Virginia 34, Va. Tech 23	at W. Virginia	Secondary coach

# **SABAN'S OPENERS**

Third-year head coach **Nick Saban** is 2-0 in season-opening games at LSU. The Tigers opened his first season in 2000 with a 58-0 victory over Western Carolina and defeated Tulane 48-17 to open last season.

# **OPENING UP**

Sunday's game in Blacksburg, Va., marks the opening of the 109th season of LSU Football. The Tigers are 76-27-5 in openers, including six straight victories. LSU has not lost a season-opening game since a 33-17 loss at No. 3 Texas A&M to start 1995.

# **BACK ON THE ROAD**

LSU will open the season on the road for the first time since 1995 when the Tigers started the year at Texas A&M in College Station, Texas. LSU owns a 10-12-2 record when opening the season at the opponent's site. The last win on the road to open a season for LSU came in 1987 with a 17-3 victory at Texas A&M.

#### **RARE OPENER**

This will be the first time in school history LSU will meet a team from the Commonwealth of Virginia on the football field.

2002 SEC	STAI	NDIN	IGS							
EASTERN DIVISION										
<u>Team</u>	<u>SEC</u>	Pct.	<b>Overall</b>							
Florida	0-0	.000	0-0							
Georgia	0-0	.000	0-0							
Kentucky	0-0	.000	0-0							
South Carolina	0-0	.000	0-0							
Tennessee	0-0	.000	0-0							
Vanderbilt	0-0	.000	0-0							
WESTER	N DIV	10121	4							
<u>Team</u>	<u>SEC</u>	Pct.	<u>Overall</u>							
Alabama	0-0	.000	0-0							
Arkansas	0-0	.000	0-0							
Auburn	0-0	.000	0-0							
LSU	0-0	.000	0-0							
Mississippi State	0-0	.000	0-0							
Ole Miss	0-0	.000	0-0							

#### THIS WEEK IN THE SEC

Aug. 31

M. Tenn. vs. Alabama (B'ham) UAB at Florida Clemson at Georgia Louisiana-Monroe at Ole Miss Mississippi State at Oregon New Mexico St. at South Carolina Wyoming at Tennessee Vanderbilt at Georgia Tech

Sept. 1

Kentucky at Louisville LSU at Virginia Tech

Sept. 2

Auburn at Southern Cal

#### WATCHING THE OPPONENTS

VIRGINIA TECH (1-0) vs. LSU Last week: def. Arkansas State, 63-7

CITADEL (0-0) open Last week: Idle

**MIAMI (OH)** (0-0) at North Carolina Last week: Idle

MISSISSIPPI STATE (0-0) at Oregon Last week: Idle

**UL-LAFAYETTE** (0-0) at Texas A&M Last week: Idle

**FLORIDA** (0-0) vs. UAB Last week: Idle

**SOUTH CAROLINA** (0-0) vs. N. Mex. St. Last week: Idle

**AUBURN** (0-0) at Southern Cal Last week: Idle

**KENTUCKY** (0-0) at Louisville Last week: Idle

**ALABAMA** (0-0) vs. M. Tenn. (B'ham) Last week: Idle

**OLE MISS** (0-0) vs. Louisiana-Monroe Last week: Idle

**ARKANSAS** (0-0) open Last week: Idle

	LSU RECORD	ВООК									
C	AREER RUSHING YAF										
1	Kevin Faulk	1995-98	4,557								
8	Brad Davis	1972-74	2,165								
9		1957-59	1,867								
1 -	Eddie Fuller	1986-89	1,816								
11	LaBrandon Toefield	2000-pres	1,0/4								
<u>C/</u>	AREER RUSHING ATT	<u>TEMPTS</u>									
1	Dalton Hilliard	1982-85	882								
8	Rondell Mealey	1996-99	453								
9	Art Cantrelle	1969-71	397								
10	LaBrandon Toefield	<b>2000-pres</b>	395								
CAREER RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS											
1	Kevin Faulk	1995-98	145 46								
1 	Kevin Faulk	1995-98	46								
6	Harvey Williams	1986-90	27								
	Garry James	1982-85	27								
8	Billy Cannon	1957-59	24								
	LaBrandon Toefield	2000-pres	24								
	AREER RECEPTIONS										
1	Wendell Davis	1984-87	183								
1 -											
2		1999-2001									
3		1981-84	152								
4	Tony Moss	1986-89	132								
	Jerel Myers	1999-pres	132								
	AREER RECEIVING YA	ARDS									
1	Josh Reed	1999-2001	3,001								
6	Todd Kinchen	1988-91	1,911								
7		1997-2000									
8		1996-99	1,747								
9	3										
	Carlos Carson	1977-79	1,728								
10	Jerel Myers	1999-pres	1,662								
<u>C/</u>		YARDS									
1	Kevin Faulk	1995-98	6,833								
5	Eric Martin	1981-84	3,833								
6	Eddie Kennison	1993-95	3,819								
7	Garry James	1982-85	3,798								
8	Domanick Davis	1999-pres									
		L VADDO									
1	AREER PUNT RETURI Eddie Kennison	1993-95	947								
4	Joe Labruzzo	1963-65	687								
5	Domanick Davis	1999-pres									
		-									
	AREER KICKOFF RETU										
1	Robert Dow	1973-76	1,780								
2	Domanick Davis	1999-pres	1,608								
	AREER SCORING										
1	Kevin Faulk	1995-98	318								
		1770 70	510								
4	Charles Alexander	1975-78	254								
5	Juan Betanzos	1982-84	198								
ľ	Rondell Mealey	1996-99	198								
7	John Corbello	1999-pres									
	-	-									

#### LONGER STREAK FOR ROBINSON

Fellow senior receiver **Reggie Robinson** is riding an even longer streak than **Jerel Myers**. Robinson has had at least one reception in 29 consecutive games in which he has played, including the 2000 Peach Bowl. His streak goes all the way back to the second game of his freshman season at Auburn in 1998. Robinson missed three games in 1999 and sat out last season due to injuries.

#### **MY-O-MYERS**

Senior receiver **Jerel Myers** has caught at least one pass in all but one of the 36 games he has played during his three previous seasons. The only game that he did not record a catch was at Mississippi during the 2000 season. Since then he has a catch in 15 straight games, including the 2000 Peach Bowl and the 2002 Sugar Bowl.

#### JAMES ON A ROLL

Senior All-America linebacker **Bradie James** is the mark of consistency. The West Monroe, La., native has recorded at least one tackle in all but one of the 35 games in which he has played. The only game that he did not make a stop was against Houston in 1999. Since that game, he has made at least one tackle in 53 consecutive games (including the 2000 Peach and 2002 Sugar bowl games), and has 11 games with 10 or more stops.

## **MYERS ON THE MOVE**

Senior receiver **Jerel Myers** enters the 2002 season tied for fourth on the LSU career receptions list. The Houston, Texas, native has 132 receptions and is tied with Tony Moss who caught 132 passes between 1986 and 1989. Myers is 21 receptions away from third and 53 away from breaking the record of 183 held by Wendell Davis.

#### **TOE-ING THE LINE**

Junior running back **LaBrandon Toefield** is five rushing touchdowns away from cracking the top five in career touchdowns by an LSU player. Toefield has 24 rushing touchdowns, while Harvey Williams is sixth with 28 and Terry Robiskie and Rondell Mealey are tied for fourth with 29.

#### **MAUCK STEPS UP**

Sophomore quarterback **Matt Mauck**, the 2001 SEC Championship Game Most Valuable Player, will make his first start under center in his collegiate career. The Jasper, Ind., native played in three games as a freshman, completing 18 of 41 passes for 224 yards. He earned his MVP honor against Tennessee in the SEC Championship Game by completing 5-of-15 passes for 67 yards and rushing for 50 yards and two touchdowns in the Tigers' 31-20 victory.

# "TOE" AND "DOUBLE D" TIGERS DYNAMIC DUO

LSU's backfield tandem of junior **LaBrandon Toefield** and senior **Domanick Davis** could be the best pair in the Southeastern Conference. Both are preseason All-SEC selections and both have over 1,000 rushing yards in their career. Toefield has gained 1,674 yards and scored 24 touchdowns in his career, while Davis has collected 1,125 rushing yards and 13 touchdowns in his career. Combined the pair have 2,799 yards and 37 touchdowns in 55 games.

## FOUR TIGERS SIT ATOP SEC ACTIVE LISTS

Linebacker **Bradie James**, free safety **Damien James**, running back **LaBrandon Toefield**, and running back/return specialist **Domanick Davis**, sit atop the SEC active lists for tackles, interceptions, touchdowns and all-purpose yardage, respectively. Bradie James heads the list of defenders with 264 career tackles, while Damien James is tied with Todd Johnson of Florida with seven career interceptions to lead the league. Toefield has scored 24 touchdowns in his career, putting him two ahead of Earnest Graham of Florida, while Davis is atop the active all-purpose yardage leaders with 3,623 yards.

#### YOUTH IN THE TRENCHES

LSU may have one of the youngest pairs of offensive and defensive lines in the nation this season. On the offensive side of the ball, the Tigers start a freshman, a sophomore, two juniors and just one senior on the line. The defensive line starters consists of two true sophomores, a junior and a lone senior. When looking at the depth chart, LSU gets even younger. Four of the O-Line backups are freshmen while one is a senior. Defensively, two juniors and two freshmen serve as back ups.

#### ITS ALL ABOUT NETWORKING

The LSU/Virginia Tech game is going to be carried nationally by ABC. It will be the 46th time LSU will appear on ABC, but just the second time since 1995. The Tigers were on ABC for the 2002 Sugar Bowl. LSU is 14-28-3 in games aired by ABC, including two straight victories, a 47-34 win over Illinois in the 2002 Sugar Bowl and a 28-0 win over Arkansas at Tiger Stadium in 1995.

# MORE NETWORKING

The Tigers have appeared on ABC more than any other network. This will be LSU's 46th appearance on ABC. ESPN follows with 38 and then CBS with 27. The Tigers are slated to appear on CBS on Nov. 29th against Arkansas.

#### **HIGH CALIBER OPPONENT**

Sunday's game will mark the first time LSU has opened the season against a ranked team since 1995. Virginia Tech is ranked No. 16 by the coaches the AP. In 1995, Texas A&M was No. 3 in the nation at the beginning of the season. Sunday will also mark the first time since 1988 both LSU and the opponent were ranked in the season opener. In 1988, the Tigers began the season as the 18th-ranked team and Texas A&M was 10th.

#### **FIVE TIMES THE TOUGHNESS**

Virginia Tech, ranked No. 16 by the Associated Press, is the fifth-straight ranked team LSU has played. The streak began on Nov. 23rd of last season when the Tigers hosted No. 24 Arkansas. LSU then hosted No. 25 Auburn before playing No. 2 Tennessee in the SEC Championship Game and No. 7 Illinois in the Sugar Bowl. This is the first time in school history LSU has played five straight ranked teams.

# **GOING FOR A RECORD**

LSU will attempt to break a 40-year-old record on Sunday. The Tigers have never defeated five straight ranked opponents in school history. Before the win over No. 7 Illinois in the 2002 Sugar Bowl, LSU had only defeated four straight ranked teams one other time in the 109-year history of the program. The 1961-62 Tigers knocked off No. 3 Georgia, Tech on Oct. 7, 1961, No. 2 Mississippi on Nov. 4, 1961, No. 7 Colorado on Jan. 1, 1962 and No. 5 Georgia Tech on Oct. 6, 1962.

# TIGERS TO PLAY ON SUNDAY FOR THIRD TIME

LSU's game against Virginia Tech will mark the third time in school history in which the Tigers have played a game on Sunday. The game will be LSU's first Sunday regular season contest. LSU's first Sunday game came on Jan. 1, 1950 against Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans (L, 35-0) and then again on Dec. 28, 1997 against Notre Dame in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport (W, 27-9).

# LSU GRAD. ASSISTANT DAVE MEYER IS A FORMER HOKIE

First-year LSU graduate assistant **Dave Meyer** is a former Virginia Tech football player. Meyer lettered for three years for the Hokies from 1998-2000. He served as a backup quarterback all three years, including the 1999 team that played Florida State in the national championship game. Meyer had four starts during his career.

#### **HIGH ENOUGH**

Blacksburg is listed at 2,132 feet above sea level by www.airnav.com, making Lane Stadium the fourth highest elevated stadium LSU has played a football game. LSU's highest elevated game was at Colorado on Sept. 15, 1979, at 5,288 feet. The Tigers also played in The Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas, (3,958 feet) twice, once against Iowa State on Dec. 18, 1971, and the other against Stanford on Dec. 31, 1977. Texas Tech's Jones SBC Stadium, listed at 3,282 feet, is the third-highest elevated site LSU has played. The Tigers played at Texas Tech on Oct. 5, 1954. When the Tigers open next season at Arizona, Arizona Stadium's listed elevation of 2,643 feet will become thefourth-highest stadium. Baton Rouge and Tiger Stadium are listed by www.airnav.com at 18 feet above sea level.

#### **STREAKING**

LSU has won six straight games since falling to Ole Miss on Oct. 27, 2001. Since then, the Tigers have beaten Alabama, Middle Tennessee, No. 24 Arkansas, No. 25 Auburn, No. 2 Tennessee and No. 7 Illinois in consecutive games. The streak is the longest since LSU won nine straight during the 1973 season. LSU's longest winning streak is 19 games from Nov. 30, 1957 (the final game of the 1957 season) to Oct. 31, 1959 (the seventh game of 1959). That streak included the 11-0 national championship season of 1958.

TIGER TREN	DS	
	2002	SABAN
September	0-0	5-3
October	0-0	4-3
November December-January	0-0 0-0	5-1 4-0
LSU'S CONFERENCE REC	ORD	
at home on the road	0-0	6-2
neutral	0-0 0-0	4-4 1-0
LSU'S NON-CONFERENCE	E REC	CORD
at home on the road	0-0	5-1 0-0
neutral	0-0 0-0	2-0
LSU VS. RANKED OPPON	NENTS	<u> </u>
at home	0-0	4-1
on the road neutral	0-0 0-0	0-3 3-0
LSU'S RECORD IN GAME	<u>s</u>	
decided by 7 pts or less	0-0	5-1
decided by 3 pts or less Away during the day	0-0 0-0	1-0 1-2
Away at night	0-0	3-2
Home during the day	0-0	2-1
Home at night  LSU'S RECORD WHEN	0-0	8-2
Leading after the 1st qtr	0-0	14-2
Leading after the 2nd qtr	0-0	15-1
Leading after the 3rd qtr Tied after the 4th qtr	0-0 0-0	14-1 2-0
Trailing after the 1st qtr	0-0	3-5
Trailing after the 2nd qtr	0-0 0-0	3-6 3-6
Trailing after the 3rd qtr LSU'S RECORD WITH	0-0	3-0
less than 300 yards	0-0	2-3
300+ yards total offense	0-0 0-0	16-4 14-1
400+ yards total offense 500+ yards total offense	0-0	5 <b>-</b> 0
600+ yards total offense	0-0	2-0
less than 100 yards rush 100+ yards rushing	0-0 0-0	0-4 18-3
150+ yards rushing	0-0	8-1
200+ yards rushing	0-0	3-0
250+ yards rushing less than 200 yards pass	0-0 0-0	2-0 2-3
200+ yards passing	0-0	16-4
250+ yards passing 300+ yards passing	0-0 0-0	13-3 7-1
350+ yards passing	0-0	5-1
400+ yards passing	0-0	3-0
450+ yards passing LSU'S RECORD WHEN A	0-0	2-0 ING
less than 200 total yards	0-0	1-1
less than 300 total yards	0-0	2-2
less than 400 total yards less than 500 total yards	0-0 0-0	13-3 18-6
500+ yards total offense	0-0	0-1
less than 100 yards rush	0-0	9-0
less than 150 yards rush less than 200 yards rush	0-0 0-0	13-5 16-7
200+ yards rush	0-0	2-0
less than 100 yards pass less than 150 yards pass	0-0 0-0	1-1 1-2
less than 200 yards pass	0-0	5-3
less than 250 yards pass	0-0	9-4
less than 300 yards pass less than 350 yards pass	0-0 0-0	13-5 16-6
less than 400 yards pass	0-0	18-6
400+ yards pass	0-0	0-1



#### **MOVING ON UP**

- With 143 yards, **LaBrandon Toefield** will move into 10th place in LSU history in career rushing yards. With 194 yards, he will assume ninth place.
- On his third carry, **LaBrandon Toefield** will take over ninth place in LSU history in career rushing attempts.
- With one touchdown, **LaBrandon Toefield** will move into sole possession of eighth place on the LSU career rushing touchdown list. With three, he will tie for sixth place.
- With one reception, **Jerel Myers** will move into sole possession of fourth place in LSU history for career receptions.
- **Jerel Myers** needs 63 yards to move into ninth in career receiving yards in LSU history. He needs 86 yards for eighth place and 107 for seventh.
- With 176 all-purpose yards, **Domanick Davis** will take over seventh place on the LSU all-time list.
- **Domanick Davis** needs 41 punt return yards to move into fourth in LSU history in the category.
- **John Corbello** needs five points to assume the No. 5 position in career points scored at LSU.

# STREAKING TIGERS

# **CONSECUTIVE STARTS** (includes bowls)

Jerel Myers, 25 Rodney Reed, 21 Demetrius Hookfin, 13 Ben Wilkerson, 9

# **CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH A RECEPTION** (includes bowls)

Reggie Robinson, 20 Jerel Myers, 15 Michael Clayton, 13

#### **CONSECUTIVE WINS**

Six (Alabama, Middle Tennessee State, Arkansas, Auburn, Tennesee, Illinois)

#### **CONSECUTIVE HOME WINS**

Three (Middle Tennessee State, Arkansas, Auburn)

#### **CONSECUTIVE ROAD WINS**

Three (at Kentucky, at Mississippi State, at Alabama)

# **CONSECUTIVE WINS AWAY FROM HOME**

Five (at Kentucky, at Mississippi State, at Alabama, vs. Tennessee at Atlanta, vs. Illinois at New Orleans)

# CONSECUTIVE WINS OVER RANKED OPPONENTS

Four (No. 24 Arkansas, No. 25 Auburn, No. 2 Tennessee, No. 7 Illinois)

# **CONSECUTIVE WEEKS IN THE TOP 25** (through Aug. 27 poll)

Five, dating back to Nov. 25, 2001

#### **AWARD WATCH**

#### LABRANDON TOEFIELD

JUNIOR • RUNNING BACK • INDEPENDENCE, LA.

Doak Walker Award Watch List

#### CAREER

Ranks 11th in LSU history in rushing (1,674 yards) Ranks 7th in LSU history in rushing touchdowns (24) Ranks 10th in LSU history in rushing attempts (395)

<u>2002</u>

Preseason First-Team All-SEC

# BRADIE JAMES SENIOR • LINEBACKER • MONROE, LA.

Butkus Award Watch List Lombardi Award Watch List Bronko Nagurski Award Watch List

#### CAREER

264 tackles (165 unassisted)

11 sacks

#### <u> 2002</u>

Preseason All-America (Playboy)

Preseason SEC Defensive Player of the Year (Sporting News) Preseason First-Team All-SEC

# CHAD LAVALAIS JUNIOR • DEFENSIVE TACKLE • MARKSVILLE, LA.

Lombardi Award Watch List

# **CAREER**

75 tackles eight tackles for loss two sacks

## 2002

Preseason Second-Team All-SEC

# MICHAEL CLAYTON SOPHOMORE • WIDE RECEIVER • BATON ROUGE, LA.

Biletnikoff Award Watch List

#### **CAREER**

47 receptions 754 yards receiving six touchdown receptions

#### 2002

Preseason Second-Team All-SEC

# **BEN WILKERSON**SOPHOMORE • CENTER • HEMPHILL, TEXAS

Remington Award Watch List

# **DONNIE JONES**JUNIOR • PUNTER • BATON ROUGE, LA.

Rey Guy Award Watch List

# **CAREER**

104 punts 40.6 yards per punt 30 inside 20

# LSU TIGERS

**DFPTH CHART** 

		OFFENS	SE		I						
X	3	Jerel Myers	5-11	183	Sr.			DEFENS	SE		
	9	Devery Henderson	6-0	190	Jr.	LE	84	Marcus Spears	6-4	295	So.
	81	Skyler Green	5-9	189	Fr.		90	Melvin Oliver	6-3	255	FrRS
	87	Blain Bech	6-1	179	Jr.		62	Brandon Hurley	6-3	289	FrRS
LT	76	Andrew Whitworth	6-7	320	FrRS	LT	96	Byron Dawson	6-2	296	Sr.
	68	Terrell McGill	6-4	323	Fr.		98	Torran Williams	6-4	290	Jr.
					_		71	Nate Livings	6-5	322	Fr.
LG	72	Stephen Peterman	6-4	325	Jr.						
	66	John Young	6-3	305	Sr.	RT	93	Chad Lavalais	6-3	289	Jr.
	75	Brian Johnson	6-4	315	Fr.		95	Kyle Williams	6-3	299	Fr.
_							97	Brandon Washington	6-4	295	Fr.
С	55	Ben Wilkerson	6-4	300	So.		0.4	3.6		201	
	66	John Young	6-3	305	Sr.	RE	94	Marquise Hill	6-7	294	So.
	61	Jimmy Courtenay	6-2	304	Jr.		92	Bryce Wyatt	6-4	264	Jr.
RG	73	Rob Sale	6-2	315	Sr.	Sam	56	Jeremy Lawrence	6-3	242	Sr.
	77	Peter Dyakowski	6-4	300	Fr.		85	Ryan Willis	6-4	254	Fr.
		J					27	Eric Alexander	6-3	225	Jr.
RT	60	Rodney Reed	6-4	280	Jr.						,
	64	Rudy Niswanger	6-5	293	FrRS	Mike	11	Bradie James	6-3	248	Sr.
		, 0					99	Jason LeDoux	6-3	245	Jr.
TE	47	Eric Edwards	6-5	264	Jr.		50	Willie Demps	6-1	232	Fr.
	88	Demetri Robinson	6-3	250	So.			_			
	82	David Jones	6-4	252	FrRS	Will	58	Lionel Turner	6-2	255	So.
							46	Cameron Vaughn	6-4	225	Fr.
Z	14	Michael Clayton	6-4	192	So.		34	Dorsett Buckles	5-10	222	So.
	4	Reggie Robinson	6-2	195	Sr.						
	17	Bennie Brazell	6-1	165	FrRS	LCB	21	Randall Gay	5-11	174	Jr.
	2	Shyrone Carey	5-6	185	So.		29	Travis Daniels	6-1	184	So.
QB	18	Matt Mauck	6-2	217	So.	SS	36	Norman LeJeune	6-1	204	Sr.
QВ	12	Marcus Randall	6-2	218	So.		26	Travis Moses	6-1	184	Jr.
	16	Rick Clausen	6-2	177	FrRS		20	114 15 110505	01	101	J1.
	10	ruen chausen	0 2	1,,	11. 10	FS	5	Damien James	5-11	180	Sr.
TB	31	Domanick Davis	5-10	215	Sr.		8	Jack Hunt	6-1	189	Jr.
	22	LaBrandon Toefield	6-0	230	Jr.		7	Adrian Mayes	6-1	211	Jr.
	10	Joseph Addai	6-0	202	Fr.			•			
						RCB	33	Demetrius Hookfin	5-11	173	Sr.
FB	10	Joseph Addai	6-0	202	FrRS		13	Corey Webster	6-0	197	Jr.
	32	Jason Spadoni	6-0	207	Fr.		1	Ronnie Prude	5-11	175	So.
	30	Solomon Lee	6-1	237	Sr.						

	SPECIALISTS												
PR	31 2	Domanick Davis Shyrone Carey	5-10 5-6	215 185	Sr. So.	Р	80 40	Donnie Jones John Corbello	6-3 5-11	217 225	Jr. Sr.		
KOR	31 3	Domanick Davis Jerel myers	5-10 5-11	215 183	Sr. Sr.	SNP	51 55	Wendell York (punts) Ben Wilkerson (FG)	5-11 6-4	201 300	Sr. So.		
PK	40 43	John Corbello Andre Boagni	5-11 5-9	225 171	Sr. Fr.	HOLI	9 87 14	Blain Bech Michael Clayton	6-1 6-4	179 192	Jr. So.		

# VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

**DEPTH CHART** 

		OFFENS	E					DEFENS	E		
SE	19 81	Ernest Wilford Chris Shreve	6-4 6-0	217 185	r-Jr. r-Jr.	DE	83 99	Nathaniel Adibi Cols Colas	6-3 6-0	261 239	r-Jr. r-Jr.
LT	57 61	Anthony Davis Reggie Butler	6-5 6-5	322 330	Sr. Fr.	DT	70 72	Kevin Lewis Jason Murphy	6-1 6-2	287 288	r-So. r-Fr.
LG -or-	76 60	James Miller Jacob Gibson	6-6 6-4	304 302	So. r-Jr.	DT	91 92	Jason Lallis Mark Costen	6-0 6-3	254 270	r-So. r-Jr.
С	64 68	Jake Grove Robert Ramsey	6-4 6-3	292 296	r-Jr. r-So.	DE	9 58	5Jim Davis Darryl Tapp	6-3 6-1	265 234	Jr. Fr.
RG -or-	74 66	Luke Owens Will Montgomery	6-4 6-3	310 294	r-Sr. r-Fr.	ILB	6 37	Vegas Robinson James Anderson	6-0 6-3	245 222	r-Jr. r-Fr.
RT	79 52	Jon Dunn Jimmy Martin	6-7 6-5	319 269	r-So. Fr.	ILB	45 39	Mikal Baaqee Alex Markogiannakis	5-10 5-9	217 204	r-So. r-Sr.
TE	86 90	Keith Willis Jeff King	6-5 6-5	254 252	r-Jr. r-Fr.	OLB -or-	31 48	Mike Daniels Brandon Manning	6-0 6-0	201 214	r-So. r-So.
QB	11 3	Grant Noel Bryan Randall	6-2 6-0	221 213	r-Sr. So.	FC	8 24	Vincent Fuller D.J. Walton	6-1 5-9	184 197	r-So. r-Fr.
TB -or-	22 7	Lee Suggs Kevin Jones	6-0 6-0	198 212	r-Sr. So.	FS	35 18	Willie Pile Jimmy F. Williams	6-3 6-2	211 203	r-Sr. Fr.
FB -or-	43 32	Doug Easlick Cedric Humes	5-11 6-1	235 218	r-Jr. r-Fr.	ROV -or-	25 21	Billy Hardee Michael Crawford	5-11 5-11	203 206	r-Sr. r-Jr.
FL -or-	26 12	Shawn Witten Richard Johnson	6-0 5-11	192 180	Sr. r-So.	ВС	4 17	DeAngelo Hall Garnell Wilds	5-11 5-11	194 192	So. r-Jr.

	SPECIALISTS												
KR	12 7	Richard Johnson Kevin Jones	5-11 6-0	180 212	r-So. So.	P -or-	38 23	Vinnie Burns Nic Schmitt	5-11 6-2	194 238	r-So. Fr.		
-or-	22	Lee Suggs	6-0	198	r-Sr.	SNP	55	Ken Keister	6-1	240	r-Sr.		
PR	4	DeAngelo Hall	5-11		So.		62	Travis Conway	6-5	257	r-So.		
PK -or-	49 23	Carter Warley Nic Schmitt	5-11 6-2	189 238	r-Jr. Fr.	Hold	89 26	Robert Peaslee Shawn Witten	6-1 6-0	199 192	r-Jr. Sr.		

# THE STARTERS

**OFFFNSF** 

# **#18 MATT MAUCK • SO • QUARTERBACK**

Making first career start and first start at QB since senior year of high school in November of 1996... Played in three games in career, all last year ... Came off the bench in the second quarter vs. Tennessee in the SEC Championship game last year and led the Tigers to the victor y ... Rushed for a pair of TDs in the win over the Vols, which propelled him to Game MVP honors.

#### **#31 DOMANICK DAVIS • SR • RUNNING BACK**

One of the most dangerous all-purpose players in the nation ... Has rushed for 1,125 yards and 13 TD's in three years ... Caught 25 passes for 263 yards, returned 71 kickoffs for 1,608 yards and returned 58 punts for 627 yards and 1 TD over career ... Stepped in for an injured LaBrandon Toefield against Illinois in the Sugar Bowl and responded with 122 yards and a Sugar Bowl-record 4 TDs ... Rushed for 78 yards and 1 TD, which put the game out of reach, vs. Tennessee in the SEC Championship game ... Ranks eighth in LSU history with 3,623 career all-purpose yards and is second in school history in career kickoff return yardage with 1,780 ... Breeds pit bulls in spare time.

# #22 LABRANDON TOEFIELD • JR • RUNNING BACK

Returns to action after sitting out the Sugar Bowl and most of the SEC Championship game with a torn ACL in left knee ... Had surgery in December and was cleared by doctors just six months after surgery ... Back at full strength ... Rushed for 992 yards and an SEC-record tying 19 TDs last year ... Rushed for 1,674 yards and 24 TDs in career.

## #10 JOSEPH ADDAI • FR. • FULLBACK

Will make first career start for the Tigers after being shifted from tailback to fullback midway through fall camp ... Played in two games last year before being granted a medical redshirt ... Hardnosed runner whose not afraid to block ... Just too good of a running back to keep off the field.

# #3 JEREL MYERS • SR • WIDE RECEIVER

34 career games, 33 starts; 132 rec., 1,662 yards, 6 TDs ... Has started all but one regular-season game during career ... Has caught at least one pass in 34 regular-season games ... Only game without a catch came vs. Ole Miss in 2000 ... Ranked fourth in school history with 132 career receptions and ranks 10th with 1,662 career yards

#### **#14 MICHAEL CLAYTON • SO • WIDE RECEIVER**

One of the 32 players named to the Biletnikoff Award watch list in 2002 ... Had outstanding rookie season with 47 catches for 754 yards and six TDs ... Rushed for another TD ... Third Team Freshman All-America (The Sporting News) in 2001 ... Caught

game-winning TD with 13 seconds left vs. Kentucky ... Played in all 13 games last year with four starts ... Capped rookie season with eight catches for 120 yards vs. Illinois in the Sugar Bowl.

# #47 ERIC EDWARDS • JR • TIGHT END

Will make first career start at tight end after playing behind two of the best tight ends in school history in Robert Royal (now with the Redskins) and Joe Domingeaux for the last two years ... Has outstanding catch-to-TD ratio with seven career receptions going for four TDs.

#### **#76 ANDREW WHITWORTH • FR • LEFT TACKLE**

Will see first action as a Tiger after redshirting last year as a true freshman ... Was expected to battle Kade Comeaux for starting job at right tackle before Comeaux was sidelined for the season with an illness.

## #72 STEPHEN PETERMAN • JR • LEFT GUARD

Back at left guard for second year as a starter after spending rookie season as a defensive end ... Will make his 13 career start at left guard ... Started 12 of 13 games last year ... Didn't start but played vs. Ole Miss after suffering high ankle sprain the week prior against Miss. State ... Consider to be among the toughest and meanest of LSU's linemen.

# #55 BEN WILKERSON • SO • CENTER

Returns as LSU's starting center ... Started final nine games of 2001 season, including the Sugar Bowl, and the Tigers were 8-1 over that span ... Moved into starting lineup vs. Kentucky and never relinquished the role ... Also snaps on PATs and field goals ... Second Team Freshman All-America (The Sporting News) in 2001 ... Added 25 pounds of muscle from last year's playing weight ... Sings in church choir.

# **#73 ROB SALE • SR • RIGHT GUARD**

Versatile linemen who has started at center and both guards positions during his career ... Enters season with 22 career games with 12 starts.

# #60 RODNEY REED • JR • RIGHT TACKLE

Outstanding student-athlete ... Named Second Team Academic All-America last year as well as being a member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll for the second straight year ... Moves to right tackle this year after starting all 13 games at left tackle in 2001 ... Started final eight games of 2000 season at left tackle ... Moves from left to right tackle to allow Andrew Whitworth to start at left tackle, his more natural position ... Played in 22 career games with 21 starts.

Freshman All-America (The Sporting News) in 2001 Caught :												
GAME-BY-GAME												
GAME	<u>SE</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>RG</u>	<u>RT</u>	<u>TE</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>FB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>QB</u>	
Virginia Tech												
Citadel												
Miami (Ohio)												
Mississippi St.												
UL-Lafayette												
Florida												
S. Carolina												
Auburn												
Kentucky												
Alabama												
Ole Miss												
Arkansas												

# THE STARTERS

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#### #84 MARCUS SPEARS • SO • DEFENSIVE END

Making first career start ... Spent the 2001 season playing on both sides of the ball - tight end and defensive end ... Played in all 13 games last year ... Registered eight tackles and one sack and caught two passes for 20 yards in 2001.

#### #94 MARQUISE HILL • SO • DEFENSIVE END

Towering presence on the defensive line ... Will make first career start vs. Virginia Tech ... Played in all 13 games last year and finished with 10 tackles and one sack.

## **#93 CHAD LAVALAIS • JR • DEFENSIVE TACKLE**

Expected to have a breakthrough year for the Tigers ... Named to the Lombardi Watch List ... Played and started in 12 games last year ... Missed the Middle Tennessee game with an injury ... Had 53 tackles and one sack in 2001.

#### #96 BYRON DAWSON • SR • DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Played in 28 games with 11 starts in three years ... Had 21 tackles and one sack in 2001 ... Started four of final eight regular-season games in 2001.

# **#56 JEREMY LAWRENCE • SR • LINEBACKER**

Enters fourth season as a starter for the Tigers ... Has seen action in 34 regular-season games with 23 starts for the Tigers ... Recorded 116 career tackles, including 39 in 2001 .... Four career sacks and 10 tackles for losses ... Has great speed on the edge.

# **#11 BRADIE JAMES • SR • LINEBACKER**

One of the nation's top linebackers ... Named to the preseason watch lists for the Lombardi, Butkus and Nagurski Awards ... Listed as the nation's No. 2 rated linebacker by the Sporting News ... Preseason All-America by several publications ... Team captain ... Has played in 33 regular-season games with 21 career starts for the Tigers ... Recorded 264 tackles, including 113 in 2001 ... Has 11 career sacks and 23 tackles for losses.

# **#58 LIONEL TURNER • SO • LINEBACKER**

Will make first career start vs. Virginia Tech ... Played in 11 games in 2001 and finished with seven tackles.

#### **#33 DEMETRIUS HOOFKIN • SR • CORNERBACK**

Played and started in all 13 games for the Tigers last year ... Has 20 career starts at cornerback ... Had 55 tackles in 2001 and enters 2002 season with 80 career stops and two interceptions.

# #21 RANDALL GAY • JR • CORNERBACK

Played in all 13 games for the Tigers in 2001 with one start (vs. Arkansas) ... Has a knack for making big plays ... In 35 plays vs. Illinois in the Sugar Bowl, forced one fumble, returned a fumble 19 yards to setup a TD and picked off a pass ... Finished with 25 tackles and two interceptions in 2001.

# **#36 NORMAN LEJUENE • SR • STRONG SAFETY**

Returns as LSU's starter at strong safety ... Started final five games of season at strong safety in 2001 with the Tigers winning all five games ... Finished with 59 tackles in 2001 ... Has 31 career regular-season appearances with 11 starts.

### #5 DAMIEN JAMES • SR • FREE SAFETY

Another of LSU's playmakers in the defensive backfield ... Shifted back to free safety for the 2002 season after starting final seven games in 2001 at left cornerback ... LSU's quarterback in the secondary ... Led the SEC with five interceptions last year and is the SEC's active interception leader with seven ... Had 49 tackles and one sack in 2001.

	GAME-BY-GAME											
GAME	<u>LE</u>	<u>DT</u>	<u>DT</u>	<u>RE</u>	<u>SLB</u>	MLB	<u>WLB</u>	LCB	RCB	<u>ss</u>	<u>FS</u>	
Virginia Tech												
Citadel												
Miami (Ohio)												
Mississippi St.												
UL-Lafayette												
Florida												
S. Carolina												
Auburn												
Kentucky												
Alabama												
Ole Miss												
Arkansas												