



# 2003 LSU BASEBALL

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2003 LSU Baseball Notebook  
Wednesday, February 12  
Overall Record: 4-0

So far this week:  
Tuesday—won at Centenary, 15-0

This weekend's games (all times CT):  
Friday—Kansas, 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday—Kansas, 2 p.m.  
Sunday—Kansas, 1 p.m.

#### Notes on the Centenary game:

- The Tigers are off to their first 4-0 start since winning the 2000 national championship. In four of the five seasons that LSU has won a national championship, the Tigers have started out 6-0 or better. The lone exception was a 3-3 start in 1993.
- LSU experienced a breakout hitting game in Shreveport on Tuesday night, rapping out a season high 19 hits, including eight extra base hits (four doubles, three triples and two home runs). Twelve of the 14 LSU players who made a plate appearance collected at least one hit, with six having multiple-hit games.
- The three triples by the Tigers (one in each of the first three innings) tied a school record for most triples in a game, done 10 times previously, most recently vs. Kentucky in the 1999 regular season finale.
- The 19 hits by the Tigers are the most for LSU in a game since last May 4, when LSU collected 24 in the second game of a May 4 doubleheader at Tennessee.
- The 15-0 victory is LSU's largest margin of victory since blasting Auburn 20-5 on May 11, 2000. LSU's largest margin of victory last year was a 13-0 triumph at New Orleans on April 30.
- The margin of victory in a shutout is LSU's largest since the Tigers ripped Louisiana-Monroe 21-0 in the 2000 Baton Rouge regional en route to the national championship. ULM's coach that day was Smoke Laval, now in his second year as the Tigers' skipper.
- For the third time in the last four years, the Tigers have posted a shutout within the first four games of the season. Last year, LSU's first shutout did not come until a 6-0 victory over Vanderbilt on March 15 in the season's 20<sup>th</sup> game.
- The Tigers have now won 21 consecutive games over Centenary, dating back to the Gents' last victory, a 2-1 decision in Shreveport in 1956. LSU's winning streak over Centenary is the second longest over one foe in school history, bettered only by the 35-game



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streak over cross-town rival Southern from 1970 through 2000.

- Sophomore CF J.C. Holt barely missed hitting for the cycle, going 3-for-6 with 3 RBI in his sixth career game of three hits or more. Holt tripled in the second, led off the seventh with a solo home run and doubled in the eighth, but grounded out in the ninth.
- Holt, a freshman All-American at second base in 2002, is second on the team with a .417 batting average and leads the Tigers in slugging percentage (.917) and on-base percentage (.533).
- Junior 2B Ivan Naccarata was 1-for-9 heading into the eighth inning of the Centenary game, but busted loose for two hits and three RBI in his final two trips to the plate.
- Sophomore IF Blake Gill added to his impressive ledger in 2003 with a 2-for-3 performance, leaving his season average at an even .500. Gill has two hits in all four LSU games this season, leaving him 8-for-16 after starting 2002 0-for-17.
- Sophomore DH Quinn Stewart, junior 3B Aaron Hill and sophomore RF Jon Zeringue also had two hits for the Tigers on Tuesday.
- How well were things going for the Tigers on Tuesday? So well that third-string catcher Shawn French collected an RBI single in the ninth in his first LSU at-bat. French got the opportunity to play behind Matt Liuzza when starter Dustin Weaver injured a shoulder on Tuesday morning and did not make the trip.
- Freshman RHP Justin Meier made an impressive debut on the mound, starting and going five scoreless innings to pick up the win. Meier worked out of a bases loaded jam in the first inning, then proceeded to allow just one hit and face the minimum number of batters in the second through fifth innings.
- Three Tiger relievers helped preserve the shutout. Redshirt freshman LHP Jason Determann worked two innings and notched three strikeouts, while sophomore RHP Jordan Faircloth and junior RHP Billy Sadler each recorded one perfect inning.
- Determann was making his first pitching appearance for LSU since suffering a season ending elbow injury last February 20 against Centenary in the same stadium. Determann, who picked up a win in relief over Birmingham-Southern on February 9 of last season, underwent Tommy John surgery to repair the damage.
- One of the main reasons behind LSU's 1.50 ERA through four games is the ability to get the tough outs. Tiger pitchers have allowed just a .118 batting average (5-for-43) with runners in scoring position, and just two hits in 18 at-bats with RISP and two out. The Tigers have also brought up opposing batters empty in five at-bats with the bases loaded.

Looking ahead to the weekend:

- LSU can get to the all-important 6-0 start by taking the first two contests against Kansas this weekend. The Jayhawks, who play Western Illinois on Wednesday night in Lawrence, won four of six from Hawaii-Hilo on Super Bowl weekend before splitting a pair at Arkansas-Little Rock last weekend.
- LSU coach Smoke Laval can become the fastest LSU coach to 50 wins by winning two of three. Laval's predecessor, Skip Bertman, who won 50 of his first 80 games, holds the current mark. Laval is 48-22 during his LSU tenure and 288-181 overall in eight-plus years as a head coach.



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