



2003

LSU BASEBALL

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2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Monday, May 12

Overall Record: 35-17-1

Southeastern Conference Record: 18-8-1 (Western division and overall leader)

Last week's results (3-1):

Tuesday—def. Loyola-New Orleans, 21-6 (8 innings, 15-run rule by mutual agreement)

Friday—def. Auburn, 6-5

Saturday—def. Auburn, 20-3

Sunday—lost to Auburn, 14-8

This week's games (all times CDT):

Friday—at Arkansas, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday—at Arkansas, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday—at Arkansas, 1 p.m. (live TV on Jumbo Sports Network in Louisiana)

POSITION PLAYER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE: Sophomore RF Jon Zeringue (6-2, 210, Thibodaux, La.—E.D. White High)

Notes on Zeringue:

- Batted a team high .533 (8-for-15) with two home runs, four RBI, eight runs scored and a .933 slugging percentage in the Tigers' four games last week.
- In the Tigers' last 26 games, Zeringue is the team's leading hitter, batting .404 (40-for-99) with 26 runs scored, six home runs and a .646 slugging percentage.
- For the year, Zeringue is batting .337, up from the .204 mark where he stood when he was reinstated to the LSU starting lineup on March 22.
- Collected his second 4-for-4 game in a span of 16 days in Tuesday's win over Loyola, also tying a season and career high by scoring three runs. Zeringue was also 4-for-4 with three runs scored in an April 27 victory over Tennessee.
- Collected his first career two-home run game in Friday's tense 6-5 win over Auburn in the series opener, becoming only the second different LSU player to hit two home runs in a game since the start of the 2002 season. First baseman Clay Harris has hit two home runs in a game three times since the start of the '02 season.
- Batting .363 with eight home runs and 21 runs scored in the 24 SEC games in which he has played, a major reason why the Tigers are batting a league high .332 in conference games.
- Batting a solid .341 on the year with runners in scoring position, and has collected 15 of his 33 RBI this season with two out.
- Has also shown good speed on the bases this year, stealing six bases in 10 attempts, including two on April 23 vs. Southeastern Louisiana.



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Zeringue's game-by-game numbers this week:

Day	Opponent	W/L	Avg.	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB-SBA
Tue.	Loyola-N.O.	W	1.000	4	3	4	0	0	0	1	1-1
Fri.	Auburn	W	.750	4	2	3	0	0	2	3	0-0
Sat.	Auburn	W	.000	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Sun.	Auburn	L	.250	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0-0
AUBURN SERIES (3 G-3 GS)		2-1	.364	11	5	4	0	0	2	3	0-0
TOTALS (4 G-4 GS)		3-1	.533	15	8	8	0	0	2	4	1-1
SEASON TOTALS (45 G-44 GS)		.337	169	35	57	11	0	11	33	6-10	

NO PITCHER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE

Notes on the week:

- LSU remained on course for its 13th Southeastern Conference championship and its first league title since 1997 by taking two of three from second place Auburn this weekend. The LSU-Auburn series was the first series matching up the top two teams in the SEC in the month of May since May 9-11, 1997, when Alabama won two of three at home from LSU, but the Tigers won the championship.
- LSU can win the championship this weekend by winning one game at Arkansas. The Tigers enter the final weekend of conference play with a 2 ½-game lead over Auburn, Ole Miss and South Carolina and a 3-game lead over Mississippi State.
- With two wins, LSU has now won at least 18 conference games for the eighth consecutive year and the 14th time since the 1989 season, missing only in 1995 at 17-12.
- LSU's series victory over Auburn gave the Tigers their eighth consecutive SEC series win at home, dating back to the 2002 season when LSU won its final three home league series over Georgia, Arkansas and Alabama. The conquests of Florida, South Carolina, Ole Miss, Tennessee and Auburn mark the first time since 1999 that LSU has won all five of its home conference series in a single season.
- Since the SEC went to the current scheduling format that has teams play five home conference series and five away conference series in 1996, LSU has an astounding 34-5-1 mark in home conference series. LSU at one point won 16 consecutive home conference series from the end of the 1996 season through the 1997, 1998 and 1999 campaigns.
- Alex Box Stadium has traditionally been a tough place to play, and it has been even tougher in the month of May. Since 1984, the first year of Skip Bertman's tenure at LSU, the Tigers are 116-36 (.763) in May at home, including a 49-9 mark in NCAA regional play and a 45-23 mark against SEC foes. Throw in the seven games LSU has played in June in the facility in the 2002 super regional and last year's regional, that mark goes to 121-37 overall and 54-10 in the NCAA tournament.
- The Tigers have now won seven of their nine SEC series this year, marking the seventh time in eight years under the current format that LSU has won at least seven conference series. The only exception came in 2002, when LSU was 6-3-1 in its conference series.
- The series win over Auburn marked the Tigers' third in the last two years over a top-10 opponent in the month of May. Last year, LSU took two of three from Florida in Gainesville, who was ranked eighth in two polls, and then came home to sweep Alabama, which was ranked as high as second and no lower than sixth. Auburn was ranked 10th in the ESPN/Sports Weekly poll coming into Baton Rouge.



- This year, LSU is 3-3 vs. Top 10 opponents, going 1-2 at Long Beach St. in March and 2-1 vs. Auburn, and 12-10-1 vs. all ranked foes.
- The Tigers' 20-run outburst on Saturday against Auburn marked the second time in three seasons that LSU has put up 20 runs on the SEC's other Tigers. LSU beat Auburn 20-5 on May 11, 2001 in Baton Rouge, the last time the Tigers had scored 20 runs in an SEC contest. LSU has scored 20 or more runs six times in an SEC game since 1993, with the record being a 27-6 drubbing of Arkansas on March 22, 1998 at Alex Box Stadium.
- Combined with the 21 runs LSU scored against Loyola on Tuesday, the Tigers recorded a pair of 20-run games within one week's time for the first time since March of 1999, when LSU won games one and three of a series from Ohio University 26-5 and 20-6.
- The 11-run third inning in Saturday's game marked the second time in the last three weeks LSU has put up an 11-run inning in an SEC game, joining the 11-run fourth inning against Tennessee on April 27. Prior to the Tennessee game, LSU hadn't enjoyed a double-digit inning since scoring 14 runs in the third inning of a 2000 regional game against Smoke Laval's UL-Monroe club. The LSU record for runs in an inning of an SEC game was 14 in the first inning of the aforementioned game vs. Arkansas.
- LSU continued its hot hitting vs. Auburn, batting .345 in the three-game series and scoring 34 runs, the second time LSU has scored 30 or more runs in a series this year, joining the 42 scored against Tennessee April 25-27. LSU is hitting .332 in SEC games this year, and is the only league team hitting above .300 in conference games.
- The Tigers swung the sticks well with runners in scoring position throughout the weekend, batting .395 (15-for-38) in RISP situations, including a 10-for-17 clip on Saturday. Every LSU player, 10 in all, who got to the plate with an RBI opportunity produced at least one hit in the Auburn series, led by two hits each from five different players.
- For the year, LSU is batting a strong .325 in RISP situations, 12 points higher than the Tigers' season-ending average of .313 in 2002. In SEC games, the RISP number jumps to .337.
- LSU also continues to score with two out, plating 16 of its 34 runs in the series with two out. For the year, LSU has collected 40 percent of its RBI (149 of 364) with two out.
- Sunday's loss was the Tigers' first SEC Sunday loss since a 4-3 setback at South Carolina last April 21, breaking a unbeaten streak of 12 straight Sundays (11-0-1). The Tigers' only losses on Sunday in 2003 came in a doubleheader sweep by Kansas on February 16.
- Also, Sunday's loss marked the first time LSU lost a Sunday SEC game after winning the first two games of a series since April 8, 2001, when the Tigers lost at South Carolina after winning the first two games of that series.
- The Auburn series continued the hot play of sophomore DH/OF Ryan Patterson, who continues to be one of the most pleasant surprises of the year. Patterson led the Tigers in hitting in the Auburn series, batting an even .500 (6-for-12), with the biggest blow coming in the seventh inning on Friday night with a solo home run that eventually gave LSU its margin of victory in a 6-5 triumph. It was Patterson's team leading 12th home run on the year.
- Patterson collected two hits in all three games of the Auburn series, and in the Tigers' last 10 games, he is batting .405 (15-for-37) with four home runs, 10 runs scored and 11 RBI. Patterson is hitting .402 in the second half of the season, and for the year, his .359 average is second on the club only to Aaron Hill's .366. In SEC games, Patterson is hitting .389 with seven home runs and a .637 slugging percentage.
- Patterson continues to show the way for the Tigers in clutch situations, batting .434 (23-for-53) with runners in scoring position and .320 with 19 RBI with two out. In SEC games, Patterson is batting .452 (14-for-31) with RISP situations.
- The little man of the Tigers, sophomore OF Bruce Sprowl, continues to generate big numbers at



the top of the LSU lineup. Sprowl went 5-for-8 in the final two games of the Auburn series, including a 3-for-5 effort on Sunday for Sprowl's fourth three-hit game of the year. The Knoxville native and nephew of former big league hurler Bobby Sprowl has raised his average to a solid .312, and is even hitting .373 (19-for-51) with runners in scoring position.

- Junior SS Aaron Hill is continuing to lead the way toward post-season honors with his clutch hitting and superb all-around play. Hill batted .375 (6-for-16) in the Auburn series and .400 (8-for-20) with eight RBI in the Tigers' four games this week. Hill, who is now eighth on the LSU career doubles list with 47, including 24 this year, continues to lead LSU in batting average (.366), runs scored (52), RBI (48) and on-base percentage (.474). Hill has struck out just 14 times in 260 plate appearances this year.
- Hill, who leads LSU with a .400 batting average in SEC games, continues to be a key leader in clutch situations, batting .375 with runners in scoring position and .400 on the year with 17 RBI with two out.
- Sophomore CF J.C. Holt continues to perform quite well when called upon to start against right-handed pitching. The 2002 Freshman All-American collected his third career four-hit game on Tuesday by going 4-for-6 vs. Loyola, and then followed that up by scoring three runs and belting a two-run home run on Saturday. All three of Holt's home runs this year have gone to the opposite field—February 11 at Centenary, April 15 vs. Tulane and Saturday's blast.
- In the Tigers' last 10 games, Holt has played in eight and is hitting .417 (15-for-36) with nine runs scored, 10 RBI and a perfect 5-for-5 in the stolen base department. Holt leads the Tigers with 13 stolen bases in 15 attempts.
- Freshman catcher Matt Liuzza has regained his stroke at the plate, hitting safely in all three games of the Auburn series, including Saturday's game in which he collected a pair of RBI doubles in the 11-run third inning. Liuzza is hitting .310 (9-for-29) with 10 runs scored in the Tigers' last 10 games to move his season average to a solid .290.
- On the mound, freshman RHP Justin Meier gave up three home runs on Friday, including two to Auburn's Bobby Huddleston, but he battled through the rough patches and went seven innings, giving up four runs on seven hits to earn the victory and improve to 6-2. It was only Meier's second win in his last five SEC starts after beginning 4-0.
- Junior RHP Billy Sadler worked the final two innings of Friday's game to earn his third save of the year. Sadler gave up a run in the ninth inning and had the bases loaded with two out, but he struck out Karl Amonite to end the game. Sadler has appeared in a team high 21 games this year, 20 out of the bullpen, and has fanned 50 batters in 37 innings, while allowing opponents to bat just .197 against him.
- Senior RHP Bo Pettit got a lot of run support on Saturday, but he was solid nonetheless, striking out eight over six innings and giving up three runs to improve to 8-2 on the year and notch his 26th career win.
- The black spot of the weekend came from junior RHP Nate Bumstead, who proved he was human by giving up seven runs in the first inning on Sunday in falling for the first time in an SEC game. Strangely enough, Bumstead also gave up the Tigers' biggest inning prior to Sunday, a seven-run third inning by Kansas on February 16. Bumstead is 7-1 in the SEC, although his ERA spiked in conference games from 2.80 to 3.90.
- Sunday's game gave redshirt freshman LHP Jason Determann a chance to get some experience in the SEC, and he went 5 2/3 innings and held Auburn to two runs on six hits. It was Determann's second longest career outing, eclipsed only by an eight-inning start on April 30 against New Orleans.



On deck for this week:

- LSU takes the early part of the week off for final exams, and then hits the road again on Thursday for a weekend series against SEC border rival Arkansas to close the regular season. LSU and Arkansas have met every year since the Razorbacks joined the SEC in 1992, but this marks the first time these rivals have closed the season. The schools always close the football season in November by playing for the trophy known as "The Boot", and more often than not, the two hook up to close out the men's basketball slate in early March.
- LSU has a 33-14 all-time lead in the series, but most of those wins were built up prior to 1997, when the series took a quirky turn. Since the final meeting of the 1997 season, Arkansas has won nine of the last 10 meetings played outside of Baton Rouge, including six of seven in Fayetteville. On the other hand, LSU has won 11 straight meetings in Baton Rouge and is 16-2 against the Hogs since 1992.
- LSU swept last year's series in Baton Rouge, as Lane Mestepey tossed a four-hit, 3-0 shutout in the series opener, which was followed by Brian Wilson's three-hit, 8-0 shutout one day later. The Tigers blew away the Hogs 13-5 in the series finale.
- The Tigers' last trip to Fayetteville wasn't quite that memorable, as the Razorbacks swept LSU, which was then leading the SEC and ranked number one at the time. Arkansas is 6-3 at Baum Stadium against the Tigers since the gleaming facility opened in 1996.
- This series marks the first time the Tigers will face Dave Van Horn since Van Horn served as coach at Northwestern St. in Natchitoches from 1995-1997. Van Horn's Demon teams were 2-3 vs. LSU, including a two-game sweep in Baton Rouge in 1996.



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