



# 2003 LSU BASEBALL

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## 2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Monday, May 5

Overall Record: 32-16-1

Southeastern Conference Record: 16-7-1 (West division and overall leader)

### Last week's results (2-3):

Tuesday—lost to Tulane at Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, 9-5

Wednesday—def. New Orleans, 7-2

Friday—lost at Mississippi St., 4-2

Saturday—lost at Mississippi St., 5-0

Sunday—won at Mississippi St., 6-1

### This week's games (all times CDT):

Tuesday—Loyola-New Orleans, 6:30 p.m.

Friday—Auburn, 6:30 p.m. (live TV on Cox Sports Television)

Saturday—Auburn, 2 p.m.

Sunday—Auburn, 1 p.m. (live TV on Louisiana Sports Network and Comcast Sports Southeast)

## NO PLAYER OR PITCHER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE

### Notes on the week:

- Despite dropping two of three games to Mississippi St. this past weekend, LSU remains on top of the SEC with two conference weekends remaining. The Tigers hold a 1 ½-game lead over Auburn and a 2-game lead over Mississippi St. with LSU hosting Auburn this weekend before closing the season at Arkansas.
- The Tigers' win on Sunday in Starkville continued LSU's strong play in Sunday games, as LSU is now 7-0-1 this season in conference games on Sunday, outscoring its opposition 77-36 and batting .380 in those eight Sunday contest. The Tigers are 11-2-1 in all games played on Sunday this year, with the only losses coming in a February 16 double-header sweep by Kansas.
- Dating back to last year, LSU is now 11-0-1 in its last 12 SEC Sunday games and 13-1-1 in its last 15 conference games on Sunday, with the only loss since April of 2002 coming to South Carolina last April 21 in Columbia.
- Sunday's win clinched the Tigers a berth in the eight-team SEC Tournament set for May



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21-25 at Hoover Metropolitan Stadium in Birmingham, as the Tigers' 16-7-1 conference mark guarantees that they can not fall below Tennessee and Vanderbilt, who are currently tied for ninth place at 10-14. The Tigers have now reached the SEC Tournament field for a league record 19 consecutive years, and have made 20 appearances in the tournament since it began in 1977. Through Sunday's games, LSU is the only team to clinch an SEC Tournament berth.

- The win over Mississippi St. also guaranteed the Tigers their 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive winning record in SEC play, extending LSU's own school record. The Tigers last failed to post a winning record in the SEC in 1984, when Skip Bertman's first LSU team was 12-12 in the conference.
- Two more SEC wins by LSU will give the Tigers 18 or more conference wins for the 14<sup>th</sup> time in the last 15 seasons. LSU has won 18 or more games in the league each of the last seven seasons, dating back to a 17-12 finish in 1995.
- LSU pitchers continue to adopt a stingy line when it comes to giving up clutch hits. IN the three-game series in Starkville, LSU allowed just one hit in 26 two-out at-bats to Mississippi St.—and that hit came with two out in the ninth inning of Sunday's game with LSU holding a 6-1 lead—good for a miniscule .038 average. For the year, LSU pitchers are allowing opponents to hit just .230 with two out, and that average is just .218 in the Tigers' 24 SEC games.
- LSU pitchers were also good against State with runners in scoring position, allowing MSU to hit just .143 (5-for-35) with RBI opportunities, including an 0-for-9 mark on Sunday. The Tigers are allowing foes to hit just .243 in RISP situations this season.
- As far as sure things, LSU junior RHP Nate Bumstead winning on Sundays is becoming as sure a thing as death and taxes. The Las Vegas native picked up his seventh consecutive SEC win on Sunday by throwing 8 2/3 innings and scattering seven hits, giving up a season low one run and walking one while striking out six. Bumstead was removed after putting two baserunners on with two out in the ninth, denying him his second complete game of the season.
- Bumstead is now 7-0 with a 2.80 ERA in his seven SEC starts, giving up just 12 walks and 19 runs (17 earned) in 50 2/3 innings with 51 strikeouts in that stretch. Bumstead, who became LSU's first eight-game winner with his performance in Starkville, lowered his ERA to 3.55, down from the 6.06 mark it was at prior to conference play opening.
- Bumstead also made a little history for himself when he became the first LSU pitcher to win his first seven career SEC starts without an intervening no decision. Bumstead was already the first Tiger hurler to win his first six career SEC starts; the last to win his first five was Brett Laxton in 1993.
- It was a strong week for redshirt freshman LHP Jason Determann, who will be relied upon heavily down the stretch. Determann began his week by giving up just one earned run and striking out six in defeating New Orleans on Wednesday, then followed that up with a scoreless eighth inning at Mississippi St. on Saturday. Determann is 4-0 on the year with a 2.17 ERA, and has given up just five walks and 13 runs (nine earned) in 37 1/3 innings. Determann, who pitched two games in his first season before being sidelined with Tommy John surgery, has walked just one batter in his last 25 innings pitched.
- Although he took his first loss on Friday at Starkville, true freshman LHP Greg Smith continued his remarkable run against inherited runners this season, as he left two Mississippi St. runners stranded in the sixth inning. Smith, who threw a career high 4 1/3 in-



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nings on Tuesday against Tulane, has not allowed any of the 12 inherited runners he has been saddled with to score this year.

- Junior RHP Billy Sadler has also been stingy with inherited runners on base, as he has allowed just three of 17 inherited runners to score, although he gave up a two-run single when he came into the game on Saturday.
- For the year, LSU pitchers have allowed only 13 of 58 inherited runners to score, a big reason behind the Tigers' solid 3.09 bullpen ERA.
- After being shut out of the longball derby for three consecutive games, LSU broke loose on Sunday with back-to-back home runs by Ryan Patterson and Aaron Hill. The back-to-back home runs were the third such occurrence for LSU this year, and ironically, all three have included Patterson. Patterson teamed up with Matt Liuzza on March 21 at Georgia and with Jon Zeringue on Tuesday against Tulane in the Superdome.
- Patterson is now the Tigers' sole team leader in home runs with 11, and he continues to be among the offensive leaders for the Tigers, batting .350 with a .621 slugging percentage.
- Hill, who had just one hit in the first two games of the Mississippi St. series, broke loose to go 3-for-5 in Sunday's series finale, his first three-hit game since April 20 at Vanderbilt and his seventh game of three hits or more this year. Hill continues to lead the Tigers in batting average at .363. He also added two doubles on Sunday to give him a team high 22 doubles on the year and 45 for his career, moving him into ninth place on the LSU career list for doubles.
- Surprisingly, the Tigers' leading hitter over the weekend was junior 3B Ivan Naccarata, who appears ready to regain his full-time starting status. Naccarata was 5-for-8 (.625) against Mississippi St. and batted an even .500 (7-for-14) in the Tigers' five games this week. The three-hit game was Naccarata's first since March 30 at Alabama and raised his season average to .312, the highest it has been since it stood at .315 on April 9.
- Two LSU players extended lengthy hitting streaks on Friday before seeing those streaks end on Saturday. Sophomore 2B Blake Gill had his hitting streak stopped at 13 games, while sophomore OF Bruce Sprowl had his streak ended at 10 games. Sprowl picked back up on Sunday, though, by collecting a pair of hits.
- Senior RHP Bo Pettit did something he had not done since March 15 against Florida on Saturday, and that's get out of the first inning without allowing a run. However, Pettit would give up five runs on seven hits in five-plus innings in taking his first loss since April 5 against South Carolina.
- For freshman RHP Justin Meier, it was another case of running up against an opponents' top pitcher. This time, it was Mississippi St.'s Paul Maholm, who struck out 11 in a 4-2 victory over the Tigers. In Meier's three losses, which have all come in the last four weeks, LSU has scored a total of six runs.
- In its four Friday SEC losses, LSU has scored a total of eight runs, or two per game, compared to 43 in its four Friday SEC wins.
- Tuesday's game with Tulane in the Louisiana Superdome fell short of breaking the NCAA paid attendance record of 27,673 set last year, but the paid crowd of 18,319 that came to this year's game was the largest paid attendance for an NCAA baseball game this season.
- Tuesday's game marked the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive LSU-Tulane game in the New Orleans area to draw a five-figure crowd. Eight of the 10 games to draw that crowd were held at



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Zephyr Field in suburban Metairie, including all three games of the 2001 super regional, which drew more than 11,000 for each game.

- Wednesday's win over UNO improved LSU to 8-0 this season against in-state competition at Alex Box Stadium and 10-3 overall vs. Louisiana teams. All three losses to in-state foes came in the New Orleans area—two at Zephyr Field (to Tulane on March 11 and to UNO on March 25), and the loss on Tuesday at the Superdome.
- LSU also extended its overall home winning streak eight games, with the last home loss coming on April 11 to Ole Miss. LSU is now 22-6-1 at home this season.
- The back-to-back games on Tuesday and Wednesday were LSU's first back-to-back mid-week games since April 17-18, 2001, when the Tigers split a home-and-home series with Northwestern St.
- Unfortunately, Tuesday's game continued the struggles of senior RHP Jake Tompkins, who gave up eight hits and six runs (five earned) in 3 2/3 innings in falling to 1-5 on the year, while seeing his ERA rise to 5.05.

#### On deck for this week:

- The Tigers play their final non-conference game of the year when they host Loyola of New Orleans, which is an NAIA school competing in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference. The game is a replacement game for the March 18 contest at Southwestern Athletic Conference champion Southern that was rained out in the middle of the fifth inning with LSU holding a 3-2 lead.
- This marks the first meeting with Loyola since 1998, a 9-5 LSU victory. The Tigers and the Wolfpack were regular foes before Loyola disbanded its program from 1973 through 1991, with LSU holding a 31-22-1 series edge.
- The two Tigers of the SEC tangle this weekend at Alex Box Stadium when Auburn comes to Baton Rouge in a series with title implications written all over it. LSU holds a 1 ½-game lead over Auburn in the championship race, and two wins by LSU will leave the Bayou Bengals in control of its own destiny for the championship when they go to Arkansas to close the regular season.
- The quirky LSU-Auburn series has been won by the road team each of the last three years, including LSU's 2-1 series win at Plainsman Park last year, the Tigers' first SEC series win of 2002. In 2001, Auburn came to Baton Rouge on what was Skip Bertman's final regular season series as LSU's coach, and after sustaining a 20-5 pummeling in the opener, fought back for 7-5 and 9-7 wins to clinch the series and the final berth in the SEC Tournament.
- This weekend's LSU-Auburn marks the first time the top two teams in the SEC standings have met in the month of May since the final weekend of the 1997 season, when Alabama won the first two games of its series with LSU in Tuscaloosa to come within one game of the Tigers, only to have LSU win the regular season finale and the crown outright.



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