

2005 Schedule/Results (22-8, 5-4 SEC)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
February		
11 (Fri.)	NICHOLLS STATE	W, 12-1
12 (Sat.)	NICHOLLS STATE	W, 19-2
13 (Sun.)	NICHOLLS STATE	W, 6-3
15 (Tue.)	UL-MONROE (COX)	W, 9-6
18 (Fri.)	ARK.-LITTLE ROCK	W, 4-2
19 (Sat.)	ARK.-LITTLE ROCK	W, 11-8
20 (Sun.)	ARK.-LITTLE ROCK	W, 15-9
25 (Fri.)	at Houston	L, 1-2
27 (Sun.)	at Houston (JSN)	W, 11-5
27 (Sun.)	at Houston (JSN)	W, 8-1
March		
2 (Wed.)	at Centenary	L, 1-6 %
4 (Fri.)	UAB	W, 12-6
5 (Sat.)	UAB	W, 7-3
6 (Sun.)	UAB	L, 3-4
8 (Tue.)	#1 TULANE (COX)	L, 2-6
11 (Fri.)	ARIZONA STATE	W, 6-5
12 (Sat.)	WESTERN ILLINOIS	W, 10-8
13 (Sun.)	ARIZONA STATE	W, 20-3
18 (Fri.)	at #17 Georgia	W, 8-2
19 (Sat.)	at #17 Georgia	W, 5-3
20 (Sun.)	at #17 Georgia (JSN)	W, 6-4
23 (Wed.)	Southeastern La.	W, 4-2 \$
25 (Fri.)	AUBURN	L, 4-6
26 (Sat.)	AUBURN	W, 6-3
27 (Sun.)	AUBURN	L, 5-7
29 (Tue.)	NEW ORLEANS (COX)	W, 18-10
April		
1 (Fri.)	at Alabama	L, 0-4
2 (Sat.)	at Alabama (JSN)	W, 11-2
3 (Sun.)	at Alabama (JSN)	L, 4-5 (13)
5 (Tue.)	at Nicholls State	W, 3-2
6 (Wed.)	Rice (JSN)	7 p.m. \$
8 (Fri.)	SOUTH CAROLINA	6:30 p.m.
9 (Sat.)	SOUTH CAROLINA	2 p.m.
10 (Sun.)	SOUTH CAROLINA	Noon
12 (Tue.)	NORTHWESTERN STATE	6:30 p.m.
15 (Fri.)	OLE MISS	6:30 p.m.
16 (Sat.)	OLE MISS	2 p.m.
17 (Sun.)	OLE MISS (COX)	1 p.m.
19 (Tue.)	at Tulane (ESPN 2)	6 p.m. \$
22 (Fri.)	at Arkansas	7:05 p.m.
23 (Sat.)	at Arkansas	3:05 p.m.
24 (Sun.)	at Arkansas (JSN)	1:05 p.m.
29 (Fri.)	at Vanderbilt	6 p.m.
30 (Sat.)	at Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
May		
1 (Sun.)	at Vanderbilt (JSN)	1 p.m.
3 (Tue.)	SOUTHERN (COX)	6:30 p.m.
6 (Fri.)	KENTUCKY (COX)	6:30 p.m.
7 (Sat.)	KENTUCKY	2 p.m.
8 (Sun.)	KENTUCKY	Noon
13 (Fri.)	TENNESSEE (COX)	6:30 p.m.
14 (Sat.)	TENNESSEE (SEC-TV)	3 p.m.
15 (Sun.)	TENNESSEE	Noon
18 (Wed.)	at New Orleans	6:30 p.m. #
20 (Fri.)	at Mississippi State	6:30 p.m.
21 (Sat.)	at Mississippi State	2 p.m.
22 (Sun.)	at Mississippi State (JSN)	1:30 p.m.
25-29	SEC Tournament (Hoover, Ala.)	
June		
3-5	NCAA Regional (sites TBA)	
10-12/11-13	NCAA Super Regional (sites TBA)	
17-26/27	College World Series (Omaha, Neb.)	

% - Fair Grounds Field # - Maestri Field
\$ - Zephyr Field



LSU BASEBALL

Weekday Release No. 7 • vs. Rice

April 6, 2005 • 7 p.m.
Metairie, La. • Zephyr Field (10,800)

Tigers, Owls Clash In Wally Pontiff Jr. Classic at Zephyr Field

Sixth-ranked LSU (22-8) continues its midweek schedule against No. 11 Rice (21-10) in the second-annual Wally Pontiff Jr. Classic at Zephyr Field in Metairie at 7 p.m. It marks the first meeting between the two clubs since the 2002 NCAA Super Regional at Reckling Park in Houston. The Owls swept two games from the Tigers en route to the College World Series. Rice has won four out of the last five meetings.

>Broadcast Info

Tonight's game will be televised by the Jumbo Sports Network (cable ch. 13 in Baton Rouge). Lyn Rollins will handle the play-by-play and Ronnie Rantz serves as the analyst. The LSU Sports Network broadcasts the game through its radio affiliates. Jim Hawthorne calls the action, and Bill Franques serves as the analyst. Audio can also be attained from the official LSU Athletics website, www.LSUsports.net. Live stats are also available on the official website.

>Last Time Out

LSU defeated Nicholls State on Tuesday at Thibodaux by a score 3-2, behind the arm of senior right-hander Brandon Nall. Nall tossed a career-high 8.1 innings, allowing two runs on six hits. Nall (2-1), making his second career start, had not worked more than a three-inning outing over his career but exceeded it on Tuesday. Offensively, Ryan Patterson, Clay Harris and Nick Stavinoha combined for six of LSU's 11 hits. Stavinoha collected two doubles and overtook the team lead in the category with 12 on the season. Jordan Faircloth notched his fourth save of this season in as many opportunities.

>Quick Hits

LSU will be playing 14 out of its next 15 games against ranked opponents ... Right fielder Nick Stavinoha is the Tigers' leading hitter in the last five games, batting .455 (10-for-22) with a homer and two RBI ... Smoke Laval is two wins away from 400 career victories ... LSU has compiled a 12-7 all-time record at Zephyr Field since 1998 ... Opponents have scored first in 10 of the Tigers' last 11 games; LSU is 7-4 in that stretch ... The Tigers are 4-2 in mid-week games on the season, including a 1-1 mark in Wednesday games ... LSU's nine team saves are tied for second in the SEC

Pitching Matchup

LSU -- Jr. RHP Justin Meier (1-2, 5.31 ERA, 20.1 IP, 8 BB, 20 SO)

- Makes second consecutive start at Zephyr Field (last vs. SLU on March 23)
- Last outing: pitched one inning of relief in LSU's 7-5 loss to Auburn on March 27

Rice -- Fr. RHP Bobby Bell (2-0, 1.71 ERA, 21.0 IP, 10 BB, 22 SO)

- Talented freshman; third start of his career
- Last outing: earned win over Houston (March 29), allowing two runs on six hits in eight innings

LSU Probable Position Starters

Pos.	Player	Cl.-Exp.	B/T	Avg.	HR	RBI	Notable
C	Matt Liuzza	Jr.-2L	R/R	.233	2	13	.300 (3-for-10), 2 RBI vs. Alabama
1B	Blake Gill	Sr.-3L	L/R	.317	3	29	.417 (5-for-12), 1 HR, 3 RBI last 3 games
	-or- Will Harris	Jr.-2L	R/R	.231	1	12	.286 (8-for-28) with runners in scoring position
2B	Clay Harris	Sr.-3L	R/R	.376	4	27	.643 (18-for-28) vs. left-handed pitchers
SS	Michael Hollander	Fr.-HS	R/R	.282	1	12	Current eight-game hitting streak
3B	Derek Hebert	Sr.-1L	L/R	.213	1	4	.250 (1-for-4) vs. Alabama
	-or- Bryan Harris	So.-RS	R/R	.105	0	6	Started 10 games in 2005
LF	Ryan Patterson	Sr.-2L	R/R	.424	13	33	11 homers in last 13 games
	-or- Quinn Stewart	Jr.-1L	R/R	.224	1	10	.357 (5-for-14) with runners in scoring position
CF	Bruce Sprowl	Jr.-1L	L/R	.254	1	7	Started 18 games at CF in 2005
	-or- Ryan Patterson	Sr.-2L	R/R	.424	13	33	.442 (19-for-43), 6 HR, 16 RBI last 10 games
RF	Nick Stavinoha	Sr.-1L	R/R	.359	6	25	.444 (14-for-33) with runners in score position
DH	Jordan Mayer	Fr.-RS	R/R	.271	1	12	.438 (7-for-16) vs. left-handed pitchers
	-or- Dustin Weaver	Sr.-2L	R/R	.226	3	14	.250 (2-for-8), 1 HR, 3 RBI vs. Alabama

LSU		Rice	
Record	22-8 (5-4 SEC)	Record	21-10 (4-5 WAC)
Ranking	No. 8 Baseball America No. 9 Collegiate Baseball No. 6 ESPN/Sports Weekly	Ranking	No. 11 Baseball America No. 27 Collegiate Baseball No. 15 ESPN/Sports Weekly
Coach	Smoke Laval	Coach	Wayne Graham
Career Record	398-230-1 (.640/11th year)	Career Record	1,178-361 (.765/25th year)
LSU Record	157-71-1 (.689/fourth year)	NSU Record	603-248 (.709/14th year)
Laval vs. Rice	0-2	Graham vs. LSU	4-1

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Tracking the Tigers

Week	BA	CB	ESPN/SW
Preseason	2	5	4
Feb. 7	2	5	3
Feb. 14	2	5	3
Feb. 21	2	3	2
Feb. 28	3	3	2
March 7	5	6	5
March 14	5	5	6
March 21	3	3	3
March 28	5	4	5
April 4	8	9	6

Baseball America (April 4)

1. Texas (26-5)
2. Cal State Fullerton (20-7)
3. Tulane (25-5)
4. Georgia Tech (23-6)
5. Florida (23-7)
6. Arizona (21-10)
7. North Carolina (24-5)
8. **LSU (22-8)**
9. Ole Miss (21-7)
10. Stanford (17-9)
11. **Rice (21-10)**
12. South Carolina (24-5)
13. Miami (Fla.) (24-9)
14. Arkansas (22-6)
15. Baylor (19-11)
16. Oregon State (24-4)
17. Nebraska (25-3)
18. Texas A&M (22-10)
19. College of Charleston (23-4)
20. Florida State (29-7)
21. Long Beach State (21-10)
22. Auburn (21-10)
23. Missouri (23-5)
24. Arizona State (21-3)
25. Tennessee (20-8)

Collegiate Baseball (April 4)

1. Cal State Fullerton (20-7)
2. Tulane (25-5)
3. Georgia Tech (23-6)
4. Nebraska (25-3)
5. Texas (26-5)
6. Florida (23-7)
7. North Carolina (24-5)
8. Florida State (29-7)
9. **LSU (22-8)**
10. South Carolina (24-5)
11. Arizona (21-10)
12. Stanford (17-9)
13. Long Beach State (21-10)
14. Miami (Fla.) (24-9)
15. Oregon State (24-4)
16. Auburn (21-10)
17. Arkansas (22-6)
18. College of Charleston (23-4)
19. Missouri (23-5)
20. UL-Lafayette (25-6)
21. Baylor (19-11)
22. Alabama (22-9)
23. Ole Miss (21-7)
24. Mississippi State (17-7)
25. Central Florida (27-7)

Statistical Comparison

LSU	Rice
.296	.294
3.47	2.58
65	62
10	5
38	29
.480	.444
.378	.383
14/19	24/32
.243	.203
219	199
10	4
.966	.964

Batting Average	.294
Earned Run Average	2.58
Doubles	62
Triples	5
Homers	29
Slugging Percentage	.444
On-Base Percentage	.383
Stolen Bases/Attempts	24/32
Opponents Batting Average	.203
Strikeouts	199
Saves	4
Fielding Percentage	.964

In The Polls

LSU fell to its lowest ranking of the season in the Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball polls. The Tigers carry the No. 8 ranking in Baseball America this week, falling three spots from No. 5. LSU is ranked ninth in Collegiate Baseball and sixth in ESPN/Sports Weekly.

The LSU-Rice Series

LSU leads the all-time series with Rice, 10-8, dating back to the 1914 season. The Owls have won four out of the last five meetings, including a sweep of the Tigers in the 2002 NCAA Super Regional at Reckling Park in Houston. LSU last defeated Rice, 5-4, in the 1997 College World Series. In the 1995 South I Regional at Alex Box Stadium, the Owls eliminated the Tigers from their own regional, beating LSU twice by scores of 15-7 and 16-9. **Smoke Laval** is 0-2 against Rice, while Wayne Graham is 4-1 against the Tigers.

31 Always

Tonight's game marks the second-annual Wally Pontiff Jr. Classic at Zephyr Field. Pontiff, a former All-SEC third baseman for the Tigers between 2000-02, tragically passed away on July 24, 2002, leaving behind a legacy of academic and athletic excellence. He was a member of the Tigers' 2000 national championship squad and twice earned all-SEC honors. He was also a 2002 Academic All-America in biological sciences. Last season, LSU defeated Southeastern Louisiana, 9-3, in the inaugural event.

On Deck: A Tough Stretch

LSU is in the midst of a stretch of eight games in 10 days. The Tigers host No. 4 South Carolina at Alex Box Stadium this weekend. Game times are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. (Friday), 2 p.m. (Saturday) and Noon (Sunday). Fourteen of LSU's next 15 games are against ranked opponents.

Back At The Zephyr For The 20th Time

Zephyr Field, the home of the Triple-A affiliate of the Washington Nationals, plays host to LSU for the 20th time tonight. The Tigers have compiled a 12-7 all-time record at Zephyr Field, dating back to 1998. All-time, LSU is 2-0 (vs. Southeastern Louisiana), 5-1 (vs. UNO), 1-0 (vs. UL-Lafayette), 1-0 (vs. Southern) and 3-6 (vs. Tulane) at Zephyr Field. Tonight's game will be the second this season for the Tigers at the popular venue. Earlier this season, LSU held on for a 4-2 win over SLU on March 23. The Tigers return on April 19 in a showdown against Tulane, which will be televised by ESPN 2 at 6 p.m.

Hometown Tigers

Catcher **Matt Liuzza**, infielder **Nicholas Pontiff** and outfielder **Steven Broschofsky** return in front of a hometown crowd tonight as all three played high school ball in the Metairie area. Liuzza led Rummel High School to district titles in 1999, 2000 and 2001 as an all-state catcher. Nicholas Pontiff, the younger brother of the late Wally Pontiff Jr., earned two letters at Jesuit High School and was a member of the Blue Jays' state runner-up squad in 2003. Broschofsky, who is sidelined by an injury for the remainder of the season, was also a member of that team. The freshman received all-state, all-metro and all-district honors by batting .416 as a senior.

Laval Two Wins Away From 400

Smoke Laval is two wins away from reaching the 400-career win mark in 11 seasons as a head coach. Laval compiled a 241-159 mark as head coach at UL-Monroe for seven seasons (1994-2000). Since then, Smoke has won 157 games in three-plus seasons at LSU after taking over for Skip Bertman in 2002.

SEC Blues

For the first time since the 2002 season, LSU has lost back-to-back SEC series. After dropping two games to Auburn (March 25-27), the Tigers were dealt two losses at the hands of Alabama on the road. In 2002, Vanderbilt and Ole Miss each took two games from the Tigers to send them to consecutive SEC series' losses. In the Friday opener versus Alabama on April 1, LSU was shutout, 4-0. The Tigers' hadn't been blanked all season, and it marked the first time that has happened since the 2004 SEC Tournament versus Georgia (1-0). LSU had won five straight series against the Crimson Tide prior to this season.

Dirks Still Perfect

At the halfway point in the season, **Clay Dirks** has proven to be the ace of the pitching staff, compiling a 7-0 record in seven starts. He is tied for first in the league with Tennessee All-American Luke Hochevar in the category. Opponents are hitting .187 vs. Dirks on the season, which ranks the sophomore sixth in the SEC in that category.

Down But Never Out

Before the Nicholls State contest on April 5, LSU had not been the first on the scoreboard in its last 10 games. Despite falling behind early, the Tigers still managed to win six of the 10 contests with come-from-behind victories. On the season, LSU is 10-7 when opponents score first. Eleven of the team's 22 wins are of the come-from-behind variety. The streak was snapped on Tuesday night as the Tigers jumped out to a 2-0 lead over the Colonels after two innings of play.

Hitting Streaks

Ryan Patterson and **Clay Harris** each saw their career-high hitting streaks end at 15 games on April 1 at Alabama. Freshman **Michael Hollander** extended his hitting streak to eight games on Tuesday at Nicholls State, the longest current stretch by any Tiger. Earlier this season, **Blake Gill** maintained a 20-game hitting streak, dating back to last season. Gill's run, which began versus Vanderbilt on May 15 last season, is the longest of his career and the longest since head coach Smoke Laval took over the program.

Longest Hitting Streaks (past six seasons)

Player	Streak
Brad Cresse (1999-2000)	24
Cedrick Harris (1999-2000)	21
Blake Gill (2004-05)	20

At The Track, At the Wall, Gone!

Ryan Patterson has homered 11 times in LSU's last 14 games, including three two-homer games during that stretch. Eight of the dingers have been the solo variety, and the senior connected on his first grand slam against UNO on March 29.

Patterson Still Tops In SEC In Four Categories

After putting on a hitting display over the past three weeks, **Ryan Patterson** currently leads the SEC in four offensive categories, including slugging percentage (.864), runs scored (42), home runs (13) and total bases (102). The senior outfielder is also third in batting average (.425), seventh in on-base percentage (.489), third in hits (50) and second in doubles (11). Auburn's Karl Amonite is the only other player in the league who is tops in multiple categories.

Streak of 12 Straight Series Wins Snapped

Auburn's series win over LSU (March 25-27) ended the Tigers' streak of 12 straight regular season series wins, dating back to last season. The Tigers have won 22 out of their last 26 regular-season series, dating back to the final two weekends of the 2003 regular season. In that span, before losses to Auburn and Alabama, LSU last lost a weekend series on April 9-11, 2004, when Arkansas swept three games at Alex Box Stadium.

Mestepey Second In All-Time Career Wins

Senior left-hander **Lane Mestepey** claimed sole possession of second place in LSU career victories with his 34th win over Georgia on March 18. The Zachary, La., native passed Stan Loewer, who tallied 33 wins between 1984-87. Mestepey is now four wins shy of tying Scott Schultz' career mark of 38, achieved between 1992-95. The southpaw also moved into a tie for ninth place in SEC career victories with Auburn's Ryan Halla (1993-96). With one more win, Mestepey will tie Mississippi State's Bobby Reed (1987-90) for eighth place. South Carolina's Kip Bouknight (1998-01) and Mississippi State's Jeff Brantley (1982-85) share the all-time SEC record with 45 career wins.

LSU Career Pitching Victories

Player	Wins
1. Scott Schultz (1992-95)	38
2. Lane Mestepey (2001-present)	34
3. Stan Loewer (1984-87)	33
4. Paul Byrd (1989-91)	31

Mestepey Enters Top-Three In SEC Career Innings Pitched

Senior left-hander **Lane Mestepey** became the school's all-time leader in innings pitched on Feb. 25 at Houston. Mestepey worked six frames to surpass Scott Schultz's (1992-95) record of 398. On the season, Mestepey sits at 437 innings pitched and recently overtook third-place in the SEC career record books with his seven-inning stint at Alabama on April 1. He is 40 innings away from tying Tennessee's R.A. Dickey (1994-96). South Carolina's Kip Bouknight (1998-01) holds the all-time SEC record of 482.

SEC Career Innings Pitched

Player	Innings
1. Kip Bouknight, USC (1998-01)	482.0
2. John Powell, Auburn (1990-94)	477.0
3. Lane Mestepey, LSU (2001-present)	437.0
4. R.A. Dickey, Tennessee (1994-96)	434.0
5. Jeff Brantley, Miss. State (1982-85)	427.0

ESPN/Sports Weekly (April 4)

1. Texas (31) (26-5)
2. Cal State Fullerton (3) (20-7)
3. Tulane (6) (25-5)
4. South Carolina (24-5)
5. Georgia Tech (23-6)
- 6. LSU (22-8)**
7. Miami (Fla.) (24-9)
8. North Carolina (24-5)
9. Arizona (21-10)
10. Nebraska (25-3)
11. Stanford (17-9)
12. Florida (23-7)
13. Ole Miss (21-7)
14. Florida State (29-7)
- 15. Rice (21-10)**
16. Arkansas (22-6)
17. Baylor (19-11)
18. Texas A&M (22-10)
19. Long Beach State (21-10)
20. UL-Lafayette (25-6)
21. Auburn (21-10)
22. Vanderbilt (20-7)
23. Oregon State (24-4)
24. Alabama (22-9)
25. Arizona State (21-13)

2005 SEC Standings (April 5)

Eastern Division			
Team	SEC	Pct.	Overall
Florida	6-3	.667	23-7
Tennessee	5-3	.625	20-8
South Carolina	5-4	.556	24-5
Vanderbilt	5-4	.556	20-7
Georgia	2-6	.250	15-12
Kentucky	0-8	.000	14-12
Western Division			
Team	SEC	Pct.	Overall
Alabama	6-3	.667	22-9
Auburn	5-4	.556	21-11
LSU	5-4	.556	22-8
Ole Miss	5-4	.556	21-8
Mississippi State	4-4	.500	17-7
Arkansas	4-5	.444	22-6

This Week in the SEC (April 6-10)

(All times are Central)

Wednesday, April 6

SE Louisiana at Alabama • 6:30 p.m.
 Northern Colorado at Arkansas • 7 p.m.
 Georgia at Clemson • 6:15 p.m.
 Evansville at Kentucky • 5:30 p.m.
LSU vs. Rice • 7 p.m. (Zephyr Field)
 Miss. State vs. Birmingham Southern • 6:30 p.m.
 The Citadel at South Carolina • 6 p.m.
 Austin Peay at Vanderbilt • 6 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, April 8-10

Alabama at Ole Miss • 6:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 1:30 p.m.
 Auburn at Miss. State • 6:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 1:30 p.m.
 Florida at Georgia • 6 p.m., 6 p.m., Noon
 Vanderbilt at Arkansas • 7 p.m., 3 p.m., 1 p.m.
 Tennessee at Kentucky • 5:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., Noon
South Carolina at LSU • 6:30 p.m., 2 p.m., Noon

LSU by the Numbers in 2005

Home	14-4
Away	7-4
Neutral Sites	1-0
Day	10-3
Night	12-5
TV Games	6-2
On Jumbo Sports	4-1
On Cox Sports	2-1
On ESPN 2	0-0
On SEC-TV	0-0
Vs. SEC	5-4
Vs. SEC West	2-4
Vs. SEC East	3-0
Non-SEC Games	16-4
Vs. Louisiana opponents	7-2
Vs. Ranked opponents	3-1
Vs. C-USA	4-3
Vs. Mid-Continent	1-1
Vs. Pac-10	2-0
Vs. Southland	6-0
Vs. Sun Belt	3-0
Vs. SWAC	0-0
Vs. WAC	0-0
Doubleheaders	0-0
Game 1 of weekend series	5-3
Game 2 of weekend series	8-0
Game 3 of weekend series	5-3
Sunday	4-2
Monday	1-0
Tuesday	3-1
Wednesday	1-1
Friday	5-2
Saturday	7-0
One-run games	2-3
Extra inning games	0-1
Shutouts	0-1
Number of Losing Streaks	1
Longest Losing Streak	2
Games in which LSU scores first	12-1
Games in which opponent scores first	10-7
When LSU scores 10+	10-0
When LSU scores <5	3-7
When opponent scores 10+	1-0
When opponent scores <5	14-3
When LSU leads after 6 innings	19-1
When LSU trails after 6 innings	2-6
When tied after 6 innings	1-1
When LSU leads after 7 innings	20-2
When LSU trails after 7 innings	2-6
When tied after 7 innings	0-0
When LSU leads after 8 innings	22-0
When LSU trails after 8 innings	0-7
When tied after 8 innings	0-1
When LSU has 10+ hits	15-4
When LSU has <6 hits	1-2
When opponent has 10+ hits	6-3
When opponent has <6 hits	5-2
When LSU has more hits	18-2
When LSU has fewer hits	3-5
Equal hits	1-1
When LSU hits 3 or more home runs	6-0
When LSU hits no home runs	4-5
When opponent hits 3+ home runs	0-0
When opponent hits no home runs	11-4
Games won on final at-bat	0
Games lost on final at-bat	1
Come-from-behind wins	11
Losses when LSU led previously	4
Blown saves	2
Longest game	4:30 (at Alabama, 4/3 - Game 1)
Shortest game(9 or more innings)	2:06 (at Alabama, 4/1)

Going the Distance

Lane Mestepey fired his 16th career complete game at Georgia on March 18, limiting the Bulldogs to two runs -- all in the first inning -- on seven hits with two walks and three strikeouts. It was the first complete game effort for the senior left-hander since the 2004 NCAA Baton Rouge Super Regional. Mestepey hurled a masterful five-hit shutout against Texas A&M (June 13), helping the Tigers advance to the College World Series. After returning from an injury, which sidelined him during the 2003 season, Mestepey has since thrown four complete games. As a sophomore in 2002, the senior pitched an incredible eight complete games. Pat Mook (1972-75) holds the school record in complete games with 27.

Southpaw Series

LSU's left-handed weekend rotation of **Lane Mestepey**, **Clay Dirks** and **Greg Smith** is unprecedented in the school's history. The Tigers have never thrown three consecutive southpaws in a series before this season. LSU is also the only school in the SEC to start three lefties in its weekend rotation.

2-3-4-5

It's no coincidence LSU's four leading hitters are in the heart of the order. **Blake Gill**, **Ryan Patterson**, **Clay Harris** and **Nick Stavino** are hitting a combined .371 (169-for-456) on the season with 36 doubles, three triples, 26 homers and 114 RBI. Stavino has been the Tigers' leading hitter the last five games, batting .455 (10-for-22) with five doubles, a homer and two RBI.

Injury Report

Sophomore right-hander **Michael Bonura** will miss the entire 2005 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery during the offseason. In 2004, Bonura played a valuable role as a freshman in the LSU bullpen, posting a 4.46 ERA in 34.1 innings and 31 strikeouts. JUCO transfer pitcher **Daniel Forrer** will also sit out the 2005 campaign suffering a shoulder injury in the offseason. Freshman prospect **Nolan Cain** underwent Tommy John surgery at the beginning of February and will also miss the 2005 season. Outfielder **Steven Broschofsky** underwent shoulder surgery during the first of March to repair a torn labrum. **Bruce Sprowl** suffered a broken finger in the Tigers series against UAB. He returned after a minor surgery as a defensive replacement at Georgia.

Player	Injury	Status
RHP Michael Bonura	Elbow	Offseason Tommy John surgery; out for season
OF Steven Broschofsky	Shoulder	Surgery in late February; out for season
RHP Nolan Cain	Elbow	Tommy John surgery in February; out for season
LHP Daniel Forrer	Shoulder	Offseason surgery; out for season

Out the Box

A common theme for LSU has been early inning uprisings. The Tigers have outscored their opponents 134-61 in the first four innings combined. LSU's most productive innings have been the first and fourth frames. The Tigers have amassed 38 runs to opponents' eight runs in the fourth inning on the year. LSU is also outscoring opponents 37-21 in the first inning.

LSU-Tulane ESPN 2 Tilt Highlight TV Schedule

LSU's April 19 contest versus Tulane at Zephyr Field in Metairie has been picked up by ESPN 2, the network announced on Feb. 28. The matchup highlights the Tigers' television schedule this season. The nationally-televised contest will mark LSU's 56th appearance on either ESPN or ESPN2. The Tigers first appeared on ESPN on April 22, 1984 at Miami (Fla.). The game, which was originally scheduled for 7 p.m., has been moved up to 6 p.m. to accommodate the broadcast. To date, LSU is 201-103-2 (.661) all-time on television, which includes a 6-2 mark this season.

Four Former Tigers On Major League Opening Day Rosters

Four former LSU players are on the opening day 25-man rosters of Major League Baseball clubs. Headlining the list is former All-American Todd Walker, who begins his 10th Major League season. Walker will serve as the Chicago Cubs' starting second baseman. Pitcher Paul Byrd relocates to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim after spending a season with the Atlanta Braves. Byrd will serve as the No. 4 starter in the Angels' rotation. Veteran Russ Springer is once again a member of the Houston Astros bullpen corps. Brad Hawpe begins his first full Major League season with the Colorado Rockies. Hawpe will platoon in right field with former Alabama star Dustin Mohr.

Tigers In The Majors (as of opening day 25-man rosters on April 4)

Player	Team	Position
Paul Byrd	Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim	SP
Brad Hawpe	Colorado Rockies	RF
Russ Springer	Houston Astros	RP
Todd Walker	Chicago Cubs	2B

Determann Nominated For Scholar-Athlete Post-Graduate Scholarship

Pitcher **Jason Determann** is one of two nominees from LSU for the H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete Post Graduate Scholarship. The award is presented annually to the SEC's top male and female scholar-athletes. Determann has maintained a 3.781 grade point average, majoring in biology. He is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta national premedical honor society and has been named to the Dean's List every semester at LSU and the Chancellor's Honor Roll twice. He has already posted the required MCAT scores to qualify for acceptance into medical school.

Mestepey Joins Patterson On National Player Of The Year Wallace Watch

Lefty Lane Mestepey joined senior outfielder Ryan Patterson on March 8 as a candidate for the Brooks Wallace Award, presented annually to the national college baseball player of the year. Mestepey was one of 38 players added to the watch list. The Brooks Wallace Award was captured by Cal State Fullerton's Kurt Suzuki last season. The Wallace Watch will be trimmed to 12 semifinalists on May 24. The selection committee will then narrow the list to three finalists following the NCAA Super Regionals at a press conference in Omaha on June 16. Vanderbilt's Warner Jones, Cal-State Fullerton's Ricky Romero, Tennessee's Luke Hochevar, Ole Miss' Stephen Head and Georgia's Will Startup also headline the list.

Liuzza Named Preseason All-American by Baseball America

Junior catcher Matt Liuzza was voted to the 2005 Baseball America Preseason Third-Team. The Metairie, La. native has started 114 games behind the plate the past two seasons, helping lead the Tigers to consecutive College World Series appearances. He batted .328 (75-for-229) in 2004 with 14 doubles, nine homers, 45 RBI and 37 runs. Liuzza committed just four errors in 370 chances last season, and he threw out 14 base runners attempting to steal. For the entire 2004 NCAA Tournament - including the regional, super regional and CWS - Liuzza hit a sizzling .417 (10-for-24), and he posted a .563 on-base percentage.

Liuzza Headlines Baseball America Preseason Awards

Baseball America released its preseason Southeastern Conference awards in its college baseball preview and catcher Matt Liuzza headlined the list of Tigers who earned recognition. Liuzza was rated as the conference's fourth-highest prospect for the upcoming 2005 Major League Baseball Draft. The publication also rated Liuzza as the best defensive catcher in the league with the best arm. Blake Gill earned recognition as one of Baseball America's top 50 senior prospects. Gill is listed as the nation's No. 18 rated senior, followed by Ryan Patterson who was listed 19th.

Laval Fifth Place In Games Coached

The season-opening win over Nicholls State was head coach Smoke Laval's 200th as the Tiger skipper. Laval currently sits at 229 games, the fifth-highest mark of any coach in the school's history. Laval is 20 games away from reaching Jack Lamabe's (1979-83) total of 249. Laval's LSU coaching record of 157-71-1 (.689) is the second-highest mark, behind Skip Bertman's all-time winning percentage of .724.

All-Time LSU Games Coached

Coach	Games
1. Skip Bertman (1984-2001)	1,203
2. Jim Smith (1966-78)	489
3. Harry Rabenhorst (1927-42, 1946-56)	446
4. Jack Lamabe (1979-83)	249
5. Smoke Laval (2002-present)	229

New "Box" On Tap For 2008

When the 2008 season rolls around, LSU will move into a new modern facility. LSU athletics director Skip Bertman proposed the construction of a new baseball stadium to open in 2008 to the LSU Board of Supervisors. The stadium would be located at the corner of Nicholson Drive and Gourrier Lane, about 2,000 feet south of the current site of Alex Box Stadium, and would seat approximately 8,000 Tiger baseball fans. The new stadium, which will also be named Alex Box Stadium, will be paid for by the LSU Athletics Department through a combination of the sale of revenue bonds and private donations. The expected cost of the project is approximately \$23 million.

Coaches Pick LSU to Win SEC Title

In what has become a common occurrence over the past several seasons, LSU is the favorite to win the Southeastern Conference Baseball Championship, as voted by the league's 12 baseball coaches in the 14th annual preseason SEC poll. The Tigers seek to capture their 14th SEC Championship, having won or shared the title three times in the past nine seasons (1996, 1997 and 2003) and seven times since 1990. In the overall SEC Champion vote, LSU received nine of the 12 championship votes in the poll. South Carolina received two votes while Florida received one. LSU was the predicted winner in the Western Division with a total of 66, collecting the maximum possible points for a single team. Ole Miss was second with 51, while Arkansas finished third with 46.

Eastern Division

Team	Pts.
1. South Carolina (9)	63
2. Georgia (1)	50
3. Florida (2)	48
4. Vanderbilt	39
5. Tennessee	29
6. Kentucky	16

() - First Place Votes

SEC Champion: LSU (9); South Carolina (2); Florida (1)

Western Division

Team	Pts.
1. LSU (11)	66
2. Ole Miss (1)	51
3. Arkansas	46
4. Mississippi State	30
5. Alabama	29
6. Auburn	23

SEC Team Statistical Rankings

At The Plate

Batting Average

1. Tennessee	.330
t8. LSU	.295

Slugging Percentage

t1. Ole Miss	.508
Tennessee	.508
4. LSU	.482

On-Base Percentage

1. Florida	.422
8. LSU	.378

Runs Scored

1. Florida	261
3. LSU	228

Hits

1. Auburn	329
7. LSU	309

RBI

1. Florida	224
3. LSU	210

Home Runs

t1. Florida	38
LSU	38

Total Bases

1. South Carolina	511
2. LSU	506

Stolen Bases

1. Arkansas	70
12. LSU	14

On The Mound

Earned Run Average

1. South Carolina	2.68
9. LSU	3.52

Opponents Batting Average

1. Alabama	.209
6. LSU	.244

Strikeouts

1. Alabama	317
8. LSU	215

Saves

1. Auburn	12
t2. LSU	9

In The Field

Fielding Percentage

1. South Carolina	.979
8. LSU	.966

Double Plays

1. Ole Miss	28
t7. LSU	24

2005 Game-By-Game Recaps

Game 1 • LSU 12, Nicholls State 1

Feb. 11, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
NSU	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	2	1
LSU	0	0	3	4	0	0	5	0	X	-	12	10	1

W: Mestepey (1-0) **L:** Fernandez, M. (0-1)
Time: 2:14 **Att:** 8,185 (paid); 5,284 (actual)

Notes: Bruce Sprowl -- in his first game since the 2003 season -- went a perfect 3-for-3 providing one of four LSU homers, while Lane Mestepey went seven strong innings, allowing no earned runs on just three hits. Mestepey fired 80 pitches, including 58 strikes, struck out four and walked none. It was Mestepey's 30th win of his career. Nick Stavinocha added a three-run shot and Dustin Weaver had a two-run homer. Eric English made his debut working the final two innings without allowing a hit.

Game 2 • LSU 19, Nicholls State 2

Feb. 12, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
NSU	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	-	2	5	4
LSU	7	1	1	0	5	0	5	0	X	-	19	20	1

W: Dirks (1-0) **L:** Breaux (0-1)
Time: 2:44 **Att:** 8,236 (paid); 5,359 (actual)

Notes: Freshmen Jordan Mayer and Michael Hollander led a 20-hit LSU attack, combining to go 5-for-8 with four runs and seven RBI in their first collegiate starts. All nine Tiger starters plated runs and six first-year players collected hits in the largest margin of victory since posting a 20-3 win over Auburn on May 10, 2003. Clay Dirks pitched six innings, allowing one run on two hits and striking out five. Mayer finished the game 2-for-3 with a triple, a homer and six RBI.

Game 3 • LSU 6, Nicholls State 3

Feb. 14, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
NSU	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	-	3	8	4
LSU	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	X	-	6	5	0

W: Smith (1-0) **L:** Markray (0-1)
S: Faircloth (1)
Time: 2:39 **Att:** 7,118 (paid); 1,920 (actual)

Notes: A five-run first inning highlighted by Michael Hollander's two-run double proved to be just enough run support for three LSU pitchers. Greg Smith earned the win in his first career start, working into the sixth inning and allowing two runs on six hits with nine strikeouts. Smith had two critical pickoffs that erased any kind of Colonel threats late in the game. Jordan Faircloth wrapped up the save surrendering two hits and striking out two.

Game 4 • LSU 9, UL-Monroe 6

Feb. 15, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
ULM	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	-	6	10	3
LSU	0	2	4	0	0	0	1	2	X	-	9	14	2

W: Determann (1-0) **L:** Stephens (0-1)
Time: 3:03 **Att:** 7,418 (paid); 3,207 (actual)

Notes: A run-scoring balk in the seventh broke a 6-6 tie and Clay Harris' two-run homer in the eighth added insurance in a wild game. The game featured four lead changes. Blake Gill led the Tigers at the plate, going 4-for-5 with two runs and one RBI. Chase Dardar earned the start and left in the fifth after allowing six earned runs on seven hits and striking out six. Jason Determann came on and shut down the Indians, working the final 4.1 innings without allowing a run. Determann surrendered just three hits and struck out six.

Game 5 • LSU 4, Ark.-Little Rock 2

Feb. 18, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
ALR	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	-	2	8	1
LSU	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	X		-	4	8	1

W: Mestepey (2-0) **L:** Cromer (1-1)
S: Faircloth (2)
Time: 2:13 **Att:** 7,646 (paid); 3,757 (actual)

Notes: Lane Mestepey and Bennett Cromer battled in a pitchers duel with Mestepey earning his second win in 6.1 innings. Ryan Patterson broke out of an early season slump going 2-for-3. Two unearned runs proved to be the difference in the game. Edgar Ramirez fell into trouble in the ninth, letting the tying run come to the plate. Jordan Faircloth came on and recorded the final out for the save.

Game 6 • LSU 11, Ark.-Little Rock 8

Feb. 19, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
ALR	2	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	-	8	13	3
LSU	2	0	1	4	2	0	1	1	X	-	11	14	0

W: Dirks (2-0) **L:** Enlow (0-3)
S: Determann (1)
Time: 3:03 **Att:** 8,044 (paid); 4,670 (actual)

Notes: Both teams combined to pound out 19 runs on 27 hits in a game featuring five pitchers. Ryan Patterson led LSU at the plate, going 3-for-5 with two RBI. Clay Dirks went five innings, allowing three runs on six hits and striking out four. LSU's four-run first was the result of two critical UALR errors. Justin Meier made his first appearance in the sixth, getting out of a bases loaded jam. He left with two on in the ninth and gave way to Jason Determann who recorded his first save since earlier last season.

Game 7 • LSU 15, Ark.-Little Rock 9

Feb. 20, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
ALR	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	5	0	-	9	9	0
LSU	6	6	0	0	1	0	0	2	X	-	15	16	4

W: Smith (2-0) **L:** Clay (1-1)
S: English (1)
Time: 3:21 **Att:** 7,475 (paid); 3,234 (actual)

Notes: LSU won its seventh straight contest, its best start since 1997. Nick Stavinocha went 2-for-3 with a homer, a double and a career high five RBI. Greg Smith earned the win, working five innings and allowing two runs on five hits. After the first two innings, the Tigers pounded out 12 runs on 11 hits, including three homers and four doubles. UALR brought the tying run to the plate in the eighth after a five-run inning. Eric English worked out of a bases loaded jam in the eighth and then worked a perfect ninth for his first save.

Game 8 • Houston 2, LSU 1

Feb. 25, 2005 at Cougar Field (Houston, Texas)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	1	6	1
UH	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	X	-	2	7	0

W: Farrington (2-0) **L:** Mestepey (2-1)
S: Vaclavik (1)
Time: 2:15 **Att:** 2,456

Notes: LSU dropped its first game of the season, collecting only six hits during the contest -- three of them from Clay Harris. Lane Mestepey suffered the hard-luck loss, despite becoming the school's all-time leader in innings pitched in the third. He finished the game with 401.1. Houston's Matt Farrington handcuffed LSU for six innings, allowing one run thanks to Bruce Sprowl's sacrifice fly in the fifth. UH scored their two runs in the bottom of the frame on Jake Stewart's two-run single (both unearned) that bounced off of Mestepey's glove into right field. Cougar reliever Justin Vaclavik recorded the save, despite a threat by the Tigers in their final at-bat.

Game 9 • LSU 11, Houston 5

Feb. 27, 2005 at Cougar Field (Houston, Texas)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	-	11	14	1
UH	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	5	12	2

W: Dirks (3-0) **L:** Lincoln (0-2)
Time: 3:27 **Att:** 2,785

Notes: LSU exploded for eight runs on nine hits through the first three innings and never looked back in the first game of a double-header. Ryan Patterson tied a career high with four hits, producing four runs and two RBI on a homer in the third. Clay Dirks settled down after a shaky start and registered his third win, allowing four runs (three earned) on seven hits and striking out five. The Tigers broke the game open in the third with homers by Will Harris and Patterson.

Game 10 • LSU 8, Houston 1

Feb. 27, 2005 at Cougar Field (Houston, Texas)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	0	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	8	8	1
UH	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	5	4

W: Smith (3-0) **L:** Flores (0-3)
Time: 2:55 **Att:** n/a

Notes: LSU finished off a doubleheader sweep as Greg Smith tossed the most impressive performance of his career, limiting the Cougars to one run on just five hits in a career high seven-inning outing. Ryan Patterson delivered a three-run homer, while Bruce Sprowl and Michael Hollander added two hits apiece. Four Tigers scored unearned runs in the second courtesy of an error by third baseman Kevin Roberts. Justin Meier closed out the final two innings with a dominating performance, striking out four of the seven batters he faced.

Game 11 • Centenary 6, LSU 1

March 2, 2005 at Fair Grounds Field (Shreveport, La.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	1	2	3
CC	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	X	-	6	6	3

W: Biagi (1-0) **L:** Nall (0-1)
Time: 2:26 **Att:** 3,805

Notes: For the first time since 1956, LSU was defeated by Centenary behind a complete-game shutout from righty J.C. Biagi on a frigid night. LSU had won the last two meetings between the two, dating back 48 years. Biagi allowed one unearned run on just two hits -- LSU's lowest output since being two-hit at Arkansas in 1997. Brandon Nall suffered the loss in his first career start, lasting just two innings and walking three. Biagi finally surrendered a base hit in the seventh, allowing a single to Quinn Stewart. Matt Liuzza had a sac-fly, but Biagi worked a perfect eighth and ninth.

Game 12 • LSU 12, UAB 6

March 4, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
UAB	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	-	6	13	7
LSU	1	0	0	4	2	0	3	2	X	-	12	9	0

W: Mestepey (3-1) **L:** Price (1-1)
Time: 2:54 **Att:** 7,419 (paid); 3,876 (actual)

Notes: Nick Stavinocha went 2-for-4 with a homer and four RBI and Ryan Patterson tied a career high with four runs. UAB committed a season-high seven errors. Lane Mestepey earned the win despite not having his best stuff in 5.2 innings. Mestepey moved into sole possession of third place in LSU all-time victories and tied a career high with eight strikeouts. The Tigers trailed for the second time in as many games but a fourth-run fourth highlighted by Clay Harris' double and Stavinocha's three-run homer swung the momentum of the game. Stavinocha added an RBI double in the seventh.

2005 Game-By-Game Recaps

Game 13 • LSU 7, UAB 3

March 5, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
UAB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	-	3	4	1
LSU	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	0	X	-	7	10	0

W: Dirks (4-0) **L:** Brown (2-0)
Time: 2:26 **Att:** 7,539 (paid); 3,846 (actual)

Notes: Clay Dirks notched his fourth win, facing the minimum in a brilliant seven-inning, one-hit outing. Dirks took a no-hitter into the seventh, before surrendering his only hit to leadoff man Clint Toomey to start the frame. He also tied a career high with seven strikeouts. LSU turned three doubles plays. Nick Stavinoha collected three hits and two RBI. Chris Cahill relieved Dirks in the eighth and gave up three runs in the final two innings.

Game 14 • UAB 4, LSU 3

Feb. 5, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
UAB	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	-	4	5	1
LSU	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	3	8	3

W: Mills (1-0) **L:** Smith (3-1)
Time: 2:38 **Att:** 7,605 (paid); 3,773 (actual)

Notes: RF Cole Helms' solo homer broke a 3-3 tie in the sixth and UAB starter Randy Mills went seven strong innings to snap LSU's 15-game home winning streak. Greg Smith took the loss, allowing four runs and striking out eight, one shy of a career high. Smith committed two errors, which led to two unearned runs. Clay Harris went 2-for-4 with one RBI, boosting his average to .400. Blake Gill added a two-run double in the third. Despite putting the leadoff man on in the ninth, the Tigers were unable to score the tying run.

Game 15 • Tulane 6, LSU 2

March 8, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
TU	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	-	6	10	0
LSU	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	-	2	12	0

W: Gomes (2-0) **L:** Meier (0-1)
S: Latham (2)
Time: 2:54 **Att:** 7,913 (paid); 6,297 (actual)

Notes: Brian Bogusevic's two-out, two-run single in the eighth inning broke open a close game. LSU outit its opponent for the second consecutive game. Justin Meier registered the loss in his first start of the season. Meier went five innings, surrendering four runs on three hits. Blake Gill hit his first homer of the year, highlighting a 2-for-5, two RBI night for the senior. Defensive gems and perfect positioning denied the Tigers any chance of a comeback.

Game 16 • LSU 6, Arizona State 5

March 11, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
ASU	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	-	5	9	0
LSU	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	X	-	6	10	1

W: Mestepey (4-1) **L:** Zinicola (2-2)
S: Dirks (1)
Time: 2:38 **Att:** 7,298 (paid); 3,470 (actual)

Notes: Lane Mestepey worked eight innings to pick up his fourth win. LSU trailed early as Mestepey uncharacteristically allowed two hit batsmen and back-to-back singles in the second. In third, the Tigers' top four hitters all collected hits, including Clay Harris who added a two-run double. Quinn Stewart knocked his first homer of the year. Arizona State brought the tying run to the plate in the ninth and scoring two unearned runs. Clay Dirks registered his second career save in the ninth, striking out one and walking one.

Game 17 • LSU 10, Western Illinois 8

March 12, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
WIU	0	2	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	-	8	16	0
LSU	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	2	X	-	10	11	2

W: Dardar (1-0) **L:** Feger (0-2)
S: Faircloth (3)
Time: 3:02 **Att:** 7,265 (paid); 3,356 (actual)

Notes: LSU survived a late scare for the second consecutive game, leading by as many as five runs but rallies by Western Illinois in the fifth, sixth and ninth kept the Leathernecks within striking distance. Clay Harris finished a homer shy of the cycle, going 4-for-4 with four runs scored and one RBI. Ryan Patterson added three hits, including a pair of homers, four runs scored and three RBI. Chris Cahill made his first career start, but Chase Dardar earned his first career win in relief.

Game 18 • LSU 20, Arizona State 3

March 11, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
ASU	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	3	6	3
LSU	4	0	0	(12)	1	2	0	1	X	-	20	20	1

W: Smith (4-1) **L:** Bresnehan (1-2)
Time: 2:54 **Att:** 7,422 (paid); 3,397 (actual)

Notes: A memorable 12-run fourth inning, featuring four consecutive homers by Blake Gill, Ryan Patterson, Clay Harris and Nick Stavinoha overpowered Arizona State. It was the first time the feat was accomplished in the program's history. Patterson homered twice for the second straight game and Stavinoha finished a single shy of the cycle. LSU sent 17 batters to the plate in the fourth and the first out was not recorded until the 12th hitter of the frame. It was the highest run tally in an inning for the Tigers since the 2000 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional versus UL-Monroe.

Game 19 • LSU 8, Georgia 2

March 18, 2005 at Foley Field (Athens, Ga.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	1	0	1	3	0	0	3	0	0	-	8	12	0
UGA	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	2	7	2

W: Mestepey (5-1) **L:** Boggs (1-2)
Time: 2:18 **Att:** 1,633

Notes: Lane Mestepey moved into sole possession on the LSU career victories list with his 16th career complete game effort. He limited the Bulldogs to two runs -- on a two-run homer in the first -- on seven hits with two walks and three strikeouts. Ryan Patterson homered for the third consecutive game and Clay Harris delivered a two-RBI double in a seventh inning uprising.

Game 20 • LSU 5, Georgia 3

March 19, 2005 at Foley Field (Athens, Ga.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	5	8	0
UGA	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	3	6	2

W: Dirks (5-0) **L:** Hyle (1-1)
S: Determann (2)
Time: 2:22 **Att:** 2,745

Notes: Ryan Patterson unloaded two solo homers for his third multi-homer game of the season in a 5-3 win. Clay Dirks and Jason Determann combined to scatter six hits. For Patterson, it was the fourth game in a row the senior had homered and seventh time in the last four games. In Dirks' final five innings of work, he held the Bulldogs to no runs on just two hits after a shaky first inning. Determann fired three scoreless innings, allowing two hits and striking out four.

Game 21 • LSU 5, Georgia 3

March 19, 2005 at Foley Field (Athens, Ga.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	-	6	10	4
UGA	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	4	8	1

W: Meier (1-1) **L:** Startup (1-1)
S: Determann (3)
Time: 2:59 **Att:** 2,801

Notes: LSU overcame a two-run deficit with a three run eighth sparked by freshmen Jordan Mayer and Michael Hollander. Mayer, in his first SEC at-bat, delivered a pinch-hit two-run double off of preseason All-American Will Startup to tie the game, while Hollander followed with an RBI single to give the Tigers a 5-4 lead. Clay Harris' solo homer in the ninth provided insurance for Jason Determann, who earned his second save of the weekend. Greg Smith made his first SEC career start, going six strong innings, limiting Georgia to one earned run on seven hits. It was the Tigers' first SEC series' sweep since blanking Tennessee at Alex Box Stadium in 2003.

Game 22 • LSU 4, Southeastern Louisiana 2

March 23, 2005 at Zephyr Field (Metairie, La.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	-	4	9	0
SLU	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	-	2	8	0

W: Faircloth (1-0) **L:** St. Germain (0-3)
S: Determann (4)
Time: 2:30 **Att:** 4,217

Notes: LSU rallied for the second time in as many games, using a two-run go-ahead single by Blake Gill in the eighth and a RBI single by Jordan Mayer in the ninth to win his seventh straight game. LSU starter Justin Meier and SLU starter Bernard Robert engaged in a pitchers duel. Meier worked 6.1 solid innings, scattering six hits and allowing two runs. Ryan Patterson homered for the eighth time in the past six games. The Tigers also had two sacrifice bunts by Matt Liuzza and Michael Hollander, which proved to be critical in the late-inning heroics. Jason Determann worked the final 1.1 innings perfectly to earn his third save in as many games.

Game 23 • Auburn 6, LSU 4

March 25, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
AU	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	-	6	11	2
LSU	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	-	4	11	1

W: Madden (4-0) **L:** Mestepey (5-2)
Time: 2:48 **Att:** 7,673 (paid); 4,882 (actual)

Notes: LSU's seven-game win streak came to an end. Lane Mestepey suffered his first loss since Feb. 25, allowing seven hits and six runs, while walking a season-high four batters. Three of the walks were to the leadoff hitter and all three came into score. Ryan Patterson went 4-for-5 with two runs and his ninth homer in the past seven games. With the game tied at four apiece, Mestepey set down 11 of 12 batters between the third and sixth innings. Karl Amonite had the go-ahead single for Auburn in the seventh off of Jason Determann. AU reliever John Madden retired all 11 batters he faced to pick up the win.

Game 24 • LSU 6, Auburn 3

March 26, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
AU	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-	3	7	2
LSU	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	X	-	6	8	0

W: Dirks (6-0) **L:** Sullivan (4-2)
Time: 2:08 **Att:** 7,341 (paid); 3,208 (actual)

Notes: Michael Hollander had a two-run single in the fifth and had four brilliant assists in the field to help Clay Dirks' record remain perfect on the season. Bruce Sprowl went 2-for-3 in his first game back since suffering a broken finger on March 6. Three of LSU's runs were unearned. Nick Stavinoha had a two-run double in the eighth to give the Tigers a comfortable lead.

2005 Game-By-Game Recaps

Game 25 • Auburn 7, LSU 5

March 27, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
AU	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	-	7	13	0
LSU	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	5	11	0

W: Nix (4-1) **L:** Meier (1-2)

S: Madden (4)

Time: 2:48 **Att:** 7,254 (paid); 2,534 (actual)

Notes: LSU's streak of 12 straight series' wins came to an end as Auburn scored six unanswered runs after facing a four-run deficit. The Tigers were 16-0 on the season when leading after seven innings of play. Greg Smith started the game and went 6.2 innings, allowing three runs on six hits and striking out nine. LSU's 2-3-4 hitters of Blake Gill, Ryan Patterson and Clay Harris went 6-for-13. Tyler Johnstone delivered the go-ahead two-run single off of Justin Meier in the eighth. LSU only managed two hits after the fifth inning.

Game 26 • LSU 18, UNO 10

March 29, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
UNO	4	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	-	10	9	2
LSU	3	2	2	1	4	5	0	1	X	-	18	17	6

W: Nall (1-1) **L:** Rodriguez (1-3)

Time: 3:11 **Att:** 7,324 (paid); 2,814 (actual)

Notes: Ryan Patterson finished a single shy of the cycle, going 3-for-5 with four runs, five RBI and his first career grand slam. Brandon Nall earned his first career win, pitching three innings of relief. UNO scored six runs in the first two innings off of starter Eric English, but the Tigers responded with nine unanswered runs. LSU had four homers on the night. The Tigers also had a season-high six errors, including four committed by Michael Hollander.

Game 27 • Alabama 4, LSU 0

April 1, 2005 at Sewell-Thomas Stadium (Tuscaloosa, Ala.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	4	2
UA	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	X	-	4	5	0

W: Large (5-2) **L:** Mestepey (5-3)

Time: 2:06 **Att:** 4,226

Notes: T.J. Large fired a four-hit shutout, the first suffered by LSU since May 27, 2004 when the Tigers were blanked by Georgia, 1-0, in the SEC Tournament. Ryan Patterson and Clay Harris saw their hitting streaks end at 15 games. Lane Mestepey suffered the loss after allowing four runs (three earned) in seven innings.

Game 28 • LSU 11, Alabama 2

April 2, 2005 at Sewell-Thomas Stadium (Tuscaloosa, Ala.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	4	0	-	11	11	3
UA	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	2	5	3

W: Dirks (7-0) **L:** Carter (4-2)

Time: 3:00 **Att:** 4,518

Notes: LSU launched three homers, including three-run shots by Ryan Patterson and Blake Gill. Dustin Weaver added a two-run homer to send the Tide to its worst loss of the season. Clay Dirks remained perfect, working five innings and limiting the Tide to two runs on two hits. Gill's blast highlighted a four-run eighth that put the game away.

Game 29 • Alabama 5, LSU 4 (13 inn.)

April 3, 2005 at Sewell-Thomas Stadium (Tuscaloosa, Ala.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	-	R	H	E
LSU	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	11	11	3
UA	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-	2	5	3

W: Davis (3-0) **L:** Faircloth (1-1)

Time: 4:30 **Att:** 4,591

Notes: Evan Bush's walk-off RBI single in the bottom of the 13th sent LSU to its second consecutive SEC series defeat. The Tigers had not lost two consecutive SEC series since 2002. Jordan Faircloth surrendered the game-winning single and took the loss. Ryan Patterson gave LSU a 4-3 lead on a two-run single in the seventh. Jason Determann couldn't hold the lead, allowing the tying run to score in the eighth. Edgar Ramirez had an impressive outing in relief, working 3.1 innings without allowing a run on just two hits.

Game 30 • LSU 3, Nicholls State 2

April 5, 2005 at Raymond Didier Field (Thibodaux, La.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	-	R	H	E
LSU	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	3	11	1
NSU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	2	6	1

W: Nall (2-1) **L:** Breaux (0-3)

S: Faircloth (4)

Time: 4:30 **Att:** 4,591

Notes: Brandon Nall turned in the most impressive performance of his career, tossing 8.1 innings in a 3-2 win. Nall allowed only two runs on six hits, walked one and struck out three. His previous career high was three innings. Ryan Patterson, Clay Harris and Nick Stavinoah combined for six of LSU's 11 hits. Stavinoah collected two doubles. Jordan Mayer had a pair of sacrifice bunts, which led to the Tigers' first two runs. Jordan Faircloth notched the save, recording the final two outs and stranding the tying and winning runs on second and first in the ninth.

Smoke Laval

HEAD COACH • FOURTH YEAR

Raymond "Smoke" Laval continues to enhance his reputation as one of the country's top college baseball coaches, as, in three seasons at the helm of the LSU program, he has guided the Tigers to two College World Series berths, two NCAA Super Regional titles, three NCAA Regional championships, one SEC title and Top 10 finishes in each of the past two seasons.

Laval, the 2003 SEC Coach of the Year, was named in 2004 the Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year for the third straight season.

Laval has directed LSU to the best SEC regular-season record in the past three seasons, posting a 57-31-1 (.646) mark. South Carolina has the second-best SEC record (57-32, .640), and Florida is third (50-39-1, .561). LSU earned its second consecutive final Top 10 ranking in 2004, as the Tigers finished No. 7 in the Baseball America poll and No. 8 in the Collegiate Baseball poll. The final rankings culminated a magnificent 2004 season that also featured record-breaking marks for academic achievements and attendance figures. The 2004 Tigers advanced to the College World Series for the second straight season, recording a 46-19 overall record, LSU's best mark since the 2000 club finished 52-17.

LSU played host to an NCAA Regional for the 15th straight season, winning the tournament with consecutive victories over Army, Southern Mississippi and College of Charleston. The Tigers then played host to an NCAA Super Regional for the third time in five years, defeating Texas A&M in a best two-of-three series to earn a berth in the CWS.

The 2004 Tigers had the best offensive club in the SEC, completing the year with a .333 team batting average, the second-highest in school history. The Tigers were led by two first-team all-SEC players - right fielder Jon Zeringue, the 2004 SEC Co-Player of the Year and a first-team all-America selection, and center fielder J.C. Holt, a third-team all-America choice. Zeringue was selected in the second round of the 2004 draft by the Arizona Diamondbacks, and Holt was the third-round pick of the Atlanta Braves.

LSU placed 12 players on the 2004 SEC Academic Honor Roll, the highest total in the program's history, and the Tigers' 2004 total home attendance with 36 playing dates was 284,328, the third-largest figure in school history. The average paid attendance in 2004 was 7,898, which is the highest average in LSU annals.

Laval guided the 2003 Tigers to the Southeastern Conference title -- LSU's first since 1997 -- and a berth in the College World Series. He was voted the 2003 SEC Coach of the Year, directing LSU to a 45-22-1 overall record and a 20-9-1 conference mark, as the Tigers finished No. 5 in the final Baseball America rankings.

LSU played host to an NCAA Regional tournament for the 14th straight season and captured its eighth consecutive regional title. The Tigers entertained Baylor in an NCAA Super Regional series, defeating the Bears in two of three games to earn LSU's first CWS berth since 2000.

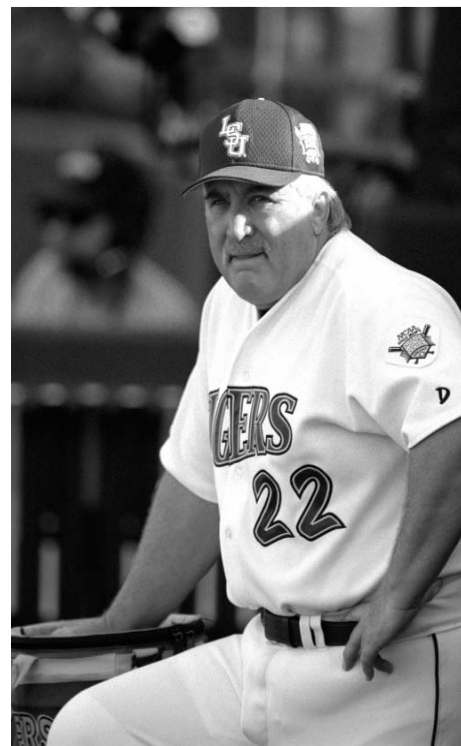
LSU also set an NCAA total attendance record in 2003, drawing 291,676 patrons to Alex Box Stadium.

The Tigers' shortstop, Aaron Hill, was named 2003 SEC Player of the Year and a first-team all-American. Hill was the first-round draft selection (13th pick overall) by the Toronto Blue Jays.

The magnificent '03 campaign augmented the success Laval enjoyed in his inaugural season as LSU's coach, as he led the 2002 Tigers to a 44-22 overall mark, an appearance in the NCAA Super Regional and a No. 11 final national ranking. Laval, named the 2002 Louisiana Coach of the Year by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association, continued the phenomenal tradition of excellence created by his predecessor, the legendary Skip Bertman.

Laval holds a bachelor's degree (1977) from Jacksonville in physical education and a master's degree (1979) from LSU in administration. The McDonald, Pa., native played two seasons at Gulf Coast Community College, where he lettered as a catcher. He completed his playing career at Jacksonville, where he led the ninth-ranked Dolphins in hitting at the 1976 NCAA South Regional.

Laval and his wife, Pam, are the parents of two children, Brandon and Jamie.



The Laval File

Full Name: Raymond Peter Laval
Born: December 20, 1955
Hometown: McDonald, Pa.
Wife: Pam Lewis of Reserve, La.
Children: Jamie and Brandon

Coaching Experience

1977	Assistant Coach	Jacksonville
1978	Assistant Coach	Wolfson HS (Jacksonville, Fla.)
1979	Graduate Assistant	LSU
1980-81	Assistant Coach	Gulf Coast CC
1982-83	Assistant Coach	Florida
1984-93	Assistant Coach	LSU
1994-00	Head Coach	UL-Monroe
2001	Administrative Asst.	LSU
2002-	Head Coach	LSU

Education

High School: South Fayette(McDonald, Pa.), 1973
 College: Jacksonville, 1977 (physical education)
 Masters: LSU, 1979 (administration)

Laval Year-By-Year

Year	W-L	School	Highlights
1994	20-33	UL-Monroe	Defeated Three NCAA Tournament Teams
1995	37-20	UL-Monroe	SLC Tournament Champions; NCAA Regional Participants
1996	41-19	UL-Monroe	School-Record 41 Wins; SLC Louisiana Division Champions
1997	33-21	UL-Monroe	Became Fourth Coach in ULM History To Record 100 Wins
1998	33-22	UL-Monroe	Led SLC In Hitting For Third Straight Season
1999	36-22	UL-Monroe	SLC Champions; NCAA Regional Participants
2000	41-22	UL-Monroe	SLC Champions; NCAA Regional Participants
2002	44-22	LSU	NCAA Regional Champions; NCAA Super Regional Participants
2003	45-22-1	LSU	SEC Champions; College World Series Participants
2004	46-19	LSU	NCAA Regional/Super Regional Champions; CWS Participants
2005	22-8	LSU	

Career Record (11th year): 398-230-1 (.640)

LSU Record (4th year): 157-71-1 (.689)

COACHING HONORS

1995	Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year
1999	Southland Conference Coach of the Year
2002	Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year
2003	SEC Coach of the Year; Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year
2004	Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year

Playing Experience

1970-73: Catcher, South Fayette High School
 1974-75: Catcher, Gulf Coast CC
 1976-77: Catcher, Jacksonville University

The Nickname "Smoke"

As a native of Western Pennsylvania, Raymond Peter Laval grew up as a Pittsburgh Pirates fan. He received the name "Smoke" in the late 1970s from his Gulf Coast Community College teammates, who derived the moniker from Smokey Burgess, a catcher for the Pirates in the 1960s.

Media Services

Interview Opportunities

Head Coach Smoke Laval

Coach Laval is available for phone interviews on weekday mornings (9 a.m. -Noon) during the season. Please coordinate all requests for personal interviews with Coach Laval through his office. Appointments and interviews may be arranged through Virginia Robertson at (225) 578-4148. **Coach Laval will talk to reporters approximately 10 minutes after the end of a game in the LSU dugout.**

Players

Media members are invited to attend LSU baseball practice sessions. Players are available for interviews before each practice at approximately 1 p.m. in Alex Box Stadium. Requests for live player interviews on the field prior to a game should be made through Bill Franques in the Sports Information Office. **Post-game player interviews are conducted in front of the LSU dugout at the conclusion of a brief team meeting on the field.**

Mailing Address

LSU Sports Information
P.O. Box 25095
Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5095

Overnight Mail Address

Room 501, LSU Athletics Admin. Bldg.
N. Stadium Dr. at Nicholson Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5095

Phone Directory

Press Box: 225-578-4149
Sports Information: 225-578-8226
Fax: 225-578-1861
Baseball Office: 225-578-4148
Fax: 225-578-4066

Baseball Contact E-mail Address

wfranqu@lsu.edu

Who to Contact

Sports Information Office
(225) 578-8226

Baseball Contact

Bill Franques - wfranqu@lsu.edu

Asst. Contact

Bill Martin - wmarti4@lsu.edu

LSU Television
(225) 578-1797

Asst. AD/Television

Kevin Wagner - jwagne2@lsu.edu

Manager/Television

John Schiebe - jschiebe@lsu.edu

LSU Radio
(225) 578-1882

Asst. AD/Radio

Jim Hawthorne - lsuradio@lsu.edu

On the Internet

www.LSUports.net

The Official Website of LSU Athletics is home to all the baseball information you need. Schedules, results, rosters, bios, statistics and game notes can be found and are always up to date.

http://media.lsuports.net

Media can now access images for all LSU athletic teams, including action shots, heads shots, logos, etc. To gain access to the high-resolution pictures, email Bill Franques. You will be assigned a login and password that will enable you to retrieve pictures. This service is for the media use only.

LSU Electronic Media

Radio

The LSU Sports Radio Network distributes all LSU Baseball games by satellite to 25 radio affiliates. WDGL-FM (98.1) Radio in Baton Rouge serves as the flagship station for the LSU Sports Network. Jim Hawthorne, the "Voice of the Tigers" for all LSU sports, is in his 22nd season of calling baseball play-by-play action. He will be joined on the broadcasts by Charles Hanagriff and LSU baseball publicist Bill Franques. Selected LSU Sports Network stations air "Tiger Sportsline with Smoke Laval" beginning Monday, March 28 from 7-8 p.m. The show airs live from Superior Grill on Government Street in Baton Rouge.

Television

Inside LSU Baseball is a weekly program featuring LSU head coach Smoke Laval. The show, which begins on March 20, features game highlights, player profiles and in-depth stories on college baseball's No. 1 program. Inside LSU Baseball is produced by the LSU Electronic Media Department – Kevin Wagner, Executive Producer; John Schiebe, Associate Producer. Inside LSU Baseball Affiliates include WBRZ Channel 2 in Baton Rouge and Cox Sports Television throughout the state of Louisiana.

Bill Franques
wfranqu@lsu.edu

Week 9: April 4-10

Bill Martin
wmarti4@lsu.edu

MONDAY	4	TUESDAY	5	WEDNESDAY	6	THURSDAY	7	FRIDAY	8	SATURDAY	9	SUNDAY	10
		at Nicholls State W, 3-2 Raymond Didier Field Thibodaux, La. Radio: LSU Sports Network TV: None		Wally Pontiff Classic vs. Rice 7 p.m. Zephyr Field Metairie, La. Radio: LSU Sports Network TV: Jumbo Sports Network				vs. South Carolina 6:30 p.m. Alex Box Stadium Baton Rouge, La. Radio: LSU Sports Network TV: None		vs. South Carolina 2 p.m. Alex Box Stadium Baton Rouge, La. Radio: LSU Sports Network TV: None		vs. South Carolina Noon Alex Box Stadium Baton Rouge, La. Radio: LSU Sports Network TV: None	

LSU VS. RICE