



2003 LSU BASEBALL

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2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Thursday, April 3

Overall Record: 19-9-1

Southeastern Conference Record: 7-1-1 (2nd in West division, 2nd overall)

Results so far this week:

Wednesday—def. Nicholls St., 6-2

This weekend's games (all times CT):

Friday—South Carolina, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday—South Carolina, 3 p.m. (live TV on SEC-TV)

Sunday—South Carolina, 1 p.m. (live TV on Louisiana Sports Network)

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night with the resumption of Daylight Savings Time.

Notes from the Nicholls St. game:

- The Tigers were able to overcome a 2-0 deficit thanks to a pair of clutch two-out hits, continuing the trend of LSU coming through with two out. The first blow was a three-run home run by Ryan Patterson in the sixth inning that gave LSU the lead, and the second was a two-run single by Blake Gill that extended the Tigers' pad to 5-2. Of LSU's 178 RBI on the year, a staggering 77 (43.2 percent) have come with two out.
- Gill, the Tigers' sophomore second baseman, has been the most clutch of the Tigers with two out. Despite batting just .286 in those situations, he's made the most of the opportunities by collecting a team high 13 two-out RBI. Gill has a total of 23 RBI on the year, second only to Ivan Naccarata's 24.
- Patterson, a sophomore outfielder/designated hitter, tied Jon Zeringue for the team lead in home runs (6) with his blast, and he now has nine of his 17 RBI this season with two out.
- A total of six LSU players have at least seven two-out RBI this year, and Zeringue (10) and Clay Harris (10) join Gill in double figures.
- The other big story from the Nicholls game was the relief pitching performance turned in by Chad Vaught. Vaught, a fifth-year senior who had appeared in three games and a total of seven innings in his career prior to Wednesday night, pitched four scoreless innings of relief to earn the win, his first career decision at LSU. Vaught allowed four singles, but retired seven batters on ground balls and limited the Colonels to 1-for-10 with runners on base.
- LSU's starter on Wednesday, Jason Determann, wasn't too bad, either. The redshirt freshman left-hander made his second career start and allowed no earned runs in four innings with no walks and a career high seven strikeouts. Both of Nicholls' runs in the third were un-



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31
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earned thanks to a pair of Tiger errors. Determann's only other start, last February 20 at Centenary, ended in disaster when it was discovered afterward that he would need season ending Tommy John surgery to repair his injury. Determann had appeared in six games out of the Tiger bullpen this season prior to Wednesday.

- Junior 3B Ivan Naccarata has recovered from a slight slump, as his 2-for-4 game on Wednesday is his third straight multi-hit game. Naccarata is 7-for-12 following a 2-for-18 slump to raise his batting average back to .348, the highest on the team among qualifying players.
- LSU continued its dominance of Nicholls St. by winning its 10th consecutive game over the Colonels, all at Alex Box Stadium. Nicholls' last win was a 3-2, 13-inning victory at Thibodaux in 1994, and the Colonels' last win in Baton Rouge was a 7-4 decision in 1989. LSU has also won 15 straight in the series at home.
- The Tigers suffered another season ending injury when junior RHP Brandon Nall was diagnosed with a torn labrum in his right shoulder. Nall was expected to undergo arthroscopic surgery later this week. Nall is the eighth LSU player to go down with a season-ending injury, including four who were lost before pre-season practice began in January.

Looking ahead to the South Carolina series:

- Speaking of injuries, LSU will be without junior RHP Brian Wilson in its rotation. Wilson came down with soreness in his right arm following his start last Friday at Alabama, and the results of an MRI earlier this week were inconclusive.
- LSU and South Carolina have won more games than any other SEC programs since 2000. The Gamecocks' 181 wins are second behind Florida State's 188, while LSU has won 159 times in the last three-plus years. LSU and USC are two of four SEC teams to reach the College World Series since 2000, joining Georgia and Tennessee.
- LSU has traditionally been tough on defending SEC champions. Since 1996, the Tigers have lost only one series to a defending conference champion, and that was to Alabama, which beat LSU two of three in Tuscaloosa in 1997 after the Crimson Tide shared the title with LSU and Florida in 1996. The Tigers swept 2001 conference champion Georgia last year, beat 2000 champion South Carolina two of three in 2001, and swept 1999 champion Arkansas in 2000.
- No defending SEC champion has come into Baton Rouge and won a series from the Tigers the next season since 1972, when 1971 champion Mississippi St. won two of three.
- The Tigers hold a 17-8-1 edge over the Gamecocks, although last year marked the first time South Carolina has won a series from LSU. LSU has won the series opener in all seven regular season series between the clubs, including last year's 9-8 triumph in Columbia.
- A series win for LSU will give them eight consecutive series wins, two shy of the school record of 10 in 1985-86.



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31
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