



2003 LSU BASEBALL

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2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Monday, March 17

Overall Record: 13-7-1

Southeastern Conference Record: 2-0-1

Last week's results (2-1-1):

Tuesday—lost at Tulane, 5-4 (11 innings)

Friday—def. Florida, 9-0

Saturday—def. Florida, 3-2

Sunday—tied Florida, 8-8 (9 innings, SEC travel regulations)

This week's games:

Tuesday—at Southern, 6:30 p.m. CT

Friday—at Georgia, 7 p.m. ET

Saturday—at Georgia, 2 p.m. ET

Sunday—at Georgia, 1 p.m. ET

POSITION PLAYER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE: Junior SS Aaron Hill (6-0, 200, Visalia, Calif.—Redwood HS)

Notes on Hill:

- Was the Tigers' leading hitter in four games this week, batting .571 (8-for-14) with three doubles, four runs scored, a .786 slugging percentage and a .684 on-base percentage.
- Is currently on a nine-game hitting streak, batting .457 (16-for-35) with 10 runs scored and eight RBI.
- During the nine-game hitting streak, Hill has raised his average by 93 points from a season low of .268 to .361 through the weekend.
- Hill has collected two or more hits five times during the streak; prior to the streak, Hill was in a 3-for-20 slump in the six previous games.
- Started the week by going 1-for-3 with an RBI single and two walks vs. Tulane at Zephyr Field.
- The walks were two of five for Hill on the week, as he leads LSU with 16 bases on balls this season.
- Hill had his biggest game of the season, and one of the biggest by any LSU player, on Friday against Florida. In the SEC opener, Hill went 4-for-4 with three doubles and three runs scored. The four hits makes Hill the first LSU player to collect four hits in a game this season, and Hill became the 17th player in LSU history to record three doubles in one contest.
- Hill finished the weekend with a 1-for-3 game on Saturday and a 2-for-4 effort on Sunday.



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- For the year, Hill has struck out just five times in 94 plate appearances, as he leads LSU in on-base percentage (.495), RBI (17), runs scored (17) and doubles (6).
- Batting a sizzling .450 (9-for-20) with runners in scoring position and also hitting .450 (9-for-20) with seven RBI with two out.
- Is the only LSU player to start every game this season.

Hill's game-by-game statistics this week:

| Day | Opponent | Result | Avg. | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB-SBA |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Tue. | At Tulane | L | .333 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0-1 |
| Fri. | Florida | W | 1.000 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1-1 |
| Sat. | Florida | W | .333 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 |
| Sun. | Florida | T | .500 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 |
| THIS WEEK (4 GAMES) | | | .571 | 14 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1-2 |
| SEASON TOTALS (21 GAMES) | | | .361 | 72 | 17 | 26 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 3-4 |

PITCHER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE: Jr. RHP Brian Wilson (6-1, 205, Londonderry, N.H.—Londonderry HS)

Notes on Wilson:

- Turned in the most dominating performance by an LSU pitcher this season, shutting out Florida in a complete game five-hitter in Friday's conference opener.
- The shutout is Wilson's second career complete game shutout, joining an 8-0 three-hitter last April 27 against Arkansas, an effort that earned Wilson SEC Pitcher of the Week honors.
- Wilson struck out a career high nine batters and walked only one Florida hitter, as he limited the Gators, who entered the weekend as the SEC's top hitting team at .356, to five singles, throwing 79 of his 119 pitches for strikes.
- Wilson allowed only four runners to reach scoring position in the game, and none got to third base after the first inning.
- Did not allow the Gators a hit in six at-bats with runners in scoring position, and allowed just one hit with runners on base and one hit with two outs.
- Retired 10 consecutive batters in the fifth through eighth innings.
- Part of an LSU pitching staff that held Florida to a .224 team batting average on the weekend.
- Allowing opponents to hit just .143 (3-for-21) against him this year with runners in scoring position and two out.
- Wilson improved to 4-2 on the season with the win, and shaved more than a run off of his ERA from 4.18 to 3.16.2003

Wilson's pitching line this week:

| Day | Opponent (Result) | Dec. | ERA | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Fri. | Florida (W) | W | 0.00 | 9.0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| SEASON TOTALS (6 G-6 GS) | | 4-2 | 3.16 | 37.0 | 46 | 17 | 13 | 7 | 31 |



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Notes on the week:

- LSU opened Southeastern Conference play with an undefeated series at Alex Box Stadium against Florida, winning the first two games and tying the finale. The 2-0-1 start represents LSU's best SEC start since 1998, when the Tigers began 4-0 in league play. LSU was 2-1 in 1999 and 1-2 in each of the last three seasons.
- The Tigers success was due to a scorching offensive performance, as LSU hit .383 in the three-game series, banging out 41 hits and scoring 20 runs. The big series allowed the Tigers to raise their season batting average by 14 points from .287 to .301 on the year.
- The Tigers' 17 hits in the series opener on Friday was just two shy of the season high of 19 done at Centenary on February 11. Seven LSU players had at least two hits in the contest, and nine of those 17 hits went for extra bases.
- On Friday, LSU tied a season high for doubles in a game with six and hit two home runs, the sixth multi-homer game of the year.
- Florida held LSU to eight hits on Saturday, but the Tigers rebounded with a 16-hit barrage on Sunday, giving LSU its fifth contest of 16 or more hits this season.
- LSU continued its dominance of Florida in Baton Rouge, running its all-time mark to 21-6-1 at home against the Gators. Florida is one of four SEC East teams to have never won a series in Baton Rouge, and the Gators have gone winless on five trips to the bayou (1989, 1991, 1997, 2001 and 2003). Georgia (2000) and Vanderbilt (2002) remain the only SEC East teams to win a series in Baton Rouge.
- LSU is 10-2-1 vs. Florida since 2000, and 4-1-1 since Pat McMahon left Mississippi State for Florida in 2002.
- LSU has gone undefeated in its last 13 SEC home games. The Tigers last lost a conference game at home last March 29 to Mississippi St.
- The weekend series also gives LSU an eight game unbeaten streak at home since a February 22 loss to Houston, going 7-0-1 during that stretch.
- Saturday's victory over Florida was the Tigers' 700th league victory since the Southeastern Conference began playing baseball in 1933. LSU is 700-587-3 (.544) in league games all-time.
- Sunday's 8-8 tie with Florida was LSU's fourth since 1993 and first since a 5-5 deadlock at Arizona St. in 2001 that was called after eight innings. LSU's other ties in the past decade came at home against South Carolina in 1993 (9-9 in 10 innings) and at Georgia in 1999 (11-11 in 9 innings). Sunday's game, which started 13 minutes late because of rain, was called at 4:03 p.m. CST to allow Florida to catch a 5:55 p.m. flight out of Baton Rouge.
- LSU flashed its comeback abilities twice in the Florida series. LSU trailed 2-0 on Saturday before scoring twice in the sixth to tie it and taking the lead in the seventh, giving the Tigers their fourth come-from-behind win this year and improving LSU to 3-1 in one-run games. On Sunday, LSU overcame Florida leads of 3-0 and 5-3 to eventually take an 8-5 lead in the sixth, although LSU could not hold on in the finale and settled for a tie.
- Although overshadowed by Brian Wilson's shutout on Friday, senior RHP Bo Pettit also turned in his best effort of 2003 against Florida on Saturday. Pettit turned in a complete game four-hitter, giving up just two runs and striking out a season high eight with no walks. Pettit threw just 34 balls in 116 pitches to run his record to 3-0 on the year and keep his ERA at a solid 1.57.
- Pettit, who is now 21-10 with 224 strikeouts in 218 innings for his career, threw his fifth career complete game on Saturday and has won his last six regular season starts dating back to last year.



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- Junior 3B Ivan Naccarata continued his hitting streak, extending it to 18 games by batting .389 (7-for-18) with five RBI during the Tigers' four games this week.
- Naccarata batted .462 (6-for-13) in the Florida series, going 2-for-5 with three RBI on Friday and 3-for-4 with a two-run single to tie the game on Sunday. Naccarata is batting .394 (28-for-71) during the streak with 14 runs scored and 16 RBI to leave him atop the season batting average chart at .372.
- Naccarata has also been excellent in the clutch this year, batting .370 (10-for-27) with runners in scoring position.
- Lost in the shuffle surround Naccarata and Hill is the quiet job done this season by sophomore LF Bruce Sprowl. Sprowl has settled into the starting role in left field and has produced solid numbers, batting .314 on the season. Sprowl has hit safely in 15 of 18 games this year and has not gone consecutive games this year without a hit.
- Sprowl enjoyed a solid week, batting .353 (6-for-17) with three RBI in four games. His 3-for-5 effort in Friday's win over Florida represented his first career three-hit contest.
- Friday's game with Florida was also a showcase for sophomore RF Ryan Patterson. Patterson made a one-handed sliding catch of a foul ball in the LSU bullpen, and then added a solo home run in the seventh inning, his fourth of the year to tie Quinn Stewart for the team lead.
- Patterson enjoyed a solid week, batting .400 (6-for-15) and hitting safely in every game this week. Patterson, who was the only LSU player to get two hits on Saturday, has hit safely in 13 of 16 games this year and, like Sprowl, has not gone consecutive games without a hit.
- As for Stewart, the sophomore designated hitter capped a solid week by going 3-for-5 on Sunday, his second three-hit game of the year to join a 3-for-5 game on February 14 vs. Kansas. Stewart batted .421 (8-for-19) in the Tigers' four games this week.
- Sophomore CF J.C. Holt broke out of a 2-for-28 slump on Saturday with a base hit that led to his scoring the winning run in that game, then followed it up with a 2-for-5 performance on Sunday. Holt, who leads LSU with 27 strikeouts this year, did not strikeout on Saturday or Sunday, the first time this year he has gone consecutive games without a strikeout.
- True freshman C Matt Liuzza started all three games of the Florida series, the first time he has done so this year. Liuzza was 2-for-5 on Sunday for his first career multi-hit game.
- True freshman RHP Justin Meier, who gave up no earned runs in 5 2/3 innings on Tuesday at Tulane, made his first career relief appearance on Sunday, going 1 2/3 innings and yielding two runs on three hits. For the year, Meier is 3-0 with a 1.21 ERA over 22 1/3 innings.
- Senior RHP Jake Tompkins was pulled after 3 1/3 innings on Sunday, making him only the second LSU starter in 21 games this season not to last at least five innings. The other was Nate Bumstead, who went 2 2/3 innings and gave up eight runs on nine hits on February 16 in the series finale vs. Kansas. Tompkins has taken four no decisions in six starts this year, going 0-2 with a 5.13 ERA.
- LSU began the week with a 5-4, 11-inning loss against Tulane at Zephyr Field. It was LSU's first loss this year after six wins over Louisiana opponents, and broke a nine-game losing streak in midweek games. Despite the loss, LSU has won 16 of its last 18 games vs. in-state competition.
- The crowd of 10,870 that witnessed the LSU-Tulane game is the 22nd crowd of 10,000 or more to watch LSU play since 1998. Nine of those games have been against Tulane—eight at Zephyr Field and the record crowd of 27,673 that watched last year's game in the Louisiana Superdome.



On deck for this week:

- LSU begins an eight-game road trip—its longest of the season and longest since 2001—when the Tigers head up Interstate 110 to face cross-town rival Southern. The Jaguars of the Southwestern Athletic Conference will be hosting the Tigers for the first time since 1995 and the first time ever in Southern's newly-remodeled Lee-Hines Field.
- LSU holds a commanding 37-1 lead over Southern in a series that began in 1970, but the Jaguars have closed the gap considerably through the years. Southern broke a 35-game losing streak to LSU with a win in 2001 at Alex Box Stadium, and the Jaguars fell just short of shocking the Tigers in the opener of last year's Baton Rouge regional, losing 5-4 in the bottom of the ninth. LSU won the regular season meeting over Southern last year at home, 13-2.
- The Jaguars, who have reached the NCAA regionals three times in the last four years and four times overall under coach Roger Cador, feature three potential first-round draft picks in their infield in second baseman Rickie Weeks, a two-time All-American, third baseman Antoin Gray and shortstop Fernando Puebla. Weeks is thought to be the probable number one pick by Tampa Bay in this June's draft.
- LSU plays its first conference road series of 2003 this weekend at Georgia. The Tigers have dominated the series with the Bulldogs, although LSU's 2002 sweep in Baton Rouge was its first series win over UGA in three seasons.
- The two series Georgia won, in 2000 at Baton Rouge and 2001 in Athens, came under coach Ron Polk, who has since returned to Mississippi State and has been replaced by former Bulldog player and assistant coach David Perno, now in his second year at the UGA helm. LSU was 23-2-1 against Georgia in the 1990s and holds a commanding 43-13-1 all-time edge in the series. Georgia was swept last weekend at Alabama, so the Bulldogs will be looking to climb out of the SEC East cellar.
- LSU and Georgia remain the only two SEC schools to win a national championship. Georgia defeated Oklahoma St. for the 1990 crown, while LSU won championships in 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 2000.
- LSU coach Smoke Laval can win his 300th career game this week. Laval, who is in his second year at LSU after seven seasons at Louisiana-Monroe, is 298-187-1 in his ninth year as a head coach. Laval, an assistant coach to Skip Bertman at LSU from 1984 through 1993, is 57-29-1 at LSU after going 241-159 at ULM.



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