



# 2003 LSU BASEBALL

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## 2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Monday, April 21

Overall Record: 26-13-1

Southeastern Conference Record: 12-5-1 (West division and overall leader)

Last week's results (2-2):

Tuesday—def. Tulane, 8-0

Friday—lost at Vanderbilt, 4-2

Saturday—lost at Vanderbilt, 5-4 in 10 innings

Sunday—won at Vanderbilt, 9-2

This week's games (all times CDT):

Wednesday—Southeastern Louisiana, 6:30 p.m.

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

Saturday—Tennessee, 6 p.m. (live TV on Comcast Sports Southeast)

Sunday—Tennessee, 12:30 p.m. (live TV on Louisiana Sports

## NO NOMINEES FOR PLAYER OR PITCHER OF THE WEEK

Notes on the Week:

- LSU maintained its hold on first place in the overall Southeastern Conference race, as the Tigers now stand one-half game ahead of Auburn, one game ahead of Mississippi St. and a game and a half ahead of Arkansas in the tightly bunched field. The Tigers' 12-5-1 SEC record is a full week ahead of last year's pace, when LSU was 9-8 after six weeks and 12-8 after seven weeks.
- The Tigers' great defense continues, as for the second consecutive weekend, LSU did not commit an error in the three-game series at Vanderbilt. LSU, which last week set a school record by playing five consecutive errorless games, has committed just one error in its last 354 chances, and has accepted 282 consecutive errorless chances in SEC games.
- LSU has committed just 22 errors in its last 29 games after committing 21 in its first 11 contests, as the Tigers now have a .972 fielding percentage on the year. In SEC games, LSU has booted just 12 chances in 18 games and has a .983 fielding percentage.
- LSU continues to play very well on Sundays, as the Tigers are now 5-0-1 this year in SEC Sunday games and 9-2-1 overall on Sundays, with the only losses coming in a February



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- 16 doubleheader to Kansas.
- In the six SEC Sunday games, LSU is batting .380 with 12 home runs and has outscored its opposition, 56-31.
  - LSU's hitting star this week was sophomore 2B Blake Gill, who continues to impress after suffering through a 2-for-29 slump earlier this season. Gill batted .500 (6-for-12) in the Vanderbilt series and was 8-for-16 overall this week in four games. In his last 10 games, Gill is batting .410 (16-for-39) as his season batting average has been raised by 44 points from .275 to .319.
  - Gill enters this week on a six-game hitting streak, and in his last nine games, he has collected two or more hits seven times. For the year, Gill has 18 games of two hits or more, the highest mark on the team.
  - The move to re-insert Jon Zeringue into the LSU lineup is continuing to look better and better with each passing game. The sophomore right fielder has now hit safely in his last seven games, and he capped off a solid series at Vanderbilt by going 3-for-6, his third three-hit game of the year and his 11<sup>th</sup> multi-hit outing of the year. Zeringue was 5-for-12 (.417) at Vanderbilt to go along with a 2-for-5 effort on Tuesday against Tulane.
  - Zeringue, who was hitting .204 on March 22, the date of his return to the lineup, has raised his average a stunning 102 points, all the way up to .306, making him one of six LSU regulars at .300 or betters. In the SEC, Zeringue has been even hotter, batting .373 with six home runs, 13 RBI and a .746 slugging percentage in 15 league games.
  - Somebody who's been hot all season long is sophomore 1B Clay Harris, and on Sunday, his two-run home run in the ninth inning gave him the team lead with nine home runs. More importantly, Harris now has the requisite number of at-bats to qualify for the conference batting title, and his .392 batting average and .765 slugging percentage are both tops for the Tigers.
  - Harris was just 1-for-7 in the first two games of the Vanderbilt series, but went 3-for-4 in the series finale, and in his last 10 games, Harris is hitting .389 (14-for-36) with 10 runs scored and 12 RBI. Harris also continues to come through with the clutch hits, batting .364 with runners in scoring position and batting a sizzling .455 with 14 RBI with two out.
  - In the SEC, Harris' batting average (.429) and slugging percentage (.843) are near the top of the charts, and he has driven in 24 of his 32 runs in league games.
  - Harris has also performed his best against the best this season. In 16 games vs. ranked opponents, Harris is batting .468 with 14 runs scored, eight doubles, four home runs, 13 RBI and an .894 slugging percentage. No other Tiger is batting higher than .329 vs. ranked foes this year.
  - Harris started Sunday's game at third base when LSU coach Smoke Laval replaced Ivan Naccarata in the starting lineup with Clay's younger brother, freshman Will Harris, at first base. It marked fourth time this year the Slidell natives have been in the starting lineup together, and LSU has won all four of those games.
  - The person whom Harris overtook for the overall team lead in batting average, SS Aaron Hill, went 3-for-5 with a pair of runs scored on Sunday to get back on track after going just 1-for-5 in the first two games of the series. Hill is batting .389 on the year and will likely continue to lead the SEC in on-base percentage at .508 when the new statistics come out on Monday.
  - Hill has been very hot over the last two weeks, batting .564 (22-for-39) with 14 runs



scored, six doubles, 13 RBI, a .974 slugging percentage and a .617 on-base percentage in his last 10 games. Hill also continues to be the Tigers' top clutch hitter, batting .429 with runners in scoring position and .462 with two out.

- Freshman catcher Matt Liuzza continues to fill the bill quite nicely both behind the plate and at the plate. Liuzza threw out a pair of Vanderbilt baserunners attempting to steal in Saturday's game, as he has now thrown out the last six runners who have attempted to steal on him and eight of 14 on the season. No opponent has successfully stolen on Liuzza since Florida's Justin Tordi did so on March 16.
- At the plate, Liuzza went 2-for-5 with a two-run home run on Sunday, giving him four on the season.
- Consistency continues to be the forte for sophomore OF/DH Ryan Patterson, who has now hit safely in 30 of 36 games this year and has not gone consecutive games without a hit. Patterson notched his 13<sup>th</sup> multi-hit game of the year with a 2-for-4 effort on Saturday, and in his last 10 games, Patterson is hitting .326 (14-for-43).
- Patterson is batting .347 in the SEC and .321 overall for the year, making him one of six Tigers above the .300 mark.
- On the mound, the Tigers' most consistent hurler continues to be junior RHP Nate Bumstead. Bumstead won his fifth consecutive SEC start on Sunday by allowing just two runs over seven-plus innings while walking none and striking out seven. Bumstead is 5-0 with a 3.69 ERA and 38 strikeouts in his five SEC outings, walking just seven batters in 39.0 innings.
- For the year, Bumstead is now tied with Bo Pettit for the team lead in wins with six, as he is 6-1 with a 4.33 ERA.
- As for Pettit, the fifth-year senior right-hander endured another rocky start on Saturday, giving up four runs on four hits in the first inning. But over the next eight innings, Pettit was dominant, giving up just four hits and allowing only one baserunner to get past first base.
- Pettit took a no decision despite going nine innings, marking the fifth time in his career and second time vs. Vanderbilt that he has pitched nine innings, joining a 6-0, four-hit shutout last March 15. The no decision was Pettit's first since last April 28 vs. Arkansas, as he was 10-2 during that stretch.
- Junior RHP Billy Sadler came in for Bumstead on Sunday with two runners on and pitched two scoreless innings to notch his second save of the year. For Sadler, it was business as usual, as he has allowed just one of 12 inherited runners to score against him this year. Sadler is the team leader in appearances with 15, and has struck out 37 batters in 29 2/3 innings.
- Sadler isn't the only LSU pitcher who's stingy when it comes to inherited runners; as a staff, LSU has allowed just nine of 41 inherited runners to come home.
- The series loss to Vanderbilt was LSU's first SEC series loss since last April 19-21 at South Carolina, as LSU had won their previous nine league series before this weekend, one shy of the school and SEC record of 10 done in the final series of 1985 and all nine series of 1986.
- LSU has now lost consecutive series to Vanderbilt for the first time in school history, after the Commodores won two of three in Baton Rouge in 2002. The Commodores also won their first series from the Tigers in Nashville since 1988.
- The losses in the first two games of the series marked the first time LSU has lost con-



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secutive conference games since losing the final two games of last year's series at South Carolina.

- LSU posted its third shutout of the season on Tuesday against Tulane as Jake Tompkins, Jason Determann and Billy Sadler combined on a two-hitter. The Tigers' other shutouts this year were a combined four-pitcher effort (Justin Meier, Determann, Jordan Faircloth and Sadler) at Centenary on February 11 and a five-hitter by Brian Wilson against Florida on March 14.
- The shutout of Tulane was the Tigers' first since they blanked the Green Wave 10-0 on February 27, 1996 as part of a 13-0 start. It also marked the first time Tulane has been shut out
- The two hits allowed by Tiger pitchers were the fewest since Brian Tallet threw a complete-game two-hitter in a 6-0 victory at Vanderbilt on March 17, 2000. The previous low for hits allowed by LSU this year was four by Bo Pettit in a complete game win over Florida on March 15.
- Determann turned in yet another impressive outing in a string of outstanding efforts by the redshirt freshman southpaw. Determann gave up just one hit in three innings as he has now gone 13 consecutive innings without allowing an earned run. For the year, Determann is 2-0 with a 1.17 ERA, striking out 25 and giving up just 16 hits and five runs (three earned) in 23 innings.
- Sophomore CF J.C. Holt showed unexpected power by lifting a two-run home run into the left field seats in the first inning of the Tulane game. The home run was Holt's first since the Centenary game nine weeks ago and second of the season, with both home runs going to the opposite field in left field.
- LSU is now 7-0 this season vs. Louisiana opponents at home and 9-2 overall against in-state foes. LSU has five games vs. in-state competition in 2003.
- The Tigers added a May 6 game against Loyola of New Orleans to replace the March 18 game at Southern that was rained out. The game with Loyola, an NAIA school, will not count towards LSU RPI calculations.

#### On deck for this week:

- LSU opens a four-game homestand this week by hosting Southeastern Louisiana on Wednesday. The game was scheduled when severe thunderstorms and a flooded field canceled the Tigers' February 21 game with Houston. The Tigers defeated the Lions 4-2 on March 5, LSU's 19<sup>th</sup> win in the last 20 meetings with the school from Hammond.
- This will mark the second game for SLU coach Dan Canevari in the park he served as an assistant coach to Skip Bertman and Smoke Laval from 1991 through 2002. Canevari is one of three Bertman assistants currently serving as a Division I head coach this year, joining Jim Wells (Alabama) and Mike Bianco (Ole Miss).
- The Tigers return to SEC play this weekend with a series against Tennessee, LSU's last SEC East opponent this season. The Volunteers will be visiting Baton Rouge for the first time since 1998 and have lost seven straight to LSU at Alex Box Stadium and 2-19 all-time on the bayou.
- LSU won two of three last year in Knoxville, scoring 22 runs and pounding out 39 hits in the final two games of the series after the Vols won the opener, 2-1. The Vols' only series wins over LSU were both in Knoxville, in 1993 and 1999.



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