Game 1: LSU vs. Birmingham-Southern—Friday, Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m., Alex Box Stadium

LSU Sports Information • (225) 578-8226 • (225) 578-1861 • P.O. Box 25095 • Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5095

LSU begins the Smoke Laval era tonight by hosting Birmingham-Southern in the 2002 season opener.

- The Tigers are beginning their 109th season of baseball, the oldest intercollegiate sport at LSU.
 - The Tigers enter 2002 with an all-time mark of 1,818-1,244-20, a .593 winning percentage.
- BSC is in its first season of NCAA Division I competition and is a member of the Big South Conference.
 - The Tigers have never played a current member of the Big South Conference.
 - BSC's Athletic Director is Joe Dean Jr., the son of former LSU Athletic Director and basketball star Joe Dean. The younger Dean will call LSU's basketball game against Kentucky on Saturday at the PMAC for Jefferson-Pilot Sports.

Smoke Signals: The 46-year old Laval is the 23rd man to lead the LSU baseball program.

- Laval spent seven successful seasons at Louisiana-Monroe, compiling a 241-159 record (.603), leading the Indians to three NCAA regional berths.
 - Laval is in his third stint at LSU. He was a graduate assistant to Jack Lamabe in 1979, and was the top assistant to Skip Bertman from 1984-93, during which time LSU made five CWS appearances and won the 1991 and 1993 national championships.
 - Laval was named as Bertman's successor on July 18, 2000. Laval served as administrative assistant during Bertman's final season of 2001, allowing Laval to recruit players for the 2002 campaign.

For openers: LSU lost its 2001 season opener to Kansas St., 9-8, breaking a six-game winning streak in season openers.

- LSU's loss to K-State last year was its first in a home opener since falling to Nicholls St. in 1982, two years before Skip Bertman's arrival at LSU.
- The Tigers haven't lost home openers in back-to-back seasons since 1977-78, when Texas A&M beat the Tigers in both seasons. The Tigers last dropped back-to-back season openers from 1980-82.
- This will be the first time since 1999 the Tigers will open on the traditional Friday night. The Tigers opened with Saturday doubleheaders against Virginia in 2000 and K-State last year.
- This marks LSU's earliest season opener in their 109-year history of baseball. The previous earliest openers came on February 9 in 1990 and 1991.

About Tonight's Game...

Records

Season opener for both teams

Rankings

LSU is ranked #5 by Collegiate Baseball, #6 by ESPN/USA Today Baseball Weekly and #7 by Baseball America.

Radio/TV

All LSU baseball games will be broadcast on the LSU Sports Network (WDGL-98.1 FM in Baton Rouge) and the official LSU website, www.lsusports.net. Jim Hawthorne and Patrick Wright call the season opener.

Series

First meeting between the schools. LSU will be facing a new opponent for the first time since hosting Arizona St. in 2000.

Coaches

Smoke Laval, LSU (first game at LSU; 241-159 in seven years at Louisiana-Monroe) Brian Shoop, BSC (510-211-1 in 12 years)

The rest of the series

Game 2 at 2 p.m. Saturday (tape delay TV on WB-10 in Baton Rouge at 9 p.m.)
Game 3 at 1 p.m. Sunday

On Deck

ruesday Southeastern La., 6:30
Feb. 15 Mercer, 6:30
Feb. 16 Mercer, 2
Feb. 17 Mercer, 1
Feb. 19 at Centenary%, 7
Feb. 22 at Houston, 7
Feb. 23 at Houston, 7
Feb. 24 at Houston, 1
Mar. 1 Long Beach St., 6:30

Mar. 2 Long Beach St., 2 Mar. 3 Long Beach St., 1

%—at Fair Grounds Field, Shreveport

Tonight's Starting Pitcher RHP #34 Bo Pettit (Jr.-2L, 6-0, 200, Houston—Sharpstown High)

Bo Pettit takes the mound to start the 2002 season opener. This will be his first start since May 6, 2001, when he went five innings and got no decision in a 4-3 loss at Arkansas. Pettit has struggled through shoulder problems throughout his LSU career, but if healthy, could be the key to the Tigers' success in Smoke Laval's first season.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

2001: Posted 4-0 mark with a 2.42 ERA, but only appeared in 7 games (4 starts) due to continuing shoulder ailments.

- > Struck out five in two innings in his first appearance of 2001 vs. Nicholls St. on Feb. 27
- > Earned his first win of the season against Southern on Mar. 13, going five innings and allowing two runs on two hits.
- > Best outing of season came Mar. 23 at Mississippi St., as he allowed no earned runs in 6.1 innings to pick up the victory.
- Did not return to action again until May 1 at New Orleans, when he went three innings and allowed just one hit and no earned runs while striking out five.

2000: Went 5-3 with a 4.15 ERA in 16 games (7 starts), but season ended early due to tendonitis in his shoulder.

- >> Best effort came in Apr. 30 win at Ole Miss in first career SEC start. In that game, Pettit allowed one run on five hits and struck out a career-high 12 in seven innings.
- Earned his first career win in second game of doubleheader vs. Virginia on Feb. 12, starting and throwing six scoreless innings, striking out six and allowing just two hits.
- > Threw two scoreless innings and allowed just one hit in relief stint vs. McNeese St. on Feb. 22.
- > Hurled four scoreless and hitless innings in start vs. New Orleans on Mar. 22, picking up victory with six strikeouts.
- > Final outing of season came on May 6 at Kentucky, where he earned win with six strikeouts over 6.2 innings.

1999: Was granted a medical redshirt after pitching in only three early-season games.

- Made his first career appearance on Feb. 27 against Central Florida, going 1.1 innings and giving up two runs on four hits, walking one and striking out one.
- > Pitched one scoreless inning vs. Ohio on Mar. 6, striking out two.
- > Final appearance of the year came against USL on Mar. 16, as he gave up three runs (two earned) and only faced two batters.

PETTIT'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	ERA	W-L	qqA	GS	CG	SV	IP	Н	R	ER	BB	SO
1999	15.43	0-0	3	0	0	0	2.1	5	5	4	2	3
2000	4.15	5-3	16	7	0	0	47.2	44	25	22	22	52
2001	2.42	4-0	7	4	0	0	26.0	21	9	7	7	25
TOTAL	3.91	9-3	26	11	0	0	76.0	70	39	33	31	80

LSU's rotation for the remainder of the Birmingham-Southern series:

Saturday—So. LHP Lane Mestepey (11-3, 3.75 ERA in 2001)

Sunday—Jr. RHP Jake Tompkins (Junior College Transfer)





LSU in Season Openers since 1970							
Year		Site	Result				
1970	Nicholls St.	Baton Rouge	L, 4-2				
1971	Rice	Houston	L, 2-1				
1972	Rice	Baton Rogue	W, 3-0				
1973	Southern Miss	Hattiesburg	W, 2-0				
1974	Vanderbilt	Baton Rouge	W, 10-5				
1975	Houston	Baton Rouge	L, 12-2				
1976	Houston	Houston	L, 6-5				
1977	Texas A&M	Baton Rouge	L, 15-0				
1978	Texas A&M	Baton Rouge	L, 4-3				
1979	USL	Lafayette	W, 4-3				
1980	Nicholls St.	Baton Rouge	L, 6-2				
1981	Southern Miss	Hattiesburg	L, 5-4				
1982	Southern Miss	Hattiesburg	L, 9-8				
1983	McNeese St.	Baton Rouge	W, 4-3				
1984	Southern Miss	Hattiesburg	W, 7-1				
1985	Central Florida	Orlando	W, 7-0				
1986	Louisiana College	Baton Rouge	W, 8-0				
1987	Louisiana College	Baton Rouge	W, 11-0				
1988	Southern	Baton Rouge	W, 21-1				
1989	TCU	Baton Rouge	W, 8-2				
1990	Wichita St.	Orlando\$	L, 13-6				
1991	Mississippi St.	Baton Rouge\$	W, 6-4				
1992	UNLV	Baton Rouge	W, 3-1				
1993	Northwestern St.	Baton Rouge	W, 8-4				
1994	Auburn	New Orleans*	L, 3-1				
1995 1996	Lamar	New Orleans*	W, 10-6				
1996	W. Kentucky Baylor	Baton Rouge Baton Rouge	W, 9-0				
1998	USL	Baton Rouge	W, 13-2 W, 11-7				
1999	Texas	Baton Rouge	W, 11-7 W, 7-5				
2000	Virginia	Baton Rouge	W, 7-3 W, 8-0				
2000	Kansas St.	Baton Rouge	L, 9-8				
	CA Tournament	Daton Nouge	L, 9-0				
	n-Dixie Showdown, S	Superdome					
	2 3	2.50.000					
Record since 1970: 21-11							

At Baton Rouge: 15-6 On the road: 5-4 At Neutral sites: 1-2

Sweet Home Alex Box

Smoke Laval opens his LSU coaching career tonight in Alex Box Stadium, and he already has an advantage that his two predecessors didn't have.

Jack Lamabe opened his first season in 1979 at USL (now UL-Lafayette), while Skip Bertman opened his career in 1984 at Southern Miss. In both cases, Laval was in the Tigers' dugout, first as a graduate assistant to Lamabe, then as Bertman's top assistant.

Of course, Alex Box has been one of the nation's biggest home field advantage, as the Tigers have led the nation in attendance for the last six years, a fact that is now shown on "The Intimidator", the billboard in right field that trumpets the Tigers' five national championship.

In Skip Bertman's final season, LSU went 27-10 at The Box, bringing the Tigers' record under Bertman at home to a sparkling 547-124-1, good for a .815 winning percentage. The Tigers never had a winning percentage lower than .711 at home in any season under Bertman, and broke the .900 mark in 1985, 1997 and 1998.

The Tigers averaged a per-game record 7,476 fans in 2001, leaving the total attendance mark at home in the Bertman era at 2,587,469, a clip of 4,200 for 616 home dates. Not bad for a program that struggled to draw more than 500 prior to Bertman's arrival.

Super Bowl good luck charms?

It's hard to believe the Super Bowl was only five days before the LSU baseball season opener. One good omen was the fact the New England Patriots were in the big game.

The two previous times the Pats appeared in the big game, LSU set school records for victories, winning 55 games and making LSU's first CWS appearance in 1986 following New England's loss to Chicago in Super Bowl XX, then winning 57 games and the national championship in 1997 when the Pats fell to Green Bay in Super Bowl XXXI. This year, the Pats won the big game over the St. Louis Rams, so LSU may be in for a bonanza.

Another good sign is the game was played in New Orleans. In addition to the aforementioned New England games, LSU reached the CWS in 1990 after Super Bowl XXIV, but the magic extends back before Skip Bertman. In 1975, when Super Bowl IX was held in old Tulane Stadium, the Tigers followed that up by winning 40 games, the SEC championship and making the school's first-ever NCAA regional appearance.





Looking back at 2001

LSU finished 2001 with a 44-22-1 record, the Tigers' 13th consecutive season with 40 or more victories.

- The Tigers finished the season in the top 10 of all three polls, coming in 9th in the Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball polls, while taking the 10th spot in the ESPN/USA Today Baseball Weekly poll.
- > LSU's season ended after going 1-2 against Tulane in the NCAA Super Regional at Zephyr Field in Metairie.
 - > The LSU-Tulane super regional set attendance records, as 35,268 watched the three games, and more than 11,500 attended each of the three games.
 - > LSU is the only SEC teams to reach the super regional each of the three years of its existence. LSU lost in the 1999 Super Regional at Alabama and beat UCLA in the 2000 super regional at Alex Box Stadium.
 - ➤ LSU's NCAA Tournament record now stands at 93-32, good for an all-time best .744 winning percentage. LSU is 64-19 in pre-CWS play and 29-13 at Omaha, where the Tigers' .690 percentage is second only to USC's .704 clip.
- > LSU hosted an NCAA regional for a record 12th consecutive year. The Tigers defeated Minnesota and Virginia Commonwealth twice (losing once to VCU) to advance to the super regional.
 - > LSU has won six consecutive regional titles, the second-longest streak in the NCAA behind Miami's eight consecutive crowns.
 - > LSU improved to 50-9 all-time in NCAA Tournament games at Alex Box Stadium. LSU has not failed to advance from a regional at home since coming in third at the 1995 South Regional.
- For the eighth time since the SEC resumed divisional play in 1992, the Tigers won the SEC Western Division title. The Tigers finished second in the overall SEC race to Georgia.
 - > LSU finished second at the SEC Tournament in Birmingham, the 11th time the Tigers have played in the championship game of the SEC Tournament.
 - > LSU won seven of its 10 SEC series, but lost its final two weekend sets to Arkansas and Auburn, marking the first time since 1988 the Tigers lost their final two conference series of the season.
- > LSU was ranked No. 1 in the ESPN/USA Today Baseball Weekly poll following its three-game sweep of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The Tigers were unceremoniously dumped from the top spot the next weekend when Arkansas swept the Tigers in Fayetteville.
- > LSU produced a pair of first-round draft choices in 2001: 2B Mike Fontenot (19th selection overall by Baltimore) and OF Todd Linden (41st selection by San Francisco).

Other Miscellaneous Notes on the 2001 season:

- > Longest winning streak: 10 games (Feb. 16-Mar. 2). The streak included three-game sweeps of Houston and Duquesne, and two victories over third-ranked Arizona St. in Tempe.
- > Longest losing streak: 3 games, done twice; first from Mar. 6-9 (Southern, Georgia, Tulane), and again May 4-6 at Arkansas.
- Most Games over .500: 23 (36-13-1) following May 1 win at New Orleans.
- > Times under .500: 1 (0-1 after Feb. 10 season-opening loss to Kansas St.)
- > Games won on final at-bat: 3 (Mar. 10 at Georgia in 11 innings, Apr. 28 at Alabama, June 1 at Tulane in 13 innings). LSU also tied their Mar. 4 game at Arizona St. in the 8th inning in a game that was called after 8 innings due to travel restrictions.
- > Games lost on final at-bat: 6 (Feb. 14 to UL-Monroe in 11 innings, Mar. 9 at Georgia in 11 innings, Mar. 11 at Georgia in 11 innings, Apr. 11 at Tulane, May 5 at Arkansas, May 13 vs. Auburn)
- > Tiger pitchers fashioned 27 quality starts (starts of six innings or more where the pitcher allowed no more than four earned runs). Lane Mestepey, the Tigers'







How will Smoke stack up?

Tonight, Smoke Laval begins his tenure as the 23rd coach of the LSU Baseball program. Previous coaches are 18-3-1 in their opening game at LSU, and here's the log of those contests:

Oh	V	0	D				
Coach	Year	Opponent	Result				
E.B. Young	1893	Tulane	W, 10-8				
E. A. Scott	1897	B.R. High	W, 17-11				
A.W. Jeardeau	1898	Centenary	W, 17-13				
C.V. Cusachs	1899	St. Vincent's	W, 10-0				
L.P. Piper	1900	Jeff. Military	T, 12-12				
W.S. Borland	1902	Chamberlain Hunt	W, 7-2				
D.A. Killian	1905	B.R. High	L, 14-0				
J. Phillips	1907	B.R. Reds	L, 9-5				
E.R. Wingard	1908	Chamberlain Hunt	W, 7-2				
J.R. Mayhew	1910	Miss. College	W, 5-2				
Bob Pender	1912	USL	W, 8-4				
Doc Stroud	1914	USL	W, 6-5				
Branch Bocock	1922	Miss. College	L, 7-1				
Moon Ducote	1924	at USL	W, 11-1				
Mike Donahue	1925	Stanacolas	W, 5-2				
Harry Rabenhorst	1927	USL	W, 6-0				
Red Swanson	1943	at Camp Livingston	L, 4-1				
Ray Didier	1957	Southeastern La.	W, 11-2				
Jim Waldrop	1964	Southeastern La.	W, 7-5				
Jim Smith	1966	Delta St.	W, 4-2				
Jack Lamabe	1979	at USL	W, 4-2				
Skip Bertman	1984	at Southern Miss	W, 7-1				
There was no coach listed for the 1895 team.							

There was no coach listed for the 1895 team.

NOTE: Harry Rabenhorst started his second tenure as LSU coach in 1946, defeating Trout-Goodpine, 3-2.

Good starts

With a seven-game homestand on deck to start the 2002 season, the Tigers have the opportunity to get off to a good start and be on their way to a big season.

Here's a look at the Tigers after five games and 10 games under Skip Bertman:

Year	5	10	<u>Finish</u>
1984	3-2	7-3	32-23
1985	5-0	9-1	41-18
1986	4-1	9-1	55-14
1987	4-2	8-2	49-19
1988¹	5-0	10-0	39-21
1989	5-0	9-1	55-17
1990	4-1	6-4	54-19
1991	5-0	9-1	55-18
1992	5-0	8-2	50-16
1993	2-3	7-3	53-17-1
1994	3-2	7-3	46-20
1995	4-1	9-1	47-18
1996 ²	5-0	10-0	52-15
1997³	5-0	10-0	<i>57-13</i>
1998	3-2	6-4	48-19
1999	3-2	8-2	41-24-1
2000	5-0	6-4	52-17
2001	3-2	8-2	44-22-1

NOTE: CWS teams are boldfaced; national championship teams are in bold italics.

- 1—the 1988 team started 12-0.
- 2-the 1996 team started 13-0.
- 3-the 1997 team started 19-0.

Tigers picked to win SEC Title

Skip Bertman may not be in the Tigers' dugout wearing his familiar No. 15 jersey, but the league's coaches don't see LSU's baseball program slipping any time soon.

In its annual pre-season poll of coaches, the Tigers were picked by 9 of the 12 league coaches to win the SEC title. Ole Miss received two votes, while Alabama garnered one vote.

The Tigers were, of course, picked to win the SEC West for the ninth time since the league returned to divisional play. Ole Miss was picked second, followed by Mississippi St., Alabama, Auburn and Arkansas. South Carolina was picked to win the SEC East, followed by Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, Vanderbilt and Kentucky.

For the complete pre-season poll, please consult the SEC Baseball release available in the press box.



2002 LSU (1) BASEBALL



The Bertman Legacy

Skip Bertman retired following the 2001 season and assumed the duties of Athletic Director at LSU. During his 18 years as the Tigers' baseball coach, Bertman led the Tigers to five national championships, 11 CWS berths, seven SEC championships and a stellar 870-330-3 record, good for a .724 winning percentage, the highest in SEC history.

- > Bertman is one of only two coaches, along with USC's Rod Dedeaux, to win at least four national championships.
- > Twenty-eight former Bertman players at LSU have reached the major leagues.
- The Tigers produced eight first-round draft choices during Bertman's tenure.
- ➤ LSU has led the nation in attendance the past six years, a tribute to Bertman's ability to market the LSU baseball program. The Tigers set an NCAA attendance record in 2000 of 286,874, and set a per-game record 7,446 during the 2001 campaign.
- > Bertman's No. 15 jersey was retired prior to the May 11 game vs. Auburn, making him just the fourth athletic figure to have his number retired at LSU. The other people with their jerseys retired is 1959 Heisman Trophy winner Billy Cannon (No. 20) in football and Bob Petitt (No. 50) and Shaquille O'Neal (No. 33) in basketball.
- > Prior to his arrival at LSU, the Tigers had made just one NCAA Tournament appearance (1975). Under Bertman, the Tigers missed the NCAA Tournament only twice, in 1984 and 1988.
- > LSU won 50 games nine times under Bertman. Prior to the Tigers' 55-14 season in 1986, no SEC team had ever won 50 games in a season.
- > Bertman became the first and only coach in SEC history to lead his team to four consecutive SEC championships when the Tigers did so from 1990-93. Bertman's seven SEC titles are second only to Tilden "Happy" Campbell, who guided Alabama to nine titles from 1935-55. Bertman finished his career with a 308-159-2 conference mark, good for a .659 winning percentage in the nation's toughest baseball conference.
- \geq
- > During Bertman's tenure, the 11 other SEC schools upgraded their existing facilities or built new stadiums. LSU is slated to build a new Alex Box Stadium within the next five years.
- > Under Bertman, LSU had a 21-4 record when playing for the national championship (5-0) or the opportunity to advance to the next round.

The Bertman Tree Grows

Skip Bertman's family tree continues to branch out. Three of Bertman's former LSU assistant coaches are head coaches, while several other coaches with ties to Bertman as players or through the Olympics are also head coaches.

Here's a list of the coaches produced by the Bertman pipeline:

Coach	Current Post	Years with Bertman
Smoke Laval	Head Coach at LSU	Assistant (1984-93)
Jim Wells	Head Coach at Alabama	Grad. Assistant (1987-89)
Mike Bianco	Head Coach at Ole Miss	Player (1988-89), Asst. Coach (1993-97)
Mitch Gaspard	Head Coach at Northwestern St.	Player (1985)
Ray Tanner	Head Coach at South Carolina	Olympic Assistant (1996)
Dan Canevari	Pitching Coach at LSU	Player at Miami (1977-79)
Rertman's proté	oés also include Olymnic Assistants	Jerry Weinstein (former coach at Sacramer

Bertman's protégés also include Olympic Assistants Jerry Weinstein (former coach at Sacramento City College) and Dave Snow (former coach at Long Beach St.), and Randy Davis (former coach at La. Tech.)





Notes on the returnees

Here's a look at key returnees for the 2002 season:

#36 OF Sean Barker

Sr.-1L, 6-3, 215, Bakersfield, Calif. (Bakersfield CC)

Transferred to LSU prior to the 2001 season from Bakersfield Community College.

Barker will be counted on heavily to provide power for the LSU offense as the team's everyday right fielder. He split time in 2001 and played mostly against left-handed pitchers.

2001: .338 batting average in 38 games (21 starts); 7 2B, 3 HR, 16 RBI. Batted .355 with 2 HR and 15 RBI in 29 SEC games (15 starts).

- > Was the Tigers' leading pinch-hitter in 2001, collecting 5 pinch-hits in 11 at-bats for a .455 average.
- ➤ Hit his first career home run in win over Duquesne on Feb. 24, a game in which he went 3-for-4 with 2 runs scored and 2 RBI.
- Smacked 3-run pinch-hit HR in Apr. 13 win over Ole Miss, his first home run in SEC competition.
- ➤ Hit home run in SEC Tournament victory over Ole Miss on May 19.

#43 RHP Billy Brian

Sr.-3L. 6-5. 210. Covington (Mandeville HS)

Signed with LSU out of Mandeville High for the 1998 season. Redshirted as a true freshman in 1998.

If healthy, Brian can be a key factor in the Tigers' bullpen in 2002. 2001: 0-0 in 13 appearances (all in relief), 9.00 ERA in 15 innings pitched.

- > Struggled with injuries most of the season.
- > Had his best outing in NCAA Regional game against Virginia Commonwealth on May 26, pitching a scoreless inning to staunch the Rams' momentum and help LSU to a 13-9 victory.
- ➤ Longest stint of season came Feb. 24 against Duquesne, going 3.0 innings and giving up 3 runs (2 earned) on 5 hits and striking out 4.
- > Pitched 2.0 scoreless innings in victory at UL-Monroe on Apr. 26

2000: Appeared in 17 games (7 starts) and fashioned a 6-2 record with a 4.18 ERA in 56.0 innings

- Most important outing came on June 15 in the CWS semifinals against Florida St. Brian pitched 0.2 innings to stymie a Seminole rally and propel LSU to a 6-3 victory and an eventual national championship.
- > Earned first career LSU victory on Feb. 13 vs. Virginia, allowing one run on four hits over 5.0 innings and striking out two.
- > Took loss vs. Arizona St. on Feb. 20 despite career-high 8.0 innings pitched.
- > Struck out career-high 9 in second victory vs. Southern on March 7, going 5.0 innings and giving up one run on five hits.
- > Struck out 8 in 4.0 innings in earning victory at Centenary on Mar. 28
- > Pitched 5.0 hitless innings and fanned 8 in victory over Southern on Apr. 5
- > Allowed one hit in 3.0 innings of relief in NCAA Regional victory over UL-Monroe on May 27.
- > Got win in relief in NCAA Super Regional clincher vs. UCLA on June 3, striking out four over 4.0 innings.

1999: Had no decisions with a 0.96 ERA in 6 appearances (all in relief) over 9.1 innings.

- > Pitched impressively in first career appearance at Tulane on Apr. 14, allowing no earned runs and striking out five over 3.0 innings.
- Gave up one run in 2.1 innings at Alabama on Apr. 18 in first career SEC outing.
- > Hurled 1.2 scoreless innings of relief at Georgia on May 8.



2002 LSU 🕥 BASEBALL



#30 LHP Brad David Jr.-2L, 6-0, 187, Baton Rouge (Catholic HS) Came to LSU for the 1999 season. Redshirted as a true freshman in 1999.

David will be the top lefty out of the LSU bullpen and has shown that he is capable of being a topnotch reliever in the SEC.

2001: Went 2-1 and notched 3 saves. Posted a 4.40 ERA in 30.2 innings pitched over 24 relief appearances.

- Was impressive in 3.0 inning stint vs. Kansas St. on Feb. 11 to earn his first save of the year. In his first outing of 2001, David struck out four and allowed no walks.
- > Had impressive 2.0 inning outing to earn first career victory at Georgia on Mar. 10. David worked the 10th and 11th innings and gave up no runs on two hits and struck out three.
- > Twirled 3.0 innings of scoreless relief in victory over Florida on Mar. 16.
- > Earned second career save at South Carolina on Apr. 6 when he relieved Lane Mestepey and retired the final two batters of the game.
- > Struck out four in 2.0 innings vs. UL-Lafayette on Apr. 10 at Zephyr Field.
- > Struck out a career-high six in 2.2 innings of hitless relief to notch save vs. Northwestern St. on Apr. 17.
- Worked 2.0 scoreless innings in victory at New Orleans on May 1.

2000: Made first career appearance vs. Northwestern St. on Apr. 25 and worked 1.0 scoreless innings in his only outing of the season.

#44 RHP Weylin Guidry

Sr.-3L, 6-0, 205, Luling (Hahnville HS)

Signed with LSU for 1998 season. Redshirted true freshman season of 1998.

Guidry hopes to bounce back from an up-and-down 2001 campaign to regain the form he showed in 2000, when he posted seven saves and was a catalyst for the run to the national championship. 2001: Went 1-3 with a 5.65 ERA in 27 relief appearances totaling 28.2 innings.

- > Was Tigers' lone bright spot in series at Arkansas. Despite a three-game sweep by the Razorbacks, Guidry pitched very well. He hurled 2.2 scoreless innings with a career-high five strikeouts on May 4, then added a scoreless inning on May 6.
- > Worked 2.0 scoreless innings to earn save vs. Houston on Feb. 17 in Game 1 of doubleheader.
- > Pitched well in two outings at Georgia. On Mar. 9, Guidry allowed only one run on one hit in 2.0 innings, then added 1.1 innings of scoreless relief on Mar. 10.
- > Picked up second save in Mar. 17 win over Florida, going 1.2 innings and allowing no hits.
- > Earned only win of season in NCAA Regional game vs. Minnesota on May 25, relieving Lane Mestepey and going 1.0 innings and striking out the side.

2000: Gave the Tigers a consistent closer for the first time in many years, posting seven saves to go along with a 2.68 ERA over 40.1 innings in 31 relief appearances.

- > Earned first career save with spectacular effort on Feb. 18 vs. Arizona St., twirling 3.0 hitless innings.
- > The next day vs. the Sun Devils, Guidry earned another save by giving up no hits in 1.1 innings.
- > Worked 2.2 scoreless innings vs. Georgia on Mar. 10, yielding two hits and striking out four.
- > Earned save at Centenary on Mar. 28, working scoreless 9th inning.
- > Turned in spectacular 2.2 innings of scoreless relief to earn save at Florida in second game of Apr. 15 doubleheader.
- Threw 2.0 innings of scoreless relief to key SEC Tournament championship game victory over Florida on May 21.
- Got save to clinch NCAA Super Regional vs. UCLA on June 3, throwing 1.1 scoreless innings.
- > Made first career appearance vs. Texas on Feb. 13, but did not record an out.
- Worked 2.0 scoreless innings vs. Southern on Mar. 3
- > First SEC outing came at Arkansas on Mar. 19, throwing 0.2 scoreless innings.







#6 OF Matt Heath

Sr.-1L, 6-0, 200, Fernandina Beach, Fla. (Univ. of Florida)

Transferred to LSU from Florida after the 2000 season.

Heath makes the move from catcher to left field for this season, where his potent bat will continue to be a source of power for the Tigers.

2001: Hit .293 in 62 games (57 starts) with 10 HR and 47 RBI. Got off to a slow start due to lingering effects of shoulder surgery.

- > Drove in 19 of his 47 runs with 2 outs.
- > Batted .333 as a right-handed batter and .269 as a left-handed batter.
- > Smacked 3-run homer, his first at LSU, in Feb. 18 win over Houston.
- > Went 2-for-4 with a double, home run and 4 RBI in Feb. 24 victory over Duquesne.
- > Exploded for 4-for-5, 5 RBI night at Arizona St. on Mar. 2, including a grand slam.
- > Had good effort on Apr. 7 at South Carolina, going 2-for-3 with a double, a homer and 3 RBI.
- > Launched game-tying 2-run HR in win at Alabama on Apr. 28
- > Hit his second grand slam of season to highlight 4-for-4 night at New Orleans on May 1.
- > Went 3-for-4 with triple, homer and 3 RBI vs. former team, Florida, on May 16 at SEC Tournament.

#5 SS Aaron Hill

So.-1L, 5-11, 196, Visalia, Calif. (Redwood HS)

Signed with LSU for the 2001 season. Was drafted in the 7th round by the Anaheim Angels. **2001 Freshman All-America**

Hill takes over for three-year starter Ryan Theriot at shortstop after splitting time in the outfield and at designated hitter in 2001.

2001: Batted. 299 in 46 games (34 starts) with 5 HR and 36 RBI.

- > Batted .348 (16-for-46) with runners in scoring position.
- > Collected two hits in each game of the three-game season-opening series with Kansas St. Feb. 10-11, going 6-for-13 (.462) with a double and 2 RBI.
- > Went 4-for-5 with a double and a home run in win at Arizona St. on Mar. 2
- > Went 3-for-5 with 2 RBI in first SEC game at Georgia on Mar. 9.
- > Drove in three runs with 2-for-5 effort at Mississippi St. on Mar. 24
- > Smacked first career grand slam to highlight victory at South Carolina on Apr. 7
- Had 3-run triple in victory over UL-Lafayette on Apr. 10

#27 RHP Justin Hill

Sr.-1L, 6-1, 204, West Monroe (Bossier Parish CC)

Came to LSU for 2001 season from Bossier Parish CC in Bossier City.

Hill was frustrated by injuries in his first year at LSU and missed the final month of the year. If healthy, he should contribute in middle relief.

2001: Went 1-1 with a 6.16 ERA in 18 relief appearances. Did not pitch after Apr. 26.

- > Picked up first career victory vs. Houston in Game 2 of Feb. 17 doubleheader, hurling 2.0 scoreless innings and striking out three.
- > Worked a scoreless 9th inning to notch first career save at Arizona St. on Mar. 2.
- > Had good relief effort in loss to Southern on Mar. 6, allowing no earned runs in 2.0 innings.
- > Had solid 3.1 inning effort for save vs. Southern on Mar. 13, striking out career-high five.
- > Pitched scoreless inning of relief vs. Vanderbilt on Apr. 22.







#46 LHP Lane Mestepey

So.-1L, 6-0, 187, Zachary (Central Private)

Signed with LSU out of Central Private for the 2001 season.

- **2001 SEC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**
- **2001 FIRST-TEAM ALL-SEC**
- **2001 THIRD-TEAM ALL-AMERICA (Collegiate Baseball)**
- **2001 CO-FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR (Collegiate Baseball)**
- **2001 NCAA REGIONAL ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**
- **2002 PRE-SEASON ALL-AMERICAN**

What else can be said about Mestepey that hasn't already? He stands poised for greatness after one of the best freshman seasons ever posted by an LSU hurler, and that's saying a lot considering the pitchers that have taken the hill at Alex Box Stadium in the past 18 years under Skip Bertman. Tiger fans have at least two more years to see Mestepey, so the best is yet to come.

2001: Led the SEC in victories (11) and ERA (3.75), going 11-3 in 22 games (19 starts), pitching 139.1 innings.

- > Allowed two or fewer earned runs in 11 of 19 starts.
- Yielded only 2.39 walks per nine innings.
- > Named SEC Pitcher of the Week on Apr. 16 for sterling Easter Sunday effort vs. Ole Miss. In complete-game victory, Mestepey walked none and scattered nine hits.
- > Four days before the Ole Miss victory, he allowed only one earned run over 7.2 innings against Tulane at Zephyr Field.
- > Got victory in first career start vs. Kansas St. on Feb. 11, giving up six hits in 6.0 innings.
- > Had superb effort in no-decision at Georgia on Mar. 10, giving up one earned run and striking out six in 7.2 innings.
- > Fell just short of shutout on Mar. 24 at Mississippi St., allowing one run and no walks while fanning six over 8.1 innings.
- > First complete-game came vs. Kentucky on Mar. 30, giving up one earned run and striking out five.
- > Did not lose until Apr. 20 vs. Vanderbilt, and even in that loss, he threw a complete game.
- > Turned in spectacular complete-game effort at Alabama on Apr. 27, giving up one earned run and fanning six to start LSU on its way to a three-game sweep in Tuscaloosa. He retired 18 of 19 batters faced in the fourth through eighth innings.
- > Allowed no earned runs over 6.0 innings of victory vs. Ole Miss at SEC Tournament May 17.
- Made last effort of the year his best, going 10.0 innings and striking out six in Super Regional at Tulane, a game LSU won in 13 innings.

Bo Pettit—see page 2 of these notes.

#8 C Chris Phillips

Sr.-1L, 6-0, 217, Shreveport (Northwestern St.)

Transferred to LSU from Northwestern St. for the 2001 season.

Phillips was a valuable backup catcher to Matt Heath in 2001, and figures to be in the catching mix in 2002.

2001: Batted .190 in 25 games (9 starts) with 0 HR and 4 RBI.

- > Collected two hits, including a double, in season opener vs. Kansas St. on Feb. 10
- ➤ Went 2-for-3 with double and 2 RBI in victory over Houston on Feb. 18
- Only SEC start came May 5 at Arkansas.



2002 LSU 🕥 BASEBALL



#31 3B Wally Pontiff
Jr.-2L, 6-0, 200, Metairie (Jesuit HS)
Signed with LSU to play for 2000 season.
2000, 2001 NCAA REGIONAL ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM
2000 SEC TOURNAMENT MVP
2000 FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICAN

Pontiff will be counted on as a team leader this year, as he is the only returning starter in the LSU infield. Pontiff split time between left fielder and designated hitter in 2000 as a freshman.

2001: Batted .347 in 67 games (all starts) with 7 HR and 58 RBI. Batted .302 in 30 SEC games, and led the Tigers with a .362 average in 11 post-season contests.

- > Batted .400 against left-handed pitching.
- > Was one of the Tigers' top clutch hitters, batting .396 with runners on base and .404 with runners in scoring position.
- > Drove in 15 runs with two outs.
- > Batted .353 (12-for-34) in seven NCAA Tournament contests. Earned All-Tournament team honors at the Baton Rouge Regional.
- > Had first 3-hit game of season on Feb. 14 vs. UL-Monroe, going 3-for-5 with a double and a home run.
- > Went 3-for-3 in victory over Nicholls St. on Feb. 27
- > Added another 3-for-3 effort to ledger at Arizona St. on Mar. 3
- > Just missed hitting for the cycle in win over Florida on Mar. 16, going 3-for-5 with a triple, a home run and five RBI.
- > Drove in four runs with 3-for-5 effort, including a 3-run homer, in win over Kentucky on Mar. 31.
- > Smacked two-run homer to pace win over Vanderbilt on Apr. 21.
- > Went 4-for-5 in victory at Alabama on Apr. 28
- > Collected two hits and two RBI vs. Auburn on May 12.
- > Went 4-for-6 to lead Tigers to Super Regional victory at Tulane June 1.

2000: Batted .347 in 61 games (51 starts) with 7 HR and 45 RBI to help LSU win its fifth national championship. Hit .370 with 2 HR and 12 RBI

- > Came alive in the post-season, batting .423 with 4 HR and 17 RBI in the Tigers' undefeated 13-0 post-season march.
- > Hit .615 in SEC Tournament to earn MVP honors. In championship game vs. Florida on May 21, he hit a grand slam to energize Tigers in 9-6 victory.
- > Went 2-for-4 with 2 RBI in victory over Southeastern La. on Feb. 15.
- > Smacked first career home run at Central Florida on May 5.
- > Collected first 4-hit game in 4-for-5 effort with two doubles vs. Georgia on Mar. 11.
- > Hit two home runs and went 2-for-5 with 3 RBI in win at Auburn on Apr. 2
- > Had 3-for-4 effort with 2 RBI in SEC Tournament victory over Alabama on May 18.
- > Went 3-for-4 with home run and 4 RBI to open NCAA Regional vs. Jackson St. on May 26.
- > Followed up that performance by knocking in a career-high six runs in 3-for-6 effort vs. UL-Monroe on May 27.
- > Collected 3-for-5 effort to pace Tigers to regional championship game victory over UL-Monroe on May 28, Smoke Laval's final game with the Indians.
- ➤ Went 3-for-6 to help LSU win Super Regional over UCLA on June 3.
- ➤ Had double in national championship game vs. Stanford on June 17.







#2 CF David Raymer

Sr.-1L, 5-10, 190, Apex, N.C. (Sacramento City College)

Signed with LSU for the 2000 season. Granted medical redshirt in 2000 after breaking collarbone in seventh game of season vs. Arizona St. on Feb. 19.

Raymer is one in a long line of players to come from Sacramento City College, and he will be counted on for leadership in the LSU outfield. Raymer possess good speed and a cannon-like arm and is one of the Tigers' best defensive players.

2001: Batted .324 in 62 games (41 starts) with 4 HR and 30 RBI. Hit .308 in 30 SEC games with 2 HR and 15 RBI.

- > Drove in game-winning run with a 13th-inning sacrifice fly in Super Regional at Tulane on June 1.
- > Went 3-for-4 with a double in victory over Duquesne on Feb. 24
- > Posted 3-for-5 effort with a double in Tigers' 11-inning victory at Georgia on Mar. 10
- > Scored three runs in 2-for-3 effort vs. Kentucky on Mar. 31
- > Had game-winning two-run single at Alabama on Apr. 27
- > Exploded in career-best night vs. Auburn on May 11, going 4-for-5 with 4 RBIs and coming up only a double short of the cycle. Also scored three runs in the 20-5 LSU victory.
- > Had key RBI single to help LSU down Minnesota in NCAA Regional opener on May 25.

2000: Broke his collarbone diving for home plate on Feb. 19 against Arizona St. and was granted a medical redshirt. Started five games and hit .250 with 6 RBI.

- > Laced bases-clearing double to highlight win over Virginia in season opener on Feb. 12
- > Posted an RBI in four of the five games in which he played.
- Collected three doubles in 20 at-bats.
- > Hit safely in all five games prior to injury.

#38 RHP Brian Wilson

So.-1L, 6-1, 205, Londonderry, N.H. (Londonderry HS) Signed with LSU for the 2001 season.

Wilson had the typical inconsistencies expected of true freshman, but he has shown several times he is capable of being a top-notch SEC pitcher. Wilson will have the opportunity to be the Tigers' closer early this season, and his near-100 MPH fastball is intimidating to even the best hitters.

2001: Went 3-2 with a 5.67 ERA in 20 appearances (4 starts) over 39.2 innings.

- Came of age in the post-season, notching a pair of saves and a victory, while allowing three runs in 8.0 innings.
- > Got first career victory vs. New Orleans on Apr. 3, allowing just two runs on four hits in 7.0 innings and striking out four.
- > Notched victory on Apr. 26 at UL-Monroe with solid 3.0 inning relief outing, allowing just one hit and no runs.
- Picked up first career save on Apr. 28 at Alabama, pitching a scoreless ninth inning.
- > Came through with 2.0 innings of scoreless relief at Arkansas on May 6, giving up just one hit despite the Tigers' 4-3 loss.
- > Saved opener of regional vs. Minnesota on May 25 with 1.1 innings of relief.
- > Got save in regional championship game vs. VCU on May 27, allowing one run in 3.2 innings of relief.
- > Earned victory in Super Regional at Tulane on June 1, throwing 3.0 scoreless innings in relief of Lane Mestepey.



2002 LSU 🕥 BASEBALL



2002 LSU GAME-BY-GAME LOG (0-0)

			LSU	Opp.		_	_
<u>Date</u>	Opponent	Score/Time	r-h-e	r-h-e	W-L-SV	T	A
2/2	LSU ALUMNI-3	W, 4-3	4-14-0	3-7-0	TOMPKINS-Greene	2:53	4,842
2/8	BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN	6:30					
2/9	BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN	2					
2/10	BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN	1					
2/12	SOUTHEASTERN LA.	6:30					
2/15	MERCER	6:30					
2/16	MERCER	2					
2/17	MERCER	1					
2/19	at Centenary-1	7					
2/22	at Houston	7					
2/23	at Houston	7					
2/24	at Houston	1					
3/1	LONG BEACH ST.	6:30					
3/2	LONG BEACH ST.	2					
3/3	LONG BEACH ST.	1					
3/5	TULANE	6:30					
3/8	UL-MONROE	6:30					
3/9	UL-MONROE	2					
3/10	UL-MONROE	1					
3/12	UL-LAFAYETTE	6:30					
3/15	VANDERBILT	6:30					
3/16	VANDERBILT	2					
3/17	VANDERBILT	1					
3/19	at UL-Lafayette	6:30					
3/22	at Ole Miss	6:30					
3/23	at Ole Miss	1:30					
3/24	at Ole Miss	1:30					
3/26	at Southeastern La.	6					
3/29		6:30					
	MISS. ST.	2					
3/30 3/31	MISS ST. MISS ST.	1					
1/0	LINO	6.20					
4/2	UNO	6:30					
4/3	at N.O. Zephyrs-2, 3	7:05					
4/5	at Auburn	6:30					
4/6	at Auburn	3					
4/7	at Auburn	1:30					
4/9	at Tulane-2	7					
4/12	GEORGIA	6:30					
4/13	GEORGIA	2					
4/14	GEORGIA	1					
4/16	SOUTHERN	6:30					
4/19	at S. Carolina	7 ET					
4/20	at S. Carolina	4 ET					
4/21	at S. Carolina	1:30 ET					
4/23	at UL-Monroe	6:30					
4/26	ARKANSAS	6:30					
4/27	ARKANSAS	2					
4/28	ARKANSAS	1					
4/30	at New Orleans-2	6:30					
5/3	at Tennessee	7 ET					
5/4	at Tennessee	4 ET					
5/5	at Tennessee	2 ET					
5/10	at Florida	6:30 ET					
5/11	at Florida	4 ET					
5/12	at Florida	1 ET					
5/17	ALABAMA	6:30					
5/18	ALABAMA	2					
5/19	ALABAMA	1					
		*:	SEC TOURNAME	NT AT BIRMIN	IGHAM-MAY 22-25**		

SEC TOURNAMENT AT BIRMINGHAM—MAY 22-25

NCAA REGIONALS—MAY 31-JUNE 2

NCAA SUPER REGIONALS—JUNE 7-9

NCAA COLLEGE WORLD SERIES AT OMAHA—JUNE 14-22

1—at Fair Grounds Field, Shreveport 2—at Zephyr Field, Metairie 3—Exhibition







2002 LSU FIGHTING TIGER BASEBALL ROSTER

(hometown is located in Louisiana unless noted)

No.	Name	Pos	B/T	Ht	Wt	CI-Exp.	Hometown (High School/JC)
1	J.C. Holt	IF	L/R	5-8	163	FR-HS	Sieper (Oak Hill HS)
2	David Raymer	OF	L/R	5-10	190	SR-2L	Apex, N.C. (Sacramento City College)
3	Blake Gill	IF	L/R	5-11	195	FR-RS	Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee HS)
4	Rocky Scelfo	IF	R/R	6-2	195	FR-RS	Youngsville (St. Thomas More HS)
5	Aaron Hill	SS	R/R	5-11	196	S0-1L	Visalia, Calif. (Redwood HS)
6	Matt Heath	OF/C	B/R	6-0	200	SR-1L	Fernandina Beach, Fla. (Florida)
7	Dustin Hahn	OF	L/R	6-0	220	FR-HS	Reno, Nev. (Galena HS)
8	Chris Phillips	С	R/R	6-0	217	SR-1L	Shreveport (Northwestern St.)
9	Dustin Weaver	С	R/R	5-11	180	SO-TR	St. Amant (Southeastern La.)
10	Lukas Guidroz	P	R/R	5-11	180	JR-RS	Lockport (Enterprise St. CC)
12	Jake Tompkins	Р	R/R	5-11	197	JR-JC	Auburn, Calif. (Sacramento City College)
13	Jay Mattox	0F	R/R	6-3	210	FR-HS	Conway, Ark. (Conway HS)
14	Darren Welch	С	R/R	6-1	210	SR-TR	Laurel, Miss. (Southern Miss)
16	Jon Zeringue	С	R/R	6-1	215	FR-HS	Thibodaux (E.D. White HS)
18	David Miller	Р	R/R	6-2	170	SR-RS	Gramercy (Univ. of New Orleans)
21	Clay Harris	P	R/R	6-4	228	FR-HS	Slidell (Slidell HS)
23	Chad Vaught	P	R/R	6-4	225	JR-1L	Ferriday (Huntington Academy)
24	Jeff Lambert	1B	R/R	6-1	225	JR-JC	Metairie (Alabama Southern CC)
25	Jason Vargas	P	L/L	5-11	203	FR-HS	Apple Valley, Calif. (Apple Valley HS)
27	Justin Hill	P	R/R	6-1	204	SR-1L	West Monroe (Bossier Parish CC)
28	David Shank	P	R/R	6-3	207	SR-1L	Orinda, Calif. (Sacramento City College)
29	Jordan Faircloth	Р	R/R	6-3	213	FR-RS	Alexandria (Alexandria Senior HS)
30	Brad David	Р	L/L	6-0	187	JR-2L	Baton Rouge (Catholic HS)
31	Wally Pontiff	3B	L/R	6-0	200	JR-2L	Metairie (Jesuit HS)
33	Jason Determann	P	R/L	5-10	168	FR-HS	Baton Rouge (Catholic HS)
34	Bo Pettit	P	R/R	6-0	205	JR-2L	Houston, Texas (Sharpstown HS)
36	Sean Barker	0F	R/R	6-3	225	SR-1L	Bakersfield, Calif. (Baskersfield CC)
38	Brian Wilson	P	R/R	6-1	205	S0-1L	Londonderry, N.H. (Londonderry HS)
39	Jason Columbus	1B	R/R	6-5	235	JR-JC	Alamogordo, N.M. (New Mexico JC)
43	Billy Brian	P	R/R	6-5	230	SR-3L	Covington (Mandeville HS)
44	Weylin Guidry	P	R/R	6-0	205	SR-3L	Luling (Hahnville HS)
46	Lane Mestepey	P	L/L	6-0	187	S0-1L	Zachary (Central Private School)
47	Eric Wiethorn	1B	R/R	6-2	205	JR-1L	Newport Beach, Calif. (Orange Coast JC)
48	Clint Bamert	P	R/R	6-3	180	FR-HS	Big Spring, Texas (Big Spring HS)
49	Bryson LeBlanc	0F	L/L	5-7	162	FR-HS	Metairie (Ridgewood Prep)
51	Jimmy Campbell	Р	R/R	6-5	225	FR-HS	Mandeville (Fontainbleau HS)
55	J.P. Martinez	P	R/R	6-1	215	FR-RS	Metairie (Isidore Newman School)
56	Mickey Serio	P	R/R	5-10	203	FR-HS	New Orleans (Jesuit HS)
57	Rhett Buteau	0F	L/R	5-9	163	FR-RS	Jeanerette (Catholic-New Iberia HS)
60	Chris McDougall	Р	L/L	6-3	222	FR-HS	Arabi (Jesuit HS)

- 22 Ray "Smoke Laval", Head Coach (Jacksonville, 1977), 1st year as head coach, 13th year at LSU
- 11 Dan Canevari, Pitching Coach (Miami, Fla., 1980), 12th year at LSU
- 17 Henry "Turtle" Thomas, Hitting Coach (High Point, 1975), 3rd year at LSU
- 20 Jody Autery, Volunteer Coach (LSU, 2001), 1st year as Volunteer Coach, 3rd year at LSU
- 26 Brady Wiederhold, Administrative Asst. (Kennesaw St., 1994), 1st year at LSU





