



# 2003 LSU BASEBALL

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## 2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Monday, April 28

Overall Record: 30-13-1

Southeastern Conference Record: 15-5-1 (West division and overall leader)

### Last week's results (4-0):

Wednesday—def. Southeastern Louisiana, 14-8

Friday—def. Tennessee, 17-4

Saturday—def. Tennessee, 10-6

Sunday—def. Tennessee, 15-4

### This week's games (all times CDT):

Tuesday—vs. Tulane at the Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, 7:05 p.m. (live TV on College Sports TV—DirecTV channel 610 only)

Wednesday—New Orleans, 6:30 p.m. (live TV on Cox Sports Television)

Friday—at Mississippi St., 6:30 p.m.

Saturday—at Mississippi St., 3 p.m. (live TV on SEC-TV, Fox Sports Net South and Fox Sports Net Southwest)

Sunday—at Mississippi St., 1:30 p.m. (possible live TV TBA)

**POSITION PLAYER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE:** Sophomore OF Ryan Patterson (5-11, 195, Rowlett, Texas—Texarkana JC, Rowlett High)

### Notes on Patterson:

- Enjoyed a phenomenal week, batting .632 (12-for-19) with seven runs scored, four doubles, two home runs, 10 RBI and a 1.158 slugging percentage to help the Tigers win all four games and score an incredible 56 runs in the process.
- In the three-game sweep of Tennessee, Patterson went 9-for-14 (.643) with seven RBI, six runs scored and a 1.214 slugging percentage. Against the Volunteers, Patterson was also 6-for-8 with runners in scoring position and 3-for-5 with five two-out RBI.
- Patterson's great week allowed him to raise his season batting average from .321 to .358, third on the Tigers behind Clay Harris (.385) and Aaron Hill (.373).
- In 21 SEC games, Patterson is hitting .393 (35-for-89) with 16 RBI and a .629 slugging percentage, helping LSU bat .340 as a team and scored 179 runs in conference games.
- Batting .467 (21-for-45) with runners in scoring position on the year, leading the Tigers in that category.
- Has been one of the most consistent LSU players in the Tigers' potent offense, collecting a base hit in 34 of the 40 games in which he has played. Patterson remains the only LSU player to not



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- go hitless in consecutive games this season.
- Collected at least two hits in every game this week, and had three or more hits in three of the four contests, hammering out at least one extra base hit in every game.
  - Extended his current hitting streak to six games, batting .536 (15-for-28) with 11 RBI, nine runs scored and five doubles during the streak. This marks Patterson's fourth six-game hitting streak this season.
  - Batting a team high .467 (21-for-45) with 13 RBI in the Tigers' last 10 games, and batting .406 (28-for-69) with 19 RBI and 18 runs scored in 16 games in the month of April.
  - Began week by going 3-for-5 with a pair of doubles and three RBI to help the Tigers defeat Southeastern Louisiana, improving LSU to 8-0 at home this year against in-state competition.
  - Went 2-for-5 with two runs scored and an RBI double in Friday's series opening win over Tennessee.
  - Enjoyed best game of his first season in an LSU uniform on Saturday, going 4-for-5 with a solo home run in the first inning to help the Tigers overcome an early 6-1 deficit.
  - Capped off a tremendous weekend by going 3-for-4 with a season high 4 RBI on Sunday, collecting two hits in the Tigers' 11-run fourth inning.
  - Has seen most of his action this year in the second and seventh slots in the order, and has been tremendously consistent, batting .380 in the second spot vs. left-handed pitching and .378 in the seventh spot vs. right-handed pitching.
  - His nine home runs and .623 slugging percentage on the year rank him second in both categories.

#### Patterson's game-by-game line this week

Day	Opponent	Result	Avg.	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB-SBA
Wed.	Southeastern La.	W	.600	5	1	3	2	0	0	3	0-0
Fri.	Tennessee	W	.400	5	2	2	1	0	0	1	0-0
Sat.	Tennessee	W	.800	5	2	4	0	0	1	2	1-1
Sun.	Tennessee	W	.750	4	2	3	1	0	1	4	0-0
<b>WEEKLY TOTALS (4 G)</b>		<b>4-0</b>	<b>.632</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>SEC TOTALS (21 G-21 GS)</b>			<b>.393</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>SEASON TOTALS (40 G-39 GS)</b>			<b>.358</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2-4</b>

**PITCHER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE:** Junior RHP Nate Bumstead (6-2, 215, Las Vegas, Nev.---College of Southern Idaho, Durango High)

#### Notes on Bumstead:

- Continues to be the anchor at the end of the Tigers' SEC rotation, as he is now a perfect 6-0 in conference play with a solid 3.13 ERA, walking just 11 batters and striking out 45 in 46 innings.
- Won his sixth consecutive start on Sunday by defeating Tennessee, giving up two unearned runs and five hits through seven innings while striking out seven.
- After giving up a leadoff single to start the game, Bumstead retired the next nine batters in succession and 12 of the next 13 in the first through fourth innings as LSU built an insurmountable 13-0 lead
- In his six SEC starts, Bumstead has never failed to complete seven innings, and has gone into the eighth inning on three occasions.
- Since joining the SEC rotation, Bumstead has dramatically lowered his ERA from 6.06 to 3.90, cutting that total by a run and a quarter in his last four starts.



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- Is tied with fifth-year senior Bo Pettit for the best record on the LSU staff at 7-1.

### Bumstead's pitching line this week

Day	Opponent (Dec.)	Result	W-L	ERA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Sun.	Tennessee (W)	W	1-0	0.00	7.0	5	2	0	4	7
<b>SEC TOTALS (6 G-6 GS, 1 CG)</b>			<b>6-0</b>	<b>3.13</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>SEASON TOTALS (12 G-8 GS, 1 CG)</b>			<b>7-1</b>	<b>3.90</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>56</b>

### Notes on the week:

- For the second time this season, LSU swept a four-game slate in a single week by defeating Southeastern Louisiana and taking a three-game SEC series from Tennessee. Combined with their Easter Sunday win at Vanderbilt, the Tigers are enjoying a season high five game winning streak, matching a five-game streak from March 2-9 with wins over Long Beach St., Southeastern Louisiana and a three-game sweep of Winthrop.
- The Tigers scored a season high 17 runs in Friday's 17-4 rout of Tennessee, eclipsing the previous season high of 15 done on February 11 against Centenary.
- Two days later, the Tigers tied a season high for hits in a game by pounding out 19 hits in the season finale, tying the season high that was also done in the aforementioned Centenary game in Shreveport.
- Sunday's game featured an 11-run uprising by LSU in the fourth inning, the Tigers' largest one-inning production of 2003, eclipsing the previous high, and a seven-run seventh inning at Georgia on March 22. The Tigers had not scored 10 runs in an inning since plating 14 runs in the third inning of a May 27, 2000 regional game against Louisiana-Monroe. The coach of ULM that day was none other than Smoke Laval, who undoubtedly was feeling much better after Sunday's outburst than he was three years earlier.
- LSU went on an offensive binge in winning all four games this week, scoring 54 runs, and no fewer than 10 in any single game. The four consecutive games with 10 or more runs is the Tigers' longest such binge since February 23-March 3 of 2001, when the Tigers scored 10 or more in six consecutive games—3 vs. Duquesne, 1 vs. Nicholls State and 2 at Arizona State.
- For the season, LSU has now scored 10 or more runs 15 times, and the Tigers are 15-0 in those contests. Dating back to last year, LSU has won 24 consecutive games when scoring 10 or more runs, with the last loss being a 12-11 setback at Houston on February 24 of last season. That loss to the Cougars is the Tigers' only loss in 27 games under coach Smoke Laval when scoring 10 or more runs.
- In the Tennessee series, LSU scored 40 runs in the three-game sweep of the Volunteers, the most runs the Tigers have scored in a three-game series since tallying 49 in sweeping Duquesne on February 23-25, 2001, and the most in an SEC series since piling up 41 in a three-game sweep of Arkansas, April 7-9, 2000.
- The LSU record for most runs in an SEC series is 49, done against Georgia at home March 15-17, 1996, and the most for a non-conference series is 60 against Ohio University from March 5-7, 1999.
- The 40 runs scored against Tennessee are by far the most the Tigers have scored in a series with the Volunteers, eclipsing the old mark of 27 done in 1998.
- Tennessee became the fourth SEC team to yield 10 or more runs to LSU in consecutive games. The other teams were Georgia (12-5, 13-6) on March 22 and 23, Alabama (10-6, 11-10) on March 29 and 30, and Ole Miss (14-6, 13-5) on April 12 and 13.
- LSU continued its dominance of Tennessee, sweeping its third consecutive series in Baton



Rouge over the Vols and improving to 24-2 all-time at home against the Big Orange. Tennessee's only wins in Baton Rouge came in 1973 and 1992, and under Rod Delmonico, Tennessee is just 8-24 vs. LSU. Tennessee's only series wins over LSU were both in Knoxville, in 1993 and 1999, as the Tigers now hold a 36-10 all-time edge.

- The sweep of the Vols was LSU's first SEC sweep at home this year, and continues a streak of 16 consecutive years in which the Tigers have swept at least one SEC foe at home.
- The Tigers won their seventh consecutive SEC home series, improving to 19-2-1 in SEC home games since a 15-4 loss to Mississippi St. last March 29.
- LSU, which also swept Georgia on the road earlier this year, has now swept two or more series in each of the last four years.
- Once again, the Tigers closed out April with a bang. For the third consecutive year, the Tigers swept their final SEC series in the month of April, joining sweeps of Alabama in Tuscaloosa in 2001 and Arkansas at home last year. LSU has not lost a series on the final weekend of April since dropping two at Florida in 1998.
- LSU hit .392 in its sweep of Tennessee, and the reason behind that hot hitting was consistency. Ten different Tigers had at least three hits during the series, while nine different players had at least two RBI, as the Tigers pounded out 47 hits, the most in a three-game series this year.
- Not only did the Tigers post gaudy batting average numbers, but also they got the clutch hits when they needed them. LSU batted an astounding .490 (24-for-49) with runners in scoring position in the sweep of the Vols, and batted .386 (17-for-44) with 25 RBI with two out, scoring an incredible 28 of its 47 runs in the series with two out.
- Eight different LSU players drove in at least two runs with two out in the series, and for the year, LSU has collected 125 of its 296 RBI with two men down.
- For the season, LSU continues to tear the cover off the baseball in SEC games, batting .340 with 179 runs scored in 21 conference games. LSU has slugged 31 home runs and compiled a .538 slugging percentage in league play, while batting .341 in SEC games with runners in scoring position and .326 with 77 RBI with two out.
- As LSU continues to tinker with its lineup, one combination has been an automatic success formula—the insertion of the Harris brothers into the same starting lineup. Sophomore Clay and freshman Will have started seven times in the same lineup for LSU, and in all seven games, the Tigers came out on top. The brother duo was successful again in three of the four wins for LSU this week, with Will not starting Sunday's game, but ironically pinch-hitting for his brother once the Tigers had the game in the bag.
- Speaking of Clay Harris, he couldn't match Ryan Patterson's gaudy numbers this week, but he nonetheless had another solid week by batting .412 (7-for-17) with a home run and nine RBI. Four of those RBI came on Friday night, when Harris drove in a run with a single and later launched a three-run home run, his team leading 10<sup>th</sup> of the year. Harris also went 3-for-5 with two RBI against Southeastern Louisiana on Wednesday and was 2-for-3 with three RBI on Sunday.
- Harris' .395 batting average would lead the Tigers, but he has not played in 75 percent of the Tigers' games this year, which is required by the SEC to lead the conference in hitting. Harris, who also leads LSU in slugging percentage (.749) and RBI (41), should reach the games requirement next weekend if he plays in all five games this week.
- Clay Harris is batting a team leading .415 (34-for-82) with eight doubles, eight home runs, 31 RBI and a stunning .805 slugging percentage in SEC games this year, along with a solid .490 on-base percentage. In his last 10 games, Harris is batting .421 (16-for-38) with 19 RBI. Since he was re-inserted in the starting lineup on March 2, LSU is 24-7-1 following a 6-6 start.
- As for the younger Harris, Will continues to find his way in the SEC, scoring a pair of runs in both



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the Friday and Saturday games against Tennessee while going 1-for-2 with a walk in both contests.

- Surprisingly, the Tigers' big uprisings this week were largely accomplished with a quiet week from junior SS Aaron Hill. Hill batted 3-for-14 against Tennessee and 4-for-17 on the week, but he still managed to contribute a pair of RBI on Sunday and three on Friday to give him 39 on the year, two behind Clay Harris for the team lead. Hill still leads LSU in runs scored (44), doubles (18), walks (33), stolen bases (8) and on-base percentage (.493), while batting a solid .375 on the year.
- Hill is tied with Clay Harris in batting average in the SEC at .415, as both players are an identical 34-for-82. Hill has 12 doubles and 21 RBI in the SEC, plus a .515 on-base percentage.
- Another hot hitter for the Tigers is a player who was thought to be on the decline a little over a month ago. Sophomore RF Jon Zeringue capped off a tremendous stretch by collecting his first four-hit game on Sunday with a 4-for-4, 3-run effort. Zeringue was one of three LSU players to collect two hits in an 11-run fourth inning, as the Thibodaux native finished the four games this week with a solid .471 batting average (8-for-17) with seven runs scored. Zeringue is now batting .380 with 13 RBI and a .690 slugging percentage in SEC games.
- In the Tigers' last 10 games, Zeringue is batting .429 (18-for-42) with a solid .478 on-base percentage, and in the month of April, Zeringue paces the Tigers with a .413 batting average (26-for-63) with 13 runs scored and a .587 slugging percentage. For the year, Zeringue's average stands at .326, the highest it has been since it was at .333 way back on February 14.
- In the Tigers' last 22 games, when Zeringue was re-inserted into the starting lineup, he is hitting .393 (35-for-89) with seven home runs, 19 RBI and a .708 slugging percentage. Zeringue's return to the lineup has also energized his teammates, who are batting .326 with 185 runs scored and 31 home runs in the Tigers' last 22 contests.
- On the surface, it didn't appear that sophomore 2B Blake Gill had a hot week, batting .263 (5-for-19) in the four games, including a .200 mark in the Tennessee series. But what Gill lacked in quantity he made up for with consistency, hitting safely in every game to extend his career high hitting streak to 10 games, making him the fifth LSU player to have a hit streak of 10 or more games this year. Gill, who is batting .395 (17-for-43) during the streak, joins Ivan Naccarata (19), Aaron Hill (13), Matt Liuzza (12) and J.C. Holt (10) as Tigers with double figure hitting streaks this year.
- In his last 10 games, Gill is batting .395 (17-for-43) with 11 RBI, including two in the Tigers' games last Wednesday and Saturday. Once mired in a 2-for-29 slump that dragged his average down to .238, Gill is now batting a solid .313 on the year with 35 RBI. Gill's biggest improvement has come against left-handed pitching, batting .316 (25-for-79) vs. southpaws this year after going just 3-for-26 (.115) against lefties in 2002.
- Although freshman catcher Matt Liuzza's streak of consecutive baserunners caught stealing ended at six on Friday, Liuzza more than made up for it at the plate by going 4-for-7 with six runs scored, five RBI and a cool .636 on-base percentage in the three-game sweep of Tennessee. Liuzza was 2-for-2 with a double, two RBI and three runs scored on Sunday, as he collected two hits in the 11-run fourth inning.
- Sophomore OF Bruce Sprowl made quite a splash against Tennessee on Friday, hitting his first LSU home run in the bottom of the first inning to tie the game at 1-1. Sprowl, who grew up in Knoxville and played for his uncle, former major league pitcher Bobby Sprowl, at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa last year, went 6-for-14 with 5 RBI in the Tennessee series to pull out of a slight slump and leave his average back at .309.
- Following a 3-for-4 effort on Sunday, Sprowl will open the week on a seven-game hitting streak, batting .323 (10-for-31) during the streak.



- Another first was achieved by sophomore OF Rhett Buteau, who collected his first career hit in an LSU uniform on Friday. Buteau, who has been in the LSU program for three years but has been primarily used as a pinch runner, saw significant playing time in the outfield in the first and third games of the Tennessee series with the Tigers in command of both games.
- Even though he didn't start two of the three games against Tennessee, junior 3B Ivan Naccarata still found ways to contribute, giving him confidence for the stretch run. Naccarata batted .600 (3-for-5) with three RBI and a .750 on-base percentage in limited action in the Tennessee series. Naccarata was 2-for-2 with a two-run double on Friday.
- On the mound, freshman RHP Justin Meier finally got the support he needed to break a two-game losing streak and improve to 5-2 on the year, as he went 7 2/3 innings and yielded four runs on nine hits on Friday. Prior to Friday's 17-run outburst, Meier had lost starts to Ole Miss and Vanderbilt, games in which the Tigers combined for four runs in the two games. The 17 runs scored by LSU were as many as LSU had scored in Meier's previous five starts combined.
- Saturday's game provided another chapter in the up and down tale of Bo Pettit. The fifth-year senior again gave up four runs in the first inning, three on an inside the park home run by Javi Herrera, and fell behind 6-1 through three, but once again, Pettit cruised through the middle and late innings, eventually going eight innings to improve to 7-1 on the year.
- In the first inning this year, Pettit has a 13.00 ERA, giving up 13 runs on 11 hits in nine innings, but then his ERA drops steadily, and from the fifth inning on, Pettit has an ERA of 1.50, giving up just five earned runs in 30 innings in the latter stages of a game. Nonetheless, Pettit now has 25 career victories for LSU, 10<sup>th</sup> on the career list.
- To close Saturday's game, junior RHP Billy Sadler threw a scoreless ninth inning, and he has not allowed a run in his last five outings, totaling 6 1/3 innings. For the year, Sadler has made a team high 17 appearances, 16 out of the Tiger bullpen.
- As an aside, the inside the park home run by Herrera was the first at Alex Box Stadium since LSU's Cedrick Harris hit one against Nicholls St. on March 17, 1999, and the first yielded by LSU since Arkansas' Brent Caldwell hit one off of Doug Thompson at The Box on March 21, 1998.
- With gorgeous spring weather gracing Baton Rouge this weekend, fans turned out in season high numbers for the Tigers' sweep of the Volunteers, with a total paid attendance of 24,039 for the series, including a season high of 8,310 on Saturday, the fifth highest paid attendance in Alex Box Stadium history. Combined with Friday's announced crowd of 8,042, LSU has had three crowds of 8,000 or more at The Box (8,132 on opening night vs. Northwestern St.) and 13 all-time, all since 2000.

#### On deck for this week:

- The Tigers' hectic week starts in the building known as the "world's largest room", as the Tigers head to the Big Easy to take on archrival Tulane in the Louisiana Superdome on Tuesday. The game is officially considered a neutral site game, with ticket revenue being distribute evenly, unlike last year, when the game was a Tulane home game, with most ticket proceeds going to the Green Wave.
- Last year's game, of course, drew an NCAA record paid crowd of 27,673 to watch the Tigers' 9-5 victory on April 10, although the actual attendance of 25,101 would have also broken the old record of 24,859 set in 1999 at the College World Series. The last nine LSU-Tulane games in New Orleans have drawn more than 10,000 fans, including the 10,870 who came to Zephyr Field to watch the Green Wave win 5-4 in 11 innings on March 11.
- The Tigers not only carry the momentum of their current winning streak to Poydras Street, but also the momentum from the 8-0 thrashing they administered the Green Wave on April 15 in Baton Rouge, a game in which LSU hurler Jake Tompkins limited the Wave to one hit through five innings



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and struck out seven, while Tulane got a season low two hits off of LSU. Tompkins is scheduled to start Tuesday's game as well.

- Tuesday's game marks the 274<sup>th</sup> edition of the LSU-Tulane rivalry, with the Tigers holding a 154-116-3 edge. The series is the oldest intercollegiate athletic rivalry for both schools in any sport.
- Almost as an afterthought, the Tigers return home on Wednesday to host New Orleans. The Privateers have skidded in Sun Belt Conference play, but can rectify their season by completing their first season sweep of LSU since 1997. UNO defeated LSU on March 25 at Zephyr Field, 5-4, as Drew Pizza singled home the winning run in the bottom of the ninth, breaking the Tigers' 10-game winning streak over the Privateers.
- It's back to the SEC on the weekend, as the Tigers head to Starkville to take on Mississippi State in a series that could well draw 10,000 or more fans for each of the three games at historic Dudy Noble Field. The Tigers will be going to a place where they have enjoyed recent success, winning the last two series, 2 games to 1, but the Bulldogs have a sizable 104-54-1 edge at home.
- This will mark the first time Ron Polk has hosted LSU in Starkville since his return to the Bulldog bench in 2002. Polk has the distinction of being the only SEC coach with a winning record against LSU, going 62-46 against the Tigers since his first stint at MSU from 1976 through 1997.
- Last year, LSU and MSU split a pair of games in Baton Rouge, with the rubber match rained out. The first game was a Bulldog blowout, 15-4, but the Tigers recovered for a 7-3 win in a game that became the turning point for LSU's season, as it launched a 28-8 run that landed the Tigers in a super regional for the fourth straight year.



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