

**2005 Schedule/Results (7-0, 0-0 SEC)**

| Date            | Opponent                           | Time/Result  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>February</b> |                                    |              |
| 11 (Fri.)       | NICHOLLS STATE                     | W, 12-1      |
| 12 (Sat.)       | NICHOLLS STATE                     | W, 19-2      |
| 13 (Sun.)       | NICHOLLS STATE                     | W, 6-3       |
| 15 (Tue.)       | UL-MONROE                          | W, 9-6       |
| 18 (Fri.)       | ARK.-LITTLE ROCK                   | W, 4-2       |
| 19 (Sat.)       | ARK.-LITTLE ROCK                   | W, 11-8      |
| 20 (Sun.)       | ARK.-LITTLE ROCK                   | W, 15-9      |
| 25 (Fri.)       | at Houston                         | 7 p.m.       |
| 26 (Sat.)       | at Houston                         | 7 p.m.       |
| 27 (Sun.)       | at Houston                         | 1 p.m.       |
| <b>March</b>    |                                    |              |
| 2 (Wed.)        | at Centenary                       | 7 p.m. %     |
| 4 (Fri.)        | UAB                                | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 5 (Sat.)        | UAB                                | 2 p.m.       |
| 6 (Sun.)        | UAB                                | 1 p.m.       |
| 8 (Tue.)        | TULANE                             | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 11 (Fri.)       | ARIZONA STATE                      | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 12 (Sat.)       | WESTERN ILLINOIS                   | 4 p.m.       |
| 13 (Sun.)       | ARIZONA STATE                      | 4 p.m.       |
| 15 (Tue.)       | at New Orleans                     | 6:30 p.m. #  |
| 18 (Fri.)       | at Georgia                         | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 19 (Sat.)       | at Georgia                         | 3 p.m.       |
| 20 (Sun.)       | at Georgia                         | Noon         |
| 23 (Wed.)       | Southeastern La.                   | 6:30 p.m. \$ |
| 25 (Fri.)       | AUBURN                             | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 26 (Sat.)       | AUBURN                             | 2 p.m.       |
| 27 (Sun.)       | AUBURN                             | 1 p.m.       |
| 29 (Tue.)       | NEW ORLEANS                        | 6:30 p.m.    |
| <b>April</b>    |                                    |              |
| 1 (Fri.)        | at Alabama                         | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 2 (Sat.)        | at Alabama                         | 4 p.m.       |
| 3 (Sun.)        | at Alabama                         | 2 p.m.       |
| 5 (Tue.)        | at Nicholls State                  | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 6 (Wed.)        | Rice                               | 7 p.m. \$    |
| 8 (Fri.)        | SOUTH CAROLINA                     | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 9 (Sat.)        | SOUTH CAROLINA                     | 2 p.m.       |
| 10 (Sun.)       | SOUTH CAROLINA                     | 1 p.m.       |
| 12 (Tue.)       | NORTHWESTERN STATE                 | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 15 (Fri.)       | OLE MISS                           | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 16 (Sat.)       | OLE MISS                           | 2 p.m.       |
| 17 (Sun.)       | OLE MISS                           | 1 p.m.       |
| 19 (Tue.)       | at Tulane                          | 7 p.m. \$    |
| 22 (Fri.)       | at Arkansas                        | 7:05 p.m.    |
| 23 (Sat.)       | at Arkansas                        | 3:05 p.m.    |
| 24 (Sun.)       | at Arkansas                        | 1:05 p.m.    |
| 29 (Fri.)       | at Vanderbilt                      | 6 p.m.       |
| 30 (Sat.)       | at Vanderbilt                      | 2 p.m.       |
| <b>May</b>      |                                    |              |
| 1 (Sun.)        | at Vanderbilt                      | 1 p.m.       |
| 3 (Tue.)        | SOUTHERN                           | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 6 (Fri.)        | KENTUCKY                           | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 7 (Sat.)        | KENTUCKY                           | 2 p.m.       |
| 8 (Sun.)        | KENTUCKY                           | 1 p.m.       |
| 13 (Fri.)       | TENNESSEE                          | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 14 (Sat.)       | TENNESSEE                          | 3 p.m.       |
| 15 (Sun.)       | TENNESSEE                          | Noon         |
| 20 (Fri.)       | at Mississippi State               | 6:30 p.m.    |
| 21 (Sat.)       | at Mississippi State               | 2 p.m.       |
| 22 (Sun.)       | at Mississippi State               | 1:30 p.m.    |
| 25-29           | SEC Tournament (Hoover, Ala.)      |              |
| <b>June</b>     |                                    |              |
| 3-5             | NCAA Regional (sites TBA)          |              |
| 10-12/11-13     | NCAA Super Regional (sites TBA)    |              |
| 17-26/27        | College World Series (Omaha, Neb.) |              |

% - Fair Grounds Field # - Maestri Field  
\$ - Zephyr Field

**LSU BASEBALL**

Weekend Release No. 3 • at Houston

February 25, 26 and 27, 2005 • 7 p.m., 3 p.m., 1 p.m.  
Houston, Texas • Cougar Field (3,500)**Tigers Take On Houston In First Road Series**

Second-ranked LSU (7-0) plays away from Alex Box Stadium for the first time the season as the Tigers travel to Houston (2-6) this weekend for a three-game series at Cougar Field. Game 1 begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Game 2 is set for 3 p.m. Saturday and Game 3 will be played at 1 p.m. Sunday. Games 1 and 3 on Friday and Sunday can be heard statewide on the LSU Sports Network (WDGL-FM 98.1 in Baton Rouge). Game 2 on Saturday can be heard in Baton Rouge only on WTGE 107.3 FM. The Saturday and Sunday games will be televised statewide by the Jumbo Sports Network. The Baton Rouge affiliates for JSN are WGMB Fox 44 (Cable Ch. 6) on Saturday and WVLA NBC 33 (Cable Ch. 3) on Sunday. All three games can also be heard on the Internet at [www.LSUsports.net](http://www.LSUsports.net).

LSU has a 7-0 record for the first time since 1997, when the Tigers began the season 19-0 and went on to win the NCAA title. The Tigers swept a three-game series last weekend from Arkansas-Little Rock of the Sun Belt Conference, collecting 30 runs on 38 hits.

Laval will send senior left-hander Lane Mestepey (2-0, 0.66 ERA) to the mound on Friday. Mestepey defeated UALR last Friday, limiting the Trojans to one run on four hits in 6.2 innings with one walk and five strikeouts. Mestepey has worked 395.1 innings during his career and needs just three innings to become LSU's all-time leader in innings pitched. Houston coach Rayner Noble is expected to counter Friday with sophomore right-hander Brad Lincoln (0-1, 5.84 ERA), who has recorded five walks and eight strikeouts in 12.1 innings this season. Lincoln dropped an 8-2 decision to LSU last season (March 7) in Alex Box Stadium, surrendering five runs on 11 hits in five innings with one walk and one strikeout. Sophomore left-hander Clay Dirks (2-0, 3.27 ERA) will start Saturday's contest for LSU and junior left-hander Greg Smith (2-0, 3.38 ERA) takes the mound on Sunday.

TV: Jumbo Sports Network (Lyn Rollins, Ronnie Rantz); Saturday and Sunday only

Radio: LSU Sports Network (Charles Hanagriff, Bill Franques); Saturday only in Baton Rouge

**Pitching Matchups****Game 1**

LSU - Sr. LHP Lane Mestepey (2-0, 0.66 ERA, 13.2 IP, 1 BB, 9 SO)  
UH - Jr. LHP Matt Farrington (1-0, 6.00 ERA, 9.0 IP, 3 BB, 7 SO)

**Game 2**

LSU - So. LHP Clay Dirks (2-0, 3.27 ERA, 11.0 IP, 3 BB, 9 SO)  
UH - So. RHP Brad Lincoln (0-1, 5.84 ERA, 12.1 IP, 5 BB, 8 SO)

**Game 3**

LSU - Jr. LHP Greg Smith (2-0, 3.38 ERA, 5.2 IP, 3 BB, 15 SO)  
UH - Sr. RHP Gene Flores (0-2, 3.68 ERA, 7.1 IP, 1 BB, 4 SO)

| Pos. | Player            | Cl.-Exp. | B/T | Avg. | HR | RBI | Notable                                   |
|------|-------------------|----------|-----|------|----|-----|---|
| C    | Matt Liuzza       | Jr.-2L   | R/R | .250 | 1  | 2   | 2005 Preseason All-American               |
| 1B   | Will Harris       | Jr.-2L   | R/R | .476 | 0  | 6   | Team-high batting average and hits (10)   |
| 2B   | Clay Harris       | Sr.-3L   | R/R | .417 | 1  | 6   | Leads team with 17 total bases            |
| SS   | Derek Hebert      | Sr.-1L   | L/R | .294 | 1  | 4   | Started 21 games at SS in 2004            |
|      | Michael Hollander | Fr.-HS   | R/R | .500 | 0  | 6   | .424 BA in fall games                     |
| 3B   | Bryan Harris      | So.-RS   | R/R | .250 | 0  | 5   | Earned medical redshirt in 2004           |
| LF   | Ryan Patterson    | Sr.-2L   | R/R | .364 | 0  | 3   | 2005 Player of the Year Wallace Watch     |
| CF   | Bruce Sprowl      | Jr.-1L   | L/R | .261 | 1  | 5   | Redshirt in 2004, Started 61 games in '03 |
| RF   | Nick Stavinoha    | Sr.-1L   | R/R | .389 | 2  | 10  | Team-high .778 OB percentage              |
| DH   | Blake Gill        | Sr.-3L   | L/R | .450 | 0  | 4   | Currently holds 20-game hitting streak    |

**LSU**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Record</b>        | 7-0 (0-0 SEC)   |
| <b>Ranking</b>       | No. 2 Baseball America<br>No. 3 Collegiate Baseball<br>No. 2 ESPN/Sports Weekly |
| <b>Coach</b>         | Smoke Laval   |
| <b>Career Record</b> | 383-222-1 (.633/11th year)  |
| <b>LSU Record</b>    | 142-63-1 (.693/fourth year)   |
| <b>Laval vs. UH</b>  | 4-4   |
| <b>Team BA</b>       | .348  |
| <b>Team ERA</b>      | 3.43  |

**Houston**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Record</b>        | 2-6 (0-0 C-USA)  |
| <b>Ranking</b>       | NR Baseball America<br>NR Collegiate Baseball<br>NR ESPN/Sports Weekly |
| <b>Coach</b>         | Rayner Noble   |
| <b>Career Record</b> | 363-259 (.584/11th year)   |
| <b>UH Record</b>     | 363-259 (.584/11th year)   |
| <b>Noble vs. LSU</b> | 8-9  |
| <b>Team BA</b>       | .270   |
| <b>Team ERA</b>      | 5.25   |

## Tracking the Tigers

| Week      | BA | CB | ESPN/SW |
|-----------|----|----|---------|
| Preseason | 2  | 5  | 4       |
| Feb. 7    | 2  | 5  | 3       |
| Feb. 14   | 2  | 5  | 3       |
| Feb. 21   | 2  | 3  | 2       |

## Baseball America (Feb. 21)

1. Tulane (7-0)
2. **LSU (7-0)**
3. Texas (11-0)
4. Cal State Fullerton (5-1)
5. South Carolina (6-0)
6. Georgia (3-0)
7. Miami (Fla.) (8-2)
8. Baylor (5-2)
9. Arizona (9-1)
10. North Carolina (4-0)
11. Texas A&M (5-2)
12. Florida (5-2)
13. Stanford (7-5)
14. Rice (7-1)
15. Ole Miss (3-1)
16. Vanderbilt (2-0)
17. Georgia Tech (5-1)
18. UC-Irvine (6-2)
19. Washington (1-4)
20. Notre Dame (3-1)
21. Winthrop (8-1)
22. Southern Cal (4-0)
23. Florida State (11-1)
24. TCU (5-2)
25. Oral Roberts (4-2)

## Collegiate Baseball (Feb. 21)

1. Texas (11-0)
2. Tulane (7-0)
3. **LSU (7-0)**
4. North Carolina (4-0)
5. South Carolina (6-0)
6. Cal State Fullerton (5-1)
7. Rice (7-1)
8. Miami (Fla.) (8-2)
9. Georgia (3-0)
10. Arizona (9-1)
11. Stanford (7-5)
12. Texas A&M (5-2)
13. Georgia Tech (5-1)
14. Florida State (11-1)
15. Southern Cal (4-1)
16. Baylor (5-2)
17. Ole Miss (3-1)
18. Florida (5-2)
19. Mississippi State (0-0)
20. UC-Irvine (6-2)
21. Notre Dame (3-1)
22. Wichita State (6-0)
23. Arkansas (6-1)
24. Winthrop (8-1)
25. Oklahoma State (7-3)

## In the Polls

After earning a sweep of Arkansas-Little Rock, LSU moved up in two of the three major polls this week. The Tigers jumped to No. 2 in ESPN/Sports Weekly, after previously holding the No. 3 position for the past two weeks. LSU also moved up two spots to No. 2 in Collegiate Baseball's rankings for Feb. 21. The Tigers are still ranked second by Baseball America, a position they have held since the preseason poll.

## Back to 1997

LSU has a 7-0 record for the first time since 1997, when the Tigers began the season 19-0 and went on to win the NCAA title. LSU didn't lose its first game until reaching Southeastern Conference play, dropping an 11-9 decision at Georgia in Game 2 of the second league series of the season. The 19-0 start propelled the Tigers to a school-record 57 wins. Since then, the previous best start was a 6-0 beginning during the 2000 season. Last year, LSU won its first two games before losing to Central Florida in the season-opening series finale.

## Scouting Houston

Houston has lost six of its eight games; however, the Cougars have played five games against Top 25 clubs, including No. 7 Rice (twice), No. 9 Texas A&M, No. 10 Baylor and No. 23 Oklahoma State. Last weekend, Houston dropped two of three games at home to Pepperdine, before falling to Rice for the second time this season in extra innings on Tuesday at Reckling Park. The Cougars opened the season at the always competitive Minute Maid Classic at the home of the Houston Astros. Houston returns 13 letterwinners from a squad that finished 30-29 (19-11 in C-USA) last season. Returning junior outfielder Travis Tully is the leading hitter on the squad, posting a .379 average (11-for-29) with one homer and five RBI through the first eight games. Tully tied a career high with four hits against Rice on Feb. 15. Sophomore right-hander Brad Lincoln (0-1, 5.84), who has recorded five walks and eight strikeouts in 12.1 innings this season, will start Friday night's game. Lincoln dropped an 8-2 decision to LSU last season (March 7) in Alex Box Stadium, surrendering five runs on 11 hits in five innings with one walk and one strikeout. Head coach Rayner Noble will decide the rest of the rotation later on in the weekend. Noble, in his 11th season at Houston, has compiled 363-259 record in his previous 10 seasons.

## The LSU-Houston Series

Houston leads the overall series between the two, 21-14 since the series began in 1975, but the Tigers hold a 6-4 advantage in the last 10 meetings. LSU head coach **Smoke Laval** is 4-4 all-time against the Cougars, while Houston head coach Rayner Noble holds an 8-9 record against the Tigers. LSU defeated the Cougars in two out of three games at Alex Box Stadium last season. The Tigers won on Friday night, 9-3 and then fell to UH on Saturday by a score of 10-5. LSU took the rubber game in an 8-2 victory on Sunday. LSU last visited Houston in 2002, losing two of three games (3-11, 8-4, 11-12). In that series finale, the Cougars scored three runs on three critical Tiger errors in the ninth to win the series. The schools have met every year since 2000.

## Mestepey Three Innings Shy of LSU Career Innings Pitched Mark

Senior left-hander **Lane Mestepey** is just three innings away from becoming LSU's all-time leader in innings pitched. Mestepey has worked 395.1 innings in his career, just shy of the record of 398 innings held by Scott Schultz (1992-95). The Zachary, La. native is currently seventh all-time in the SEC record books for innings pitched. He can move into fifth place on the list if he eclipses the 400 mark set by Ryan Halla of Auburn (1993-96). South Carolina's Kip Bouknight (1998-01) holds the all-time SEC innings pitched record of 482.

## SEC Career Innings Pitched

| Player                                      | Innings      |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Kip Bouknight, USC (1998-01)             | 482.0        |
| 2. John Powell, Auburn (1990-94)            | 477.0        |
| 3. R.A. Dickey, Tennessee (1994-96)         | 434.0        |
| 4. Jeff Brantley, Miss. State (1982-85)     | 427.0        |
| 5. Ryan Halla, Auburn (1993-96)             | 400.0        |
| 6. Scott Schultz, LSU (1992-95)             | 398.0        |
| 7. <b>Lane Mestepey, LSU (2001-present)</b> | <b>381.2</b> |

## Mestepey Closes In On All-Time Wins Record

Senior southpaw **Lane Mestepey** eclipsed the 30-win plateau in his season-opening victory over Nicholls State and then won his 31st game versus Arkansas-Little Rock last Friday night. He is just seven wins shy of tying Scott Schultz's mark (38) for LSU career victories. His 31 wins are currently tied for third with current Anaheim Angels pitcher Paul Byrd (1989-91). He is two wins away from tying Stan Loewer (1984-87) for second place with 33. Mestepey is also two wins away from entering the SEC's all-time top 10 in pitching victories. South Carolina's Kip Bouknight (1998-01) and Mississippi State's Jeff Brantley (1982-85) hold the all-time record with 45 career wins.

## Career Pitching Victories

| Player                              | Wins      |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Scott Schultz (1992-95)          | 38        |
| 2. Stan Loewer (1984-87)            | 33        |
| t3. Paul Byrd (1989-91)             | 31        |
| <b>Lane Mestepey (2001-present)</b> | <b>31</b> |

## First Inning Barrages

A common theme for LSU has been first inning uprisings. The Tigers have outscored their opponents 23-3 in the first inning on the season and have typically put games away from the start. LSU jumped out to early leads in Game 1 and Game 3 last weekend against Arkansas-Little Rock. Six run innings in the first and sixth gave LSU a commanding 12-0 lead on Sunday. LSU put up a seven-run first in the Game 2 versus Nicholls State on Feb. 12.

## Gill's Hitting Streak Reaches 20 Games

Senior **Blake Gill** has hit safely in all five games he has played in this season, moving his hitting streak up to 20 games. Gill's streak, which began versus Vanderbilt on May 15 last season is the longest of his career and the longest since head coach **Smoke Laval** took over the program. With one more hit, Gill will tie **Cedrick Harris'** 21-game span set during the 1999 and 2000 seasons. Gill had a superb outing versus UL-Monroe on Feb. 15, going 4-for-5 with two runs and one RBI. It was the second four-hit game of his career.

### Longest Hitting Streaks (past six seasons)

| Player                      | Streak    |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Brad Cresse (1999-2000)     | 24        |
| Cedrick Harris (1999-2000)  | 21        |
| <b>Blake Gill (2004-05)</b> | <b>20</b> |
| Ivan Naccarata (2003)       | 19        |
| Wally Pontiff (2001-02)     | 19        |

## Bayou City Homecoming For Stavinoha

Senior right-fielder **Nick Stavinoha** returns to his hometown this weekend, competing against a school he once played for on the football field. Stavinoha served as the Cougars deep snapper during the 2000 season and even visited Tiger Stadium in the Houston's 28-13 loss to LSU on Sept. 9. Stavinoha finally decided to turn his attention to baseball, enrolling at one of the nation's premier junior college programs, San Jacinto, on the outskirts of the city. Stavinoha had a prolific two-year span, smashing 37 career homers and 132 RBI to earn JUCO all-American, all-conference and all-region honors. In 2003, he led San Jacinto to the 2003 JUCO World Series championship game and batted .333 with a tournament-high four homers and 21 total bases. Stavinoha was an all-state catcher and linebacker at Jersey Village High School in Houston. In seven games this season, he is batting .389 with a team-high two homers and 10 RBI. Last week, Stavinoha hit .500 (6-for-12), with one double, one homer, five runs and six RBI in five games.

## Texas Tigers

Five LSU players are natives of the state of Texas, including **Nick Stavinoha** and **Will Goodwin**, who both call Houston home. Outfielders **Ryan Patterson** and **Quinn Stewart** both hail from Rowlett, Texas and played junior college ball in the state before enrolling at LSU. Freshman third baseman **J.P. Padron** is from League City, Texas, just 26 miles south-east of Houston. Padron prepped at Clear Creek High School and earned all-state, all-district recognition before being drafted by Pittsburgh in the 12th round of the 2004 Major League Draft. Baseball America recognized Padron as one of Texas' "best raw power hitters" in high school.

## Injury Report

LSU enters the 2005 season relatively healthy. Sophomore right-hander **Michael Bonura** will miss the entire 2005 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery during the offseason. In 2004, Bonura played a valuable role as a freshman in the LSU bullpen, posting a 4.46 ERA in 34.1 innings and 31 strikeouts. JUCO transfer pitcher **Daniel Forrer** will also sit out the 2005 campaign suffering a shoulder injury in the offseason. A shoulder injury will also keep senior **Blake Gill** from playing the infield the first month of the season. Gill will be limited to the designated hitter role until March, and senior **Derek Hebert** and freshman **Michael Hollander** will platoon at shortstop. Freshman prospect **Nolan Cain** underwent Tommy John surgery at the beginning of February and will also miss the 2005 season.

## "Country Strong" Mayer Shines in Debut

Freshman designated hitter **Jordan Mayer** was brilliant in his LSU debut on Feb. 12 in a Game 2 win over Nicholls State. the Alexandria, La. native did not disappoint. Mayer, who redshirted in 2004, went 2-for-3 with a triple, a homer and six RBI in his first game as a Tiger. The six RBI are the most by an LSU freshman since Blake Gill accomplished the feat on April 14, 2002 at Georgia. In his first at-bat, Mayer drilled a three-run triple off of the centerfield wall to give the Tigers a 5-0 lead in the first. He later collected his first career homer, sending a three-run shot over the left-field wall. Mayer, who head coach **Smoke Laval** admirably refers to as a "country-strong" hitter, will also see time at first base this season and could serve as a catcher in the future.

## Laval Coaches 200th Game in Nicholls State Series Opener

The season-opening win over Nicholls State was head coach **Smoke Laval's** 200th as the Tiger skipper. Laval currently sits at 203 games, the fifth-highest mark of any coach in the school's history. Laval is 43 games away from reaching Jack Lamabe's (1979-83) total of 243. Laval's LSU coaching record of 142-63-1 (.693) is the second-highest mark, behind Skip Bertman's all-time winning percentage of .724.

### All-Time LSU Games Coached

| Coach                                  | Games      |
|--|------------|
| 1. Skip Bertman (1984-2001)            | 1,203      |
| 2. Jim Smith (1966-78)                 | 489        |
| 3. Harry Rabenhorst (1927-42, 1946-56) | 446        |
| 4. Jack Lamabe (1979-83)               | 249        |
| <b>5. Smoke Laval (2002-present)</b>   | <b>206</b> |

## Patterson Named To National Player Of The Year Wallace Watch

Senior outfielder **Ryan Patterson** was named to the 2005 Wallace Watch list on Feb. 15, presented annually to the national college baseball player of the year. The Brooks Wallace Award was captured by Cal State Fullerton's Kurt Suzuki last season. Patterson is one of 65 baseball student-athletes named to the list. The Wallace Watch will be trimmed to 12 semifinalists on May 24. The selection committee will then narrow the list to three finalists following the NCAA Super Regionals at a press conference in Omaha on June 16. Vanderbilt's Warner Jones, Cal-State Fullerton's Ricky Romero, Ole Miss' Stephen Head and Georgia's Will Startup also headline the list.

## ESPN/Sports Weekly (Feb. 21)

1. Texas (33) (11-0)
2. **LSU (7-0)**
3. Cal State Fullerton (1) (5-1)
4. Tulane (6) (7-0)
5. South Carolina (6-0)
6. Miami (Fla.) (8-2)
7. Arizona (9-1)
8. Georgia (3-0)
9. Rice (7-1)
10. Stanford (7-5)
11. Florida State (11-1)
12. North Carolina (4-0)
13. Florida (5-2)
14. Baylor (5-2)
15. Ole Miss (3-1)
16. Texas A&M (5-2)
17. Georgia Tech (5-1)
18. Southern Cal (4-0)
19. Notre Dame (3-1)
20. Vanderbilt (2-0)
21. Arkansas (6-1)
22. Long Beach State (5-6)
23. TCU (5-2)
24. UC-Irvine (6-2)
25. Washington (1-4)

## 2005 SEC Standings (Feb. 23)

| Eastern Division |     |      |         |
|------------------|-----|------|---------|
| Team             | SEC | Pct. | Overall |
| South Carolina   | 0-0 | .000 | 6-0     |
| Georgia          | 0-0 | .000 | 3-0     |
| Vanderbilt       | 0-0 | .000 | 2-0     |
| Florida          | 0-0 | .000 | 5-2     |
| Kentucky         | 0-0 | .000 | 2-1     |
| Tennessee        | 0-0 | .000 | 3-3     |
| Western Division |     |      |         |
| Team             | SEC | Pct. | Overall |
| LSU              | 0-0 | .000 | 7-0     |
| Arkansas         | 0-0 | .000 | 6-1     |
| Auburn           | 0-0 | .000 | 8-2     |
| Ole Miss         | 0-0 | .000 | 3-1     |
| Alabama          | 0-0 | .000 | 5-2     |
| Miss. State      | 0-0 | .000 | 0-0     |

## This Weekend in the SEC (Feb. 25-27)

(All times are Central)

### Friday-Saturday, Feb. 25-27

Duquesne at Alabama • 6:30 p.m., 4 p.m., Noon  
 Elon at Auburn • 4 p.m., 4 p.m., 1 p.m.  
 Rhode Island at Florida • 5:30 p.m., 1 p.m., Noon  
 Minnesota at Arkansas • 2:30 p.m., 1 p.m., 1 p.m.  
 Buffalo at Kentucky • 2 p.m., Noon, Noon  
**LSU at Houston • 7 p.m., 7 p.m., 1 p.m.**  
 S. Illinois at Ole Miss • 3 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m.  
 E. Illinois at Miss. State • 4 p.m., 2 p.m., 12:30 p.m.  
 Niagara at S. Carolina • 2 p.m., 12:30 p.m., 12:30 p.m.  
 Tennessee at Hughes Brothers Challenge Tourney  
 (Wilmington, N.C.)  
 Vanderbilt hosts Music City Challenge

## LSU by the Numbers in 2005

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Home .....                                 | 7-0                                   |
| Away .....                                 | 0-0                                   |
| Neutral Sites .....                        | 0-0                                   |
| Day.....                                   | 3-0                                   |
| Night.....                                 | 4-0                                   |
| On Jumbo Sports .....                      | 0-0                                   |
| On Cox Sports .....                        | 1-0                                   |
| On SEC-TV .....                            | 0-0                                   |
| Vs. SEC .....                              | 0-0                                   |
| Vs. SEC West .....                         | 0-0                                   |
| Vs. SEC East.....                          | 0-0                                   |
| Non-SEC Games.....                         | 7-0                                   |
| Vs. Louisiana opponents .....              | 4-0                                   |
| Vs. Ranked opponents .....                 | 0-0                                   |
| Vs. C-USA .....                            | 0-0                                   |
| Vs. Mid-Continent .....                    | 0-0                                   |
| Vs. Pac-10 .....                           | 0-0                                   |
| Vs. Southland .....                        | 4-0                                   |
| Vs. Sun Belt .....                         | 3-0                                   |
| Vs. SWAC .....                             | 0-0                                   |
| Vs. WAC.....                               | 0-0                                   |
| Doubleheaders .....                        | 0-0                                   |
| Game 1 of weekend series .....             | 2-0                                   |
| Game 2 of weekend series .....             | 2-0                                   |
| Game 3 of weekend series .....             | 2-0                                   |
| Sunday .....                               | 1-0                                   |
| Monday .....                               | 1-0                                   |
| Tuesday .....                              | 1-0                                   |
| Wednesday.....                             | 0-0                                   |
| Friday .....                               | 2-0                                   |
| Saturday .....                             | 2-0                                   |
| One-run games.....                         | 0-0                                   |
| Extra inning games .....                   | 0-0                                   |
| Shutouts.....                              | 0-0                                   |
| Number of Losing Streaks .....             | 0                                     |
| Longest Losing Streak .....                | 0                                     |
| Games in which LSU scores first .....      | 4-0                                   |
| Games in which opponent scores first ..... | 3-0                                   |
| When LSU scores 10+ .....                  | 4-0                                   |
| When LSU scores <5 .....                   | 1-0                                   |
| When opponent scores 10+ .....             | 0-0                                   |
| When opponent scores <5.....               | 4-0                                   |
| When LSU leads after 6 innings .....       | 6-0                                   |
| When LSU trails after 6 innings.....       | 0-0                                   |
| When tied after 6 innings .....            | 1-0                                   |
| When LSU leads after 7 innings .....       | 7-0                                   |
| When LSU trails after 7 innings.....       | 0-0                                   |
| When tied after 7 innings .....            | 0-0                                   |
| When LSU leads after 8 innings .....       | 7-0                                   |
| When LSU trails after 8 innings.....       | 0-0                                   |
| When tied after 8 innings .....            | 0-0                                   |
| When LSU has 10+ hits.....                 | 5-0                                   |
| When LSU has <6 hits.....                  | 1-0                                   |
| When opponent has 10+ hits .....           | 2-0                                   |
| When opponent has <6 hits .....            | 2-0                                   |
| When LSU has more hits .....               | 5-0                                   |
| When LSU has fewer hits .....              | 1-0                                   |
| Equal hits .....                           | 1-0                                   |
| When LSU hits 3 or more home runs .....    | 2-0                                   |
| When LSU hits no home runs .....           | 2-0                                   |
| When opponent hits 3+ home runs .....      | 0-0                                   |
| When opponent hits no home runs .....      | 5-0                                   |
| Games won on final at-bat .....            | 0                                     |
| Games lost on final at-bat .....           | 0                                     |
| Come-from-behind wins.....                 | 2                                     |
| Losses when LSU led previously .....       | 0                                     |
| Blown saves .....                          | 0                                     |
| Longest game .....                         | 3:21 (vs. Arkansas-Little Rock, 2/20) |
| Shortest game(9 or more innings) .....     | 2:13 (vs. Arkansas-Little Rock, 2/18) |

## Liuzza Named Preseason All-American by Baseball America

Junior catcher **Matt Liuzza** was voted to the 2005 Baseball America Preseason Third-Team. The Metairie, La. native has started 114 games behind the plate the past two seasons, helping lead the Tigers to consecutive College World Series appearances. He batted .328 (75-for-229) in 2004 with 14 doubles, nine homers, 45 RBI and 37 runs. Liuzza committed just four errors in 370 chances last season, and he threw out 14 base runners attempting to steal. For the entire 2004 NCAA Tournament - including the regional, super regional and CWS - Liuzza hit a sizzling .417 (10-for-24), and he posted a .563 on-base percentage.

## Liuzza Headlines Baseball America Preseason Awards

Baseball America released its preseason Southeastern Conference awards in its latest publication and catcher **Matt Liuzza** headlines the list of Tigers who earned recognition. Liuzza was rated as the conference's fourth-highest prospect for the upcoming 2005 Major League Baseball Draft. The publication also rated Liuzza as the best defensive catcher in the league with the best arm. **Blake Gill** earned recognition as one of Baseball America's top 50 senior prospects. Gill is listed as the nation's No. 19 rated senior, followed by **Ryan Patterson** who was listed 19th.

## Coaches Pick LSU to Win SEC Title

In what has become a common occurrence over the past several seasons, LSU is the favorite to win the Southeastern Conference Baseball Championship, as voted by the league's 12 baseball coaches in the 14th annual preseason SEC poll. The Tigers seek to capture their 14th SEC Championship, having won or shared the title three times in the past nine seasons (1996, 1997 and 2003) and seven times since 1990. In the overall SEC Champion vote, LSU received nine of the 12 championship votes in the poll. South Carolina received two votes while Florida received one. LSU was the predicted winner in the Western Division with a total of 66, collecting the maximum possible points for a single team. Ole Miss was second with 51, while Arkansas finished third with 46.

### Eastern Division

| Team                  | Pts. |
|-----------------------|------|
| 1. South Carolina (9) | 63   |
| 2. Georgia (1)        | 50   |
| 3. Florida (2)        | 48   |
| 4. Vanderbilt         | 39   |
| 5. Tennessee          | 29   |
| 6. Kentucky           | 16   |

( ) - First Place Votes

### Western Division

| Team                 | Pts. |
|----------------------|------|
| 1. LSU (11)          | 66   |
| 2. Ole Miss (1)      | 51   |
| 3. Arkansas          | 46   |
| 4. Mississippi State | 30   |
| 5. Alabama           | 29   |
| 6. Auburn            | 23   |

**SEC Champion: LSU (9); South Carolina (2); Florida (1)**

## Harris To Harris To Harris

If one were to take a glance around the Tiger infield, you would notice three players with last name of Harris. **Bryan Harris**, a sophomore from Tustin, Calif., will occupy third base this season after earning a redshirt in 2004. The positioning moves former third baseman **Clay Harris** to second base, while his brother **Will Harris** will maintain first base for the second consecutive season. Bryan, despite the similar last name, is no relation to Clay and Will.

## New "Box" On Tap For 2008

When the 2008 season rolls around, LSU will move into a new modern facility. LSU athletics director Skip Bertman proposed the construction of a new baseball stadium to open in 2008 to the LSU Board of Supervisors. The stadium would be located at the corner of Nicholson Drive and Gourrier Lane, about 2,000 feet south of the current site of Alex Box Stadium, and would seat approximately 8,000 Tiger baseball fans. The new stadium, which will be named Alex Box Stadium, will be paid for by the LSU Athletics Department through a combination of the sale of revenue bonds and private donations. The expected cost of the project is approximately \$23 million.

## The Fourth Year of the Smoke Laval Era Begins

In just three seasons, head coach **Smoke Laval** has produced magnificent results, continuing the tradition-rich program of excellence established by former coach and current Athletic Director Skip Bertman. Laval guided the Tigers to consecutive College World Series appearances in 2003 and 2004, two NCAA Super Regional titles, three NCAA Regional titles and one Southeastern Conference championship. During that stretch, Laval has produced two SEC Players of the Year, including Aaron Hill (2003) and Jon Zeringue (2004). His marksmanship was not only displayed on the field but in the classroom. LSU placed 12 players on the 2004 SEC Academic Honor Roll, the highest total in the illustrious program's history.

## A Look Back at the 2004 Season

The Tigers earned their second consecutive final top-10 ranking in 2004 finishing No. 6 in the ESPN/Sports Weekly poll, No. 7 in the Baseball America poll and No. 8 in the Collegiate Baseball poll. It marked the 14th time in 19 seasons LSU has finished in the top 10. The Tigers culminated the season by advancing to the College World Series for the second straight season, recording a 46-19 overall record, LSU's best mark since the 2000 club finished 52-17. The Tigers lost consecutive games to Miami (Fla.) and South Carolina to finish in a tie for seventh place in Omaha. Head coach **Smoke Laval** earned the 2004 LSWA Coach of the Year award for the third consecutive season. He guided LSU to NCAA Regional and Super Regional championships as the Tigers played host to an NCAA Regional for the 15th year in a row. LSU led the SEC in seven offensive categories, thanks in large part to Jon Zeringue who earned first-team all-America honors by USA Today/Sports Weekly.

## Game-By-Game Recaps

### Game 1 • LSU 12, Nicholls State 1

Feb. 11, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

|     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | - | R  | H  | E |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| NSU | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 1  | 2  | 1 |
| LSU | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | X | - | 12 | 10 | 1 |

**W:** Mestepey (1-0) **L:** Fernandez, M. (0-1)  
**Time:** 2:14 **Att:** 8,185 (paid); 5,284 (actual)

**Notes:** Bruce Sprowl -- in his first game since the 2003 season -- went a perfect 3-for-3 providing one of four LSU homers, while Lane Mestepey went seven strong innings, allowing no earned runs on just three hits. Mestepey fired 80 pitches, including 58 strikes, struck out four and walked none. It was Mestepey's 30th win of his career. Nick Stavinoha added a three-run shot and Dustin Weaver had a two-run homer. Eric English made his debut working the final two innings without allowing a hit.

### Game 2 • LSU 19, Nicholls State 2

Feb. 12, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

|     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | - | R  | H  | E |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| NSU | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | - | 2  | 5  | 4 |
| LSU | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | X | - | 19 | 20 | 1 |

**W:** Dirks (1-0) **L:** Breaux (0-1)  
**Time:** 2:44 **Att:** 8,236 (paid); 5,359 (actual)

**Notes:** Freshmen Jordan Mayer and Michael Hollander led a 20-hit LSU attack, combining to go 5-for-8 with four runs and seven RBI in their first collegiate starts. All nine Tiger starters plated runs and six first-year players collected hits in the largest margin of victory since posting a 20-3 win over Auburn on May 10, 2003. Clay Dirks pitched six innings, allowing one run on two hits and striking out five. Mayer finished the game 2-for-3 with a triple, a homer and six RBI.

### Game 3 • LSU 6, Nicholls State 3

Feb. 14, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

|     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | - | R | H | E |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NSU | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | - | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| LSU | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | X | - | 6 | 5 | 0 |   |

**W:** Smith (1-0) **L:** Markray (0-1)  
**S:** Faircloth (1)  
**Time:** 2:39 **Att:** 7,118 (paid); 1,920 (actual)

**Notes:** A five-run first inning highlighted by Michael Hollander's two-run double proved to be just enough run support for three LSU pitchers. Greg Smith earned the win in his first career start, working into the sixth inning and allowing two runs on six hits with nine strikeouts. Smith had two critical pickoffs that erased any kind of Colonel threats late in the game. Jordan Faircloth wrapped up the save surrendering two hits and striking out two.

### Game 4 • LSU 9, UL-Monroe 6

Feb. 15, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

|     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | - | R | H  | E |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| ULM | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 6 | 10 | 3 |
| LSU | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | X | - | 9 | 14 | 2 |

**W:** Determann (1-0) **L:** Stephens (0-1)  
**Time:** 3:03 **Att:** 7,418 (paid); 3,207 (actual)

**Notes:** A run-scoring balk in the seventh broke a 6-6 tie and Clay Harris' two-run homer in the eighth added insurance in a wild game. The game featured four lead changes. Blake Gill led the Tigers at the plate, going 4-for-5 with two runs and one RBI. Chase Dardar earned the start and left in the fifth after allowing six earned runs on seven hits and striking out six. Jason Determann came on and shut down the Indians, working the final 4.1 innings without allowing a run. Determann surrendered just three hits and struck out six.

### Game 5 • LSU 4, Ark.-Little Rock 2

Feb. 18, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

|     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | - | R | H | E |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ALR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | - | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| LSU | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | X | - | 4 | 8 | 1 |

**W:** Mestepey (2-0) **L:** Cromer (1-1)  
**S:** Faircloth (2)  
**Time:** 2:13 **Att:** 7,646 (paid); 3,757 (actual)

**Notes:** Lane Mestepey and Bennett Cromer battled in a pitchers duel with Mestepey earning his second win in 6.1 innings. Ryan Patterson broke out of an early season slump going 2-for-3. Two unearned runs proved to be the difference in the game. Edgar Ramirez fell into trouble in the ninth, letting the tying run come to the plate. Jordan Faircloth came on and recorded the final out for the save.

### Game 6 • LSU 11, Ark.-Little Rock 8

Feb. 19, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

|     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | - | R  | H  | E |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| ALR | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | 8  | 13 | 3 |
| LSU | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | X | - | 11 | 14 | 0 |

**W:** Dirks (2-0) **L:** Enlow (0-3)  
**S:** Determann (1)  
**Time:** 3:03 **Att:** 8,044 (paid); 4,670 (actual)

**Notes:** Both teams combined to pound out 19 runs on 27 hits in a game featuring five pitchers. Ryan Patterson led LSU at the plate, going 3-for-5 with two RBI. Clay Dirks went five innings, allowing three runs on six hits and striking out four. LSU's four-run first was the result of two critical UALR errors. Justin Meier made his first appearance in the sixth, getting out of a bases loaded jam. He left with two on in the ninth and gave way to Jason Determann who recorded his first save since earlier last season.

### Game 7 • LSU 15, Ark.-Little Rock 9

Feb. 20, 2005 at Alex Box Stadium

|     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | - | R  | H  | E |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| ALR | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | - | 9  | 9  | 0 |
| LSU | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | X | - | 15 | 16 | 4 |

**W:** Smith (2-0) **L:** Clay (1-1)  
**S:** English (1)  
**Time:** 3:21 **Att:** 7,475 (paid); 3,234 (actual)

**Notes:** LSU won its seventh straight contest, its best start since 1997. Nick Stavinoha went 2-for-3 with a homer, a double and a career high five RBI. Greg Smith earned the win, working five innings and allowing two runs on five hits. After the first two innings, the Tigers pounded out 12 runs on 11 hits, including three homers and four doubles. UALR brought the tying run to the plate in the eighth after a five-run inning. Eric English worked out of a bases loaded jam in the eighth and then worked a perfect ninth for his first save.

# Smoke Laval

HEAD COACH • FOURTH YEAR

Raymond "Smoke" Laval continues to enhance his reputation as one of the country's top college baseball coaches, as, in three seasons at the helm of the LSU program, he has guided the Tigers to two College World Series berths, two NCAA Super Regional titles, three NCAA Regional championships, one SEC title and Top 10 finishes in each of the past two seasons.

Laval, the 2003 SEC Coach of the Year, was named in 2004 the Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year for the third straight season.

Laval has directed LSU to the best SEC regular-season record in the past three seasons, posting a 57-31-1 (.646) mark. South Carolina has the second-best SEC record (57-32, .640), and Florida is third (50-39-1, .561). LSU earned its second consecutive final Top 10 ranking in 2004, as the Tigers finished No. 7 in the Baseball America poll and No. 8 in the Collegiate Baseball poll. The final rankings culminated a magnificent 2004 season that also featured record-breaking marks for academic achievements and attendance figures. The 2004 Tigers advanced to the College World Series for the second straight season, recording a 46-19 overall record, LSU's best mark since the 2000 club finished 52-17.

LSU played host to an NCAA Regional for the 15th straight season, winning the tournament with consecutive victories over Army, Southern Mississippi and College of Charleston. The Tigers then played host to an NCAA Super Regional for the third time in five years, defeating Texas A&M in a best two-of-three series to earn a berth in the CWS.

The 2004 Tigers had the best offensive club in the SEC, completing the year with a .333 team batting average, the second-highest in school history. The Tigers were led by two first-team all-SEC players - right fielder Jon Zeringue, the 2004 SEC Co-Player of the Year and a first-team all-America selection, and center fielder J.C. Holt, a third-team all-America choice. Zeringue was selected in the second round of the 2004 draft by the Arizona Diamondbacks, and Holt was the third-round pick of the Atlanta Braves.

LSU placed 12 players on the 2004 SEC Academic Honor Roll, the highest total in the program's history, and the Tigers' 2004 total home attendance with 36 playing dates was 284,328, the third-largest figure in school history. The average paid attendance in 2004 was 7,898, which is the highest average in LSU annals.

Laval guided the 2003 Tigers to the Southeastern Conference title -- LSU's first since 1997 -- and a berth in the College World Series. He was voted the 2003 SEC Coach of the Year, directing LSU to a 45-22-1 overall record and a 20-9-1 conference mark, as the Tigers finished No. 5 in the final Baseball America rankings.

LSU played host to an NCAA Regional tournament for the 14th straight season and captured its eighth consecutive regional title. The Tigers entertained Baylor in an NCAA Super Regional series, defeating the Bears in two of three games to earn LSU's first CWS berth since 2000.

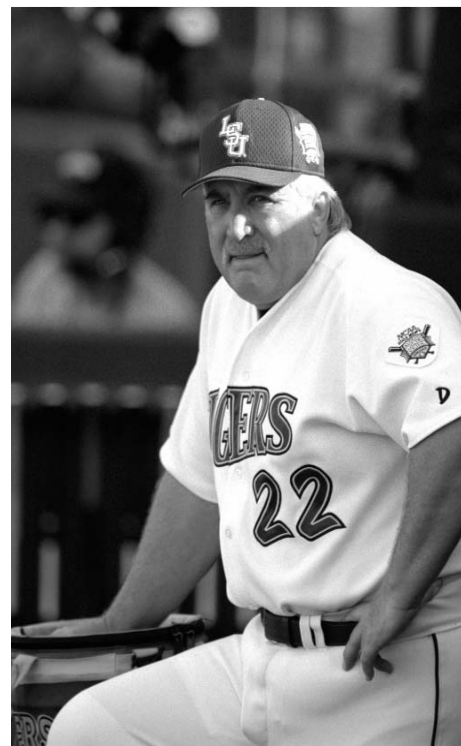
LSU also set an NCAA total attendance record in 2003, drawing 291,676 patrons to Alex Box Stadium.

The Tigers' shortstop, Aaron Hill, was named 2003 SEC Player of the Year and a first-team all-American. Hill was the first-round draft selection (13th pick overall) by the Toronto Blue Jays.

The magnificent '03 campaign augmented the success Laval enjoyed in his inaugural season as LSU's coach, as he led the 2002 Tigers to a 44-22 overall mark, an appearance in the NCAA Super Regional and a No. 11 final national ranking. Laval, named the 2002 Louisiana Coach of the Year by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association, continued the phenomenal tradition of excellence created by his predecessor, the legendary Skip Bertman.

Laval holds a bachelor's degree (1977) from Jacksonville in physical education and a master's degree (1979) from LSU in administration. The McDonald, Pa., native played two seasons at Gulf Coast Community College, where he lettered as a catcher. He completed his playing career at Jacksonville, where he led the ninth-ranked Dolphins in hitting at the 1976 NCAA South Regional.

Laval and his wife, Pam, are the parents of two children, Brandon and Jamie.



## The Laval File

**Full Name:** Raymond Peter Laval  
**Born:** December 20, 1955  
**Hometown:** McDonald, Pa.  
**Wife:** Pam Lewis of Reserve, La.  
**Children:** Jamie and Brandon

## Coaching Experience

|         |                      |                                    |
|---------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1977    | Assistant Coach      | Jacksonville                       |
| 1978    | Assistant Coach      | Wolfson HS<br>(Jacksonville, Fla.) |
| 1979    | Graduate Assistant   | LSU                                |
| 1980-81 | Assistant Coach      | Gulf Coast CC                      |
| 1982-83 | Assistant Coach      | Florida                            |
| 1984-93 | Assistant Coach      | LSU                                |
| 1994-00 | Head Coach           | UL-Monroe                          |
| 2001    | Administrative Asst. | LSU                                |
| 2002-   | Head Coach           | LSU                                |

## Education

High School: South Fayette(McDonald, Pa.), 1973  
 College: Jacksonville, 1977 (physical education)  
 Masters: LSU, 1979 (administration)

## Laval Year-By-Year

| Year | W-L     | School    | Highlights  |
|------|---------|-----------|---|
| 1994 | 20-33   | UL-Monroe | Defeated Three NCAA Tournament Teams                      |
| 1995 | 37-20   | UL-Monroe | SLC Tournament Champions; NCAA Regional Participants      |
| 1996 | 41-19   | UL-Monroe | School-Record 41 Wins; SLC Louisiana Division Champions   |
| 1997 | 33-21   | UL-Monroe | Became Fourth Coach in ULM History To Record 100 Wins     |
| 1998 | 33-22   | UL-Monroe | Led SLC In Hitting For Third Straight Season              |
| 1999 | 36-22   | UL-Monroe | SLC Champions; NCAA Regional Participants                 |
| 2000 | 41-22   | UL-Monroe | SLC Champions; NCAA Regional Participants                 |
| 2002 | 44-22   | LSU       | NCAA Regional Champions; NCAA Super Regional Participants |
| 2003 | 45-22-1 | LSU       | SEC Champions; College World Series Participants          |
| 2004 | 46-19   | LSU       | NCAA Regional/Super Regional Champions; CWS Participants  |
| 2005 | 7-0     | LSU       |   |

**Career Record (11th year):** 383-222-1 (.633)

**LSU Record (4th year):** 142-63-1 (.693)

### COACHING HONORS

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1995 | Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year                        |
| 1999 | Southland Conference Coach of the Year                                       |
| 2002 | Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year                        |
| 2003 | SEC Coach of the Year; Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year |
| 2004 | Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year                        |

## Playing Experience

1970-73: Catcher, South Fayette High School  
 1974-75: Catcher, Gulf Coast CC  
 1976-77: Catcher, Jacksonville University

## The Nickname "Smoke"

As a native of Western Pennsylvania, Raymond Peter Laval grew up as a Pittsburgh Pirates fan. He received the name "Smoke" in the late 1970s from his Gulf Coast Community College teammates, who derived the moniker from Smokey Burgess, a catcher for the Pirates in the 1960s.

# Media Services

## Interview Opportunities

### Head Coach Smoke Laval

Coach Laval is available for phone interviews on weekday mornings (9 a.m. -Noon) during the season. Please coordinate all requests for personal interviews with Coach Laval through his office. Appointments and interviews may be arranged through Virginia Robertson at (225) 578-4148. **Coach Laval will talk to reporters approximately 10 minutes after the end of a game in the LSU dugout.**

### Players

Media members are invited to attend LSU baseball practice sessions. Players are available for interviews before each practice at approximately 1 p.m. in Alex Box Stadium. Requests for live player interviews on the field prior to a game should be made through Bill Franques in the Sports Information Office. **Post-game player interviews are conducted in front of the LSU dugout at the conclusion of a brief team meeting on the field.**

### Mailing Address

LSU Sports Information  
P.O. Box 25095  
Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5095

### Overnight Mail Address

Room 501, LSU Athletics Admin. Bldg.  
N. Stadium Dr. at Nicholson Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5095

### Phone Directory

Press Box: 225-578-4149  
Sports Information: 225-578-8226  
Fax: 225-578-1861  
Baseball Office: 225-578-4148  
Fax: 225-578-4066

### Baseball Contact E-mail Address

wfranqu@lsu.edu

## Who to Contact

### Sports Information Office

(225) 578-8226

### Baseball Contact

Bill Franques - wfranqu@lsu.edu

### Asst. Contact

Bill Martin - wmarti4@lsu.edu

### LSU Television

(225) 578-1797

### Asst. AD/Television

Kevin Wagner - jwagne2@lsu.edu

### Manager/Television

John Schiebe - jschiebe@lsu.edu

### LSU Radio

(225) 578-1882

### Asst. AD/Radio

Jim Hawthorne - lsuradio@lsu.edu

## On the Internet

### www.LSUports.net

The Official Website of LSU Athletics is home to all the baseball information you need. Schedules, results, rosters, bios, statistics and game notes can be found and are always up to date.

### http://media.lsuports.net

Media can now access images for all LSU athletic teams, including action shots, heads shots, logos, etc. To gain access to the high-resolution pictures, email Bill Franques. You will be assigned a login and password that will enable you to retrieve pictures. This service is for the media use only.

## LSU Electronic Media

### Radio

The LSU Sports Radio Network distributes all LSU Baseball games by satellite to 25 radio affiliates. WDGL-FM (98.1) Radio in Baton Rouge serves as the flagship station for the LSU Sports Network. Jim Hawthorne, the "Voice of the Tigers" for all LSU sports, is in his 22nd season of calling baseball play-by-play action. He will be joined on the broadcasts by Charles Hanagriff and LSU baseball publicist Bill Franques. Selected LSU Sports Network stations air "Tiger Sportsline with Smoke Laval" beginning Monday, March 28 from 7-8 p.m. The show airs live from Superior Grill on Government Street in Baton Rouge.

### Television

Inside LSU Baseball is a weekly program featuring LSU head coach Smoke Laval. The show, which begins on March 20, features game highlights, player profiles and in-depth stories on college baseball's No. 1 program. Inside LSU Baseball is produced by the LSU Electronic Media Department – Kevin Wagner, Executive Producer; John Schiebe, Associate Producer. Inside LSU Baseball Affiliates include WBRZ Channel 2 in Baton Rouge and Cox Sports Television throughout the state of Louisiana.

Bill Franques  
wfranqu@lsu.edu

## Week 2: February 21-27

Bill Martin  
wmarti4@lsu.edu

| MONDAY | 21 | TUESDAY | 22 | WEDNESDAY | 23 | THURSDAY  | 24   | FRIDAY  | 25   | SATURDAY | 26 | SUNDAY | 27 |
|--------|----|---------|----|-----------|----|---|--|---|--|----------|----|--------|----|
|        |    |         |    |           |    | <b>Morning:</b><br>Depart for Houston<br><br><b>Team Hotel:</b><br>Westin Galleria<br>5060 W. Alabama St.<br>Houston, TX 77056<br>Phone: 713.960.8100<br><br><b>Practice:</b><br>approx. 7:30 p.m.<br>at Cougar Field | <b>at Houston</b><br>7 p.m.<br>Cougar Field<br>Houston, Texas<br><br>Radio: LSU Sports Network<br><br>TV: None | <b>at Houston</b><br>3 p.m.<br>Cougar Field<br>Houston, Texas<br><br>Radio: LSU Sports Network (Baton Rouge only)<br><br>TV: Jumbo Sports Network | <b>at Houston</b><br>1 p.m.<br>Cougar Field<br>Houston, Texas<br><br>Radio: LSU Sports Network<br><br>TV: Jumbo Sports Network |          |    |        |    |

LSU VS. HOUSTON