

Untitled

Overall Record: 18-3
SEC: 2-1

Last Week: 3-1

March 16 -- NEW ORLEANS (W, 14-0)
March 19 -- at #3 South Carolina (W, 6-3, 11 innings)
March 20 -- at #3 South Carolina (L, 5-12)
March 21 -- at #3 South Carolina (W, 12-7)

NOMINEE FOR PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Matt Liuzza, C, So., Metairie, La.

Liuzza was 6-for-15 (.353) at the plate in LSU's four games last week with one double, four homers, seven RBI and five runs. In the Tigers' series victory at third-ranked South Carolina, he hit three homers and one double, collecting five RBI and posting a .933 slugging percentage. He hit two homers in Sunday's 12-7 victory, becoming the first LSU player to have a multi-homer game this season. His two homers on Sunday came against USC ace Matt Campbell, who had not allowed run in 27.2 innings entering the game. Liuzza hit a solo shot in the second innint to tie the game at 1-1, and his three-run blast in the fourth gave the Tigers a 4-1 lead they would never relinquish. Liuzza is hitting .361 (30-for-83) on the year with seven doubles, six homers, 22 RBI and 15 runs.

NOTES ON THE TIGERS

LSU opened defense of its Southeastern Conference title by winning two of three games at third-ranked South Carolina, who entered the series as the league leader in batting average, home runs and ERA. The Tigers out-hit the Gamecocks in the series, 40-28, and LSU out-homered USC, 7-4. The Tigers hit .336 (40-for-119) in the series with nine doubles and seven homers. Meanwhile, LSU's pitching staff limited the potent Gamecock offense to a .259 (28-for-108) batting average. Catcher Matt Liuzza paced the Tigers by launching three homers and collecting five RBI in the series. He hit two homers in Sunday's 12-7 victory, including a three-run blast to highlight a five-run fourth inning against USC ace Matt Campbell, who had not allowed a run in 27.2 innings entering the game. Campbell surrendered six runs on seven hits in 3.1 innings in suffering his first loss of the year. Right fielder Jon Zeringue also unloaded three homers in the series, driving in three runs and scoring five times. Left fielder Ryan Patterson hit .400 (6-for-15) over the weekend with one double and five RBI, and center fielder J.C. Holt batted .455 (5-for-11) with two doubles, one homer, four runs and two RBI. LSU is now hitting .345 as a team with 53 doubles, eight triples and 26 homers. The Tigers have reached double-figures in hits in 12 consecutive games, including an 18-hit outburst in Sunday's victory. LSU improved to 2-1 in extra-inning games this season after Friday's 6-3 win over USC in 11 innings. Sophomore left-hander Greg Smith earned his first career victory, as he blanked the Gamecocks over the final two innings, allowing just one hit with four strikeouts. Sophomore right-hander Justin Meier, Friday's starting pitcher, recorded a career-high eight strikeouts in his best outing of the season. He limited the Gamecocks to three runs on seven hits in 8.1 innings of work.