



2003 LSU BASEBALL

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

2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Wednesday, March 26

Overall Record: 16-8-1

Southeastern Conference Record: 5-0-1 (1st in West division, 1st overall)

Results so far this week:

Tuesday—lost at New Orleans, 5-4

This weekend's games (all times CT):

Friday—at Alabama, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday—at Alabama, 4 p.m.

Sunday—at Alabama, 2 p.m.

Notes from the UNO game:

- Freshman RHP Justin Meier turned in another impressive midweek performance, throwing a career high 7.0 innings and striking out a career high six against no walks. Meier got no decision in the game, and for the season he is 3-0 with a 1.53 ERA. Meier has allowed just five earned runs and eight walks in 29.1 innings and is allowing opponents to hit just .210 against him.
- Meier's strong outing continued a trend of quality starts by LSU pitchers. Of the Tigers' 25 contests this season, the starting pitcher has turned in a quality start on 15 occasions, including all five of Meier's starts. A quality start is one in which the pitcher goes six or more innings and yields three or fewer earned runs, or one in which the starter yields no earned runs in five or more innings. A pitcher is also credited with a quality start if he meets all criteria and is throwing a predetermined number of innings.
- For the year, LSU starting pitchers are 14-5 with a 3.40 ERA and have thrown 67.7 percent of the Tigers' innings this year (150.2 of 222.2).
- Meier and senior RHP Jake Tompkins did not issue a walk on Tuesday, marking only the second time this year LSU pitchers have not given up a base on balls. The only other time this happened was in Bo Pettit's complete game vs. Florida on March 15. LSU pitchers have walked only 66 batters in 222.2 innings, an average of just 2.67 per nine innings, and have issued two or fewer walks in a game 11 times this year.
- Junior SS Aaron Hill used a third inning double to extend his hitting streak to 13 consecutive games. Hill is batting .440 (22-for-50) with eight doubles, 13 runs scored and 14 RBI during the streak. Over the course of the streak, Hill has raised his batting average an even 100 points to a team leading .368. Hill also leads the Tigers in nine other offensive categories, including RBI (21), on-base percentage (.509) and slugging percentage



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31
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(.586).

- Junior RF Jon Zeringue continues to make his bid for more playing time following a 2-for-4, 2 RBI night on Tuesday. Zeringue knocked in LSU's first run in the second inning with an infield single, then hit a towering home run in the fourth inning that hit the Zephyr Field scoreboard in left-center field and traveled an estimated 450 feet. Following a 1-for-19 slump that left him on the Tiger bench, Zeringue is 5-for-13 in his last three games with two home runs, two doubles and five RBI.
- Another Tiger enjoying great success at the plate has been sophomore 1B Clay Harris. Harris was 2-for-5 with a solo home run on Tuesday, his sixth multi-hit game in 13 starts this season. Harris is batting .333 (13-for-39) with three home runs and 12 RBI in the Tigers' last 10 outings, and since his insertion into the Tiger lineup in the series finale at Long Beach St. on March 2, Harris is batting .383 with six doubles, three home runs, 15 RBI and a .702 slugging percentage. LSU is 10-2-1 in games that Harris starts, with the only losses coming by one run each to Tulane and UNO at Zephyr Field.
- It seems that sophomore 2B Blake Gill knows how to bounce back from slumps. After a 2-for-29 skid that saw his season batting average plummet to .238, Gill has recovered to nicely with a .333 average (15-for-45) in the Tigers' 10-2-1 spurt after a 6-6 start. Gill's average is up to .287 on the year, close to the .292 mark he posted in 2002. Gill is batting .333 during a five-game hitting streak.
- Freshman C Matt Liuzza made a successful homecoming by extending his hitting streak to six games. Liuzza, a Metairie native who prepped at Louisiana powerhouse Archbishop Rummel High, is hitting .333 (8-for-24) during the current streak.
- LSU continues to get tremendous balance
- The victory by UNO on Tuesday was the Privateers' first after a 10-game LSU winning streak in the series that dated back to 1998, and UNO's first in six games against LSU at Zephyr Field. LSU still leads the all-time series over UNO, 40-30, with an April 30 meeting at Alex Box Stadium still to come.
- Despite the loss to UNO, LSU is still 10-2-1 following a 6-6 start to the year, and both losses have been by 5-4 scores at Zephyr Field in Metairie. Tulane defeated the Tigers in 11 innings on March 11.

Looking ahead to the Alabama series:

- LSU will also have a long winning streak on the line this weekend at Tuscaloosa, as the Tigers have won eight straight meetings over the Crimson Tide, including a three-game sweep last year in Baton Rouge that denied the Tide the SEC overall championship.
- The Tigers swept the Tide in 2001 at Sewell-Thomas Stadium, but the Tide holds a 6-5 edge at home since Jim Wells restored the Alabama program to its former glory. Included among the Alabama victories over LSU in Tuscaloosa are a 28-2 victory in 1997 that was the worst in the Tigers' 110 years of baseball, and a two-game sweep of the first NCAA super regional in 1999 to send the Tide to their third College World Series under Wells.
- Winning the first game of the series will be paramount to winning the series itself. Since 1986, only once has the team losing the first game of the series bounced back to win the series, and that was in 1996, when the Tide recovered from an 8-6 loss to post 17-4 and 12-5 victories in Baton Rouge.



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31
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- LSU has won the opener of the series in each of the last three seasons, including 4-2 and 3-0 victories in 2001 and 2002, with Tiger left-hander Lane Mestepey, who is injured and possibly out for the season, outdueling Alabama right-hander Lance Cormier, who has graduated. Friday night's scheduled starters are LSU junior right-hander Brian Wilson and Alabama sophomore left-hander Taylor Tankersley.
- LSU goes to Alabama in first place in the SEC, the first time they have entered a series in the league lead since May of 2001 at Arkansas. Ironically, that series followed a midweek game against UNO at Zephyr Field, but LSU certainly does not want to repeat the results that took place that weekend in Fayetteville—a three-game sweep by the Razorbacks—in Tuscaloosa this weekend in Tuscaloosa.
- This marks the sixth time since 1996 that an LSU-Alabama series has taken place with one team in the SEC lead. LSU was the SEC leader entering series in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2001, while Alabama entered the 2002 series as the league's front-runners.



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31
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