



2003 LSU BASEBALL

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2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Monday, March 10

Overall Record: 11-6

Last week's results:

Wednesday—def. Southeastern Louisiana, 4-2

Friday—def. Winthrop, 10-2

Saturday—def. Winthrop, 11-1

Sunday—def. Winthrop, 3-2

This week's games (all times CST):

Tuesday—at Tulane (Zephyr Field, Metairie), 7:05 p.m.

Friday—Florida, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday—Florida, 2 p.m.

Sunday—Florida, 12:30 p.m.

POSITION PLAYER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE: Jr. SS Aaron Hill (6-0, 200, Visalia, Calif.—Redwood HS)

Notes on Hill:

- Enjoyed a solid week to help the Tigers go 4-0, batting .412 (7-for-17) with a team high seven RBI and a .765 slugging percentage.
- Collected at least one hit in all four games during the week as his hitting streak stands at five games, spanning the length of LSU's current winning streak, ending a six-game stretch in which Hill was 3-for-20.
- Hill is batting .381 (8-for-21) during the Tigers' five-game winning streak
- Was 3-for-4 during the week with runners in scoring position and picked up five of his seven RBI with two out.
- Started the week by going 2-for-4 with a season high three RBI in the Tigers' 4-2 victory over Southeastern Louisiana on Wednesday. Hill had a two-run single in the third to give LSU a 3-0 lead, then tripled home LSU's fourth run in the fifth.
- The two-hit game vs. LSU was Hill's first since the first game of the Tigers' February 16 doubleheader against Kansas.
- Went 2-for-5 with an RBI single and a run scored in the Tigers' series-opening victory over Winthrop.
- Had his best game of the season in Saturday's victory over Winthrop, going 2-for-5 with an RBI double, a two-run home run—his second of the season—and three runs scored.
- Went 1-for-3 in Sunday's series finale vs. Winthrop, and drew two-out walk with two strikes in the bottom of the ninth that began LSU's comeback from a 2-0 deficit to win, 3-2.



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- Over the Tigers' last five games, Hill has raised his batting average by 42 points from .268 to .310.
- For the year, Hill leads the Tigers in RBI (14), on-base percentage (.4446) and walks (11). He has struck out only four times in 75 plate appearances, and he is the only LSU player to start all 17 games.
- Batting .412 on the season (7-for-17) with runners in scoring position, .414 (12-for-29) with runners on base, and has picked up seven of his 14 RBI with two out.

Hill's game-by-game line this week:

Day	Opponent	W/L	Avg.	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB-
SBA											
Wed.	Southeastern La.	W	.500	4	0	2	0	1	0	3	0-0
Fri.	Winthrop	W	.400	5	1	2	0	0	0	1	0-0
Sat.	Winthrop	W	.400	5	3	2	1	0	1	3	0-0
Sun.	Winthrop	W	.333	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0-0
THIS WEEK (4 Games)			.417	17	5	7	1	1	1	7	0-0
SEASON (17 Games)			.310	58	13	18	3	2	2	14	2-2

PITCHER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE: RS-Fr. LHP Jason Determann (5-11, 160, Baton Rouge—Catholic HS)

Notes on Determann:

- Had a solid week out of the Tiger bullpen, notching a win and a save to help LSU to a 4-0 week.
- Worked four innings in Wednesday's victory over Southeastern Louisiana, notching first career save in relief of Justin Meier. Did not allow a hit until the ninth inning and just missed completing combined shutout.
- Determann struck out a career high four batters vs. SLU, and he tied his longest career outing, matching a four-inning relief stint last February 9 vs. Birmingham-Southern.
- Picked up his first win of 2003 vs. Winthrop on Sunday, allowing no hits and one walk over two innings.
- Is healthy this season after having his 2002 season curtailed by an elbow injury on February 20 that forced him to undergo Tommy John surgery and take a medical redshirt.
- For the season, Determann is 1-0 with a 1.74 ERA in 10 1/3 innings, striking out eight and allowing eight hits. Determann is allowing opponents to hit just .211 against him.

Determann's game-by-game line this week:

Day	Opponent (Result)	Record	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Wed.	Southeastern La. (W)	S	4.0	3	2	2	1	4
Sun.	Winthrop (W)	W	2.0	0	0	0	1	1
THIS WEEK (2 Games)		1-0, 1 SV	6.0	3	2	2	2	5
SEASON (4 Games)		1-0, 1 SV	10.1	8	2	2	4	8

Notes on the week:

- LSU completed its best week of the season by going 4-0, beating Southeastern Louisiana on Tuesday and sweeping Winthrop over the weekend. Combined with LSU's 7-2 win last Sunday at Long Beach St., the Tigers are on a season-high five-game winning streak.



- LSU completed the weekend with an improbable rally, as Winthrop left-hander Jeremy Plexico had the Tigers down 2-0 and down to their last strike. But Aaron Hill coaxed a walk before Clay Harris launched a two-run home run to tie the game. Ivan Naccarata followed Harris with a double, and after a pair of walks, Matt Liuzza was hit by a pitch to win the game.
- Plexico held LSU to just three hits over the game's first 8 2/3 innings on Sunday and allowed just one runner to reach second base before the Tigers' rally.
- LSU won Sunday's game despite having just five hits, the lowest total for LSU in a win since defeating Auburn in last year's SEC Tournament with three hits.
- The come-from-behind victory was LSU's third this season, and marked LSU's first "walk-off" victory since last March 3, when LSU beat Long Beach St. 5-4 in 11 innings.
- In Friday's 10-2 victory over Winthrop, LSU exploded for eight runs on nine hits in the fifth inning, the Tigers' biggest inning of 2003. LSU last scored eight runs in an inning last February 24 when it did so at Houston in the sixth inning.
- The 16 hits LSU recorded in the series opener with Winthrop are the second highest total for the Tigers this year, surpassed only by the 19 the Tigers pounded out at Centenary on February 11.
- When LSU scored 10 runs in the series opener, it broke a 10-game drought in which the Tigers had not scored in double figures, dating back to the Centenary game.
- For good measure, LSU added 11 runs and 11 hits in Saturday's game, giving the Tigers double figures in runs in back-to-back games for the first time this year. LSU had back-to-back 10-hit games at Centenary (19) and Kansas at home (13) in February.
- The sweep of Winthrop once again gives LSU momentum heading into Southeastern Conference play. Since 1996, when the SEC went to its current 30-game format, LSU has gone 3-0 on the weekend prior to the first conference series five times (1996, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2003).
- Prior to this week, the Tigers' longest winning streak was a four-game streak to start the season. LSU did not win consecutive games after that until the wins over Long Beach and Southeastern La.
- LSU began the week by defeating Southeastern Louisiana, improving LSU to a perfect 6-0 this season against in-state competition. LSU has won 16 of its last 17 against Louisiana teams dating back to last year, and have won nine consecutive midweek games.
- LSU has limited in-state opponents to just a .215 batting average in six games this year, while LSU hurlers have posted a 1.67 ERA in those contests.
- Pitching was the key to the Tigers' success this week, as LSU allowed a total of seven runs over four games, an ERA of 1.75 and an opponents' batting average of .186.
- LSU pitchers struck out 35 batters in 36 innings this week and yielded just 10 walks. When the Tigers did get into trouble, more often than not they got out of it, yielding a microscopic .121 batting average (4-for-33) with runners in scoring position this week.
- When factoring in the Long Beach game from last week that started the win streak, LSU's ERA for the streak is 1.60 with a .202 opponents' batting average. During the streak, opponents have collected just six hits in 49 at-bats with runners in scoring position, a .122 average.
- For the season, LSU's ERA is at 3.12, a drop of seven-tenths of a run from the 17-game mark in 2002. Opponents are hitting just .255 against the Tigers, a drop of 23 points from this point in 2002.
- The Tigers have held opponents to two or fewer runs in five consecutive games, the first time that has occurred since April 5-10, 1996, when the Tigers held South Carolina to two runs in each game of a three-game series, Southeastern Louisiana to two runs and then shut out Nicholls St.



- The Tigers limited Winthrop to a season low five hits on both Saturday and Sunday, the first time LSU has allowed five or fewer hits in back-to-back games since last April 26-27, when Arkansas had four and three hits, respectively, in the first two games of that series.
- The Tigers got several outstanding pitching performances during the week, but none may have been more dominating than that of true freshman LHP Greg Smith. Smith twirled three innings of no-hit relief on Saturday to nail down his first career save, recording a career high four strikeouts. The only baserunner allowed by Smith, the 2002 prep player of the year in Louisiana, came on a two-out error in the seventh inning.
- Smith also saw his first action in the field for the Tigers, playing the ninth inning of Sunday's game at first base and recording two putouts.
- Junior RHP Nate Bumstead also had an impressive relief outing, as he pitched two perfect innings in Friday's game against Winthrop.
- LSU relievers continue to be highly effective, despite missing the services of closer Brandon Nall this week, who was out with a sore rotator cuff. The Tigers' bullpen has posted a sparkling 1.63 ERA and has allowed opponents to hit just .220 against it.
- Wednesday's win over Southeastern Louisiana was yet another outstanding outing by true freshman RHP Justin Meier. Meier allowed three hits and struck out five in five shutout innings to improve to 3-0 on the year. Meier's ERA is just 0.60 and he is allowing opponents to hit just .160 against him.
- Senior RHP Bo Pettit won his second start in a week on Saturday, striking out nine Winthrop batters over six innings (105 pitches) and retiring the final five batters he faced to improve to 2-0 and keep his ERA at a low 1.29.
- Pettit has been an absolute demon this season in clutch situations. For the season, Pettit is allowing opponents to hit just .091 (2-for-22) with runners in scoring position, striking out 10 of the 26 batters he has faced in those situations. In RISP situations with two out, Pettit is a perfect 10-for-10 in retiring the side.
- The victory on Saturday for Pettit improved him to 20-10 for his career, and he now has 216 strikeouts in 211 innings pitched.
- Although he is still searching for his first win of 2003, senior RHP Jake Tompkins showed signs of progress on Sunday, striking out seven over seven innings and limiting Winthrop to two runs on five hits. Tompkins allowed just one hit to the Eagles in 10 at-bats with runners in scoring position, allowing LSU to stay close.
- Like Pettit, Tompkins has not allowed the key two-out hit often, allowing opponents a .133 batting average with RISP and two out.
- Junior 3B/2B Ivan Naccarata continues on his tear, extending his hitting streak to 14 games and leading the Tigers in batting average during the four games this week by batting .500 (7-for-14). Naccarata collected two hits in three of LSU's four games this week, and during the streak, he has seven two-hit games to give him a cool .396 average (21-for-53) with 11 RBI during the streak.
- Naccarata launched his second home run of the season on Saturday, his second of the season. Naccarata enters this week as LSU's leader in batting average (.367), and more importantly, he is batting .444 (8-for-18) with runners in scoring position.
- Although his seven-game hitting streak ended on Sunday, it was still a solid week for sophomore OF Bruce Sprowl, who hit .333 (6-for-18) with three RBI during the week.
- Sprowl had two hits in each of the first two games in the Winthrop series, and he has a hit in 12 of the 14 games in which he has played this year, giving Sprowl a .302 batting average for the year. Sprowl has also been key in the clutch, batting .389 (7-for-18) with runners in scoring po-



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- Sophomore OF Ryan Patterson notched a pair of doubles in Saturday's game against Winthrop, making him the third player to do so this year. Patterson drove in two runs in that game, his fourth two-RBI contest this year.
- Sophomore IF Blake Gill began to climb out of a slump, as he went 4-for-10 this week, including a two-hit, two-RBI effort in Friday's win over Winthrop, his first two-hit game since February 11 at Centenary.

On deck for this week:

- LSU and Tulane renew their ancient rivalry, the oldest intercollegiate athletic rivalry for both schools in any sport, when the Tigers visit the Green Wave at Zephyr Field in Metairie. LSU won two of three meetings from Tulane in 2002, with the Green Wave winning 6-5 at Baton Rouge on March 5, before LSU won 9-5 at the Louisiana Superdome on April 10 and 4-2 in an elimination game of the Baton Rouge regional on June 1. The game at the Superdome set an NCAA attendance record with a paid crowd of 27,673, and the actual crowd of 25,101 also broke the old record, which was 24,859 for a session of the 1999 College World Series.
- Since moving home games with LSU from its on-campus facility, Turchin Stadium, to Zephyr Field, Tulane has fared quite well, posting a 5-2 mark against the Tigers. The teams last met at Zephyr Field for the 2001 super regional, with the Wave winning the final two games after dropping a 4-3, 13-inning decision in the opener. The super regional represented Skip Bertman's final games during his 18-year tenure as the Tigers' coach.
- Since 1998, Tulane has an 8-6 edge in the series with LSU, and Tulane coach Rick Jones is 10-12 in his nine years vs. the Tigers.
- The Tigers open Southeastern Conference play on Friday in the first of a three-game series with the Florida Gators. LSU has dominated Florida at Alex Box Stadium, winning 19 of the 25 meetings contested in Baton Rouge, including three-game sweeps in 1989, 1991, 1997 and 2001.
- Florida coach Pat McMahon has won a series in Baton Rouge, though, leading Mississippi State to a 2-1 series win over the Tigers in 2000. McMahon, now in his second season at Florida, is 9-10 all-time against LSU.
- LSU coach Smoke Laval was an assistant at Florida in 1981 under Jay Bergman and 1982 under Jack Rhine.
- LSU holds a 43-24 all-time edge over Florida, including a 2-1 series win last May in Gainesville. Florida has won just three series from LSU since the SEC began round-robin play in 1986, and all were at Gainesville—in 1988, 1996 and 1998.



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