



2003 **LSU BASEBALL**

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2003 LSU BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

Monday, February 17

Overall Record: 4-3

Last week's results:

Tuesday—won at Centenary, 15-0

Friday—lost to Kansas, 9-6 in 10 innings

Saturday—Kansas, ppd., rain

Sunday—swept in doubleheader by Kansas, 6-4 and 9-7 (second game shortened to 7 innings due to Kansas' travel itinerary)

This week's games (all times CT):

Tuesday—Louisiana-Monroe, 6:30 p.m.

Friday—Houston, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday—Houston, 2 p.m.

Sunday—Houston, 1 p.m.

NO PLAYER OR PITCHER OF THE WEEK NOMINEES

Notes on the Weekend:

- LSU was swept by Kansas over the weekend, marking the first time a team has swept a three-game series from the Tigers since Arkansas swept then top-ranked LSU May 4-6, 2001 at Fayetteville.
- The Jayhawks became the first non-conference team to win a series from LSU in Baton Rouge and sweep a non-conference series over the Tigers since Houston won three straight in Baton Rouge February 25-27, 2000.
- Kansas' victory in the series opener marked the Tigers' first loss in extra innings since falling 3-2 to Georgia on March 11, 2001. LSU had won four consecutive extra inning games since then, winning 4-3 in 13 innings in the 2001 super regional opener vs. Tulane and winning overtime contests against Birmingham-Southern, Long Beach State and Florida in 2002.
- On Sunday, LSU was swept in a regular season doubleheader for the first time since April 20, 1991, when Kentucky rolled to 17-7 and 11-7 victories in Lexington, helping the Wildcats to a three-game sweep of that series. LSU lost two games in the same day last May 25 to South Carolina in the SEC Tournament.
- The three-game losing streak for the Tigers is their first since dropping four in a row last March 16-22. LSU had a three-game home losing streak in 2002, dropping two to Vanderbilt March 16-17 and then one to Mississippi State on March 29.
- LSU has lost three of five regular season series with teams from the Big 12 and is 9-8



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all-time against the league since its formation in 1997. LSU is 3-4 vs. Texas, 3-0 vs. Baylor, 2-1 vs. Kansas State, 0-3 vs. Kansas and 1-0 vs. Oklahoma.

- In the Kansas series, LSU grabbed a one-run lead on three different occasions—twice Friday and once in Sunday's second game. In every situation, the Jayhawks responded in their next inning at the plate, taking a 3-1 lead in the second inning on Friday and tying the game in the seventh on Friday and the second inning of Sunday's second game.
- Coming into the Kansas series, LSU had yielded just three extra base hits in 36 innings pitched. The Jayhawks picked up 13 extra base hits (8 doubles, 5 home runs) in 26 innings against LSU.
- The five home runs in the series for Kansas are more than LSU allowed in any series in 2002 and the most since yielding six to Ole Miss April 13-15, 2001. The most home runs allowed by LSU in a series in 2002 were four by South Carolina April 19-21.
- Kansas was quite prolific with two out the entire weekend, going 19-for-43 (.442) and picking up 11 RBI with two out. Of the Jayhawks' 24 runs in the series, 13 came with two out.
- Kansas was also quite good with runners in scoring position, hitting .333 (9-for-27) in RBI situations. In LSU's first four games, the Tigers held opponents to a .116 average (5-for-43) in RISP situations.
- LSU's starting pitching was thought to be a strength heading into the season, but the Tigers' rotation of senior RHP Jake Tompkins, junior RHP Brian Wilson and junior RHP Nate Bumstead struggled over the weekend, yielding 19 runs (18 earned) on 27 hits in only 14 2/3 innings for an ERA on the weekend of 11.04. For the season, Tiger starters have a 3-2 record with a 5.45 ERA.
- Tompkins got his second no decision in Friday's series opener, but gave up six runs (five earned) on seven hits in seven innings, recording six strikeouts. Tompkins has 17 strikeouts in 12 2/3 innings this year, but his ERA rose to 3.55 after Friday's game.
- Wilson gave up 11 hits and six earned runs with six strikeouts in Sunday's first game, throwing 109 pitches in only five innings. The 11 hits tie the most Wilson has given up in one game, as he gave up 11 in last year's SEC Tournament vs. South Carolina. Wilson fell to 1-1 on the year and saw his ERA rise to 6.75.
- Bumstead, who allowed two runs on five hits in seven innings in defeating Northwestern State on February 9, struggled in the series finale, giving up eight earned runs on nine hits in 2 2/3 innings. All of the runs and hits that Kansas collected off of Bumstead came with two out.
- LSU closer Brandon Nall suffered his first loss on Friday. The junior right-hander gave up three runs (two earned) on three hits in 1 1/3 innings, including the game-winning home run to Kevin Wheeler that started the 10th.
- Not all news out of the LSU bullpen was bad, as two southpaws, redshirt freshman Jason Determann and true freshman Greg Smith looked impressive in outings this week.
- Determann made two appearances, going two scoreless innings on Tuesday at Centenary, and then coming back in Sunday's first game and adding 2 1/3 more scoreless frames. Determann appeared in just two games and threw only seven innings last year after suffering an elbow injury in February that required Tommy John surgery.
- Smith made his first appearance in Sunday's series final against Kansas and was sharp, giving up one hit and striking out three in two innings.
- Junior RHP Billy Sadler continues to impress. After a scoreless ninth inning at Centenary, Sadler added 3 1/3 more scoreless frames vs. Kansas, appearing in the series' first two games. For the year, Sadler has fanned 10 and not allowed a run in seven innings.



- Despite Nall's struggles on Friday, the Tigers' bullpen has been efficient so far in 2003, posting a 1.50 ERA in 24 innings pitched and have allowed only one of seven inherited runners to score.
- At the plate, the Tigers came into the weekend hitting .451 (23-for-51) with runners in scoring position, but managed just a 6-for-33 (.182) ledger in RISP situations vs. Kansas.
- The biggest struggles in the Kansas series came for sophomore IF Blake Gill, who started 8-for-16 in the Tigers' first four games, but was just 2-for-12 vs. the Jayhawks, dropping his season average to a still-robust .381.
- Two LSU players batted an even .500 (4-for-8) in the Kansas series—sophomore OF Ryan Patterson and junior 3B Aaron Hill.
- Patterson, a junior college transfer, had his best game in the series finale, going 2-for-3 with a double, a home run, two RBI and two runs scored. Patterson also collected a two-run single in Sunday's first game and is now hitting .438 (7-for-16) with 5 RBI on the season.
- Patterson now owns the Tigers' longest active hitting streak at five games, and is the only LSU player to hit in every game in which he has played this year.
- Adding in the Centenary game, Hill led the Tigers in the four games this week with a .462 average (6-for-13) with four runs scored, five RBI, a triple and a home run. Hill hit his first home run of the season, a two-run shot, to tie the game at 5-5 in the fourth inning on Friday. Hill is batting .429 on the season and leads the Tigers in slugging percentage (.714) and on-base percentage (.594).
- Hill's on-base percentage is a result of his great patience at the plate, as he has walked seven times and drawn three hit by pitches in 32 plate appearances compared to just one strikeout.
- Another Tiger enjoying a solid series against Kansas was sophomore OF/DH Quinn Stewart, who was 5-for-9 in the series first two games. Stewart collected his first three-hit game on Friday with a home run in the first inning and a pair of doubles. The Texas native is batting a healthy .360 on the season.
- The leadoff home run by Stewart on Friday was the Tigers' first leadoff home run to start a game since Ryan Theriot led off a second round game of the 2000 SEC Tournament vs. Alabama with a home run.
- The series finale vs. Kansas was the first start for senior C Shawn French, who saw action due to an injury to Dustin Weaver (see below). French, who had an RBI single on Tuesday at Centenary, was 1-for-4 with a run scoring hit against the Jayhawks.
- Senior RHP Bo Pettit continued to battle the flu bug, missing his scheduled start in the series finale vs. Kansas. Pettit, a Houston native, is expected to be ready for the Tigers series with Houston this weekend.
- Sophomore C Dustin Weaver suffered a shoulder injury while lifting weights on Tuesday morning prior to LSU's departure for Shreveport, and did not play in any games this week. Like Pettit, Weaver is expected to be ready this weekend.

The Week Ahead:

- LSU plays its first mid-week game at home on Tuesday when it hosts Louisiana-Monroe. Tigers coach Smoke Laval was the Indian skipper from 1994-2000, when he led ULM to three NCAA regional appearances (1995, 1999, 2000) and coached All-American pitcher Ben Sheets, who went on to win an Olympic gold medal in Sydney and made the 2001 major



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league All-Star game.

- The Tigers swept four games from the Indians last year, taking a three-game series (4-3, 7-1, 8-7) at Baton Rouge and winning 10-3 in Monroe in April, and LSU has won five in a row overall in the series. Two other members of Laval's staff have ties to ULM, as pitching coach Brady Wiederhold served in the same capacity for the Indians in 2000 and 2001, while administrative assistant Ted White was an All-Southland Conference player for ULM from 1998 through 2002.
- The Houston Cougars visit Baton Rouge for the third time in four years, and this year's series marks the fourth consecutive year LSU and UH have faced off. The series should feature some of the nation's top pitching talent, as the Cougars feature All-American right-hander Brad Sullivan and emerging left-hander Danny Zell, while the Tigers boast three top right-handers in Jake Tompkins, Brian Wilson and Bo Pettit.
- Houston won two of three last year in Space City. Sullivan beat the Tigers 11-3 in the opener, LSU used an eight-run sixth inning to take game two, 8-4, and then the third game turned into one of the wackiest affairs in recent memory for both teams. LSU fell behind 8-3, only to grab an 11-8 lead through six innings before the Tigers committed three of their seven errors in the ninth inning, allowing the Cougars to score four times and take a 12-11 victory. Both LSU and UH reached the super regional round in 2002, with the Tigers being swept by Houston's cross-town rival, Rice, and the Cougars falling to Texas in Austin.
- LSU swept Houston on its last visit to Alex Box Stadium in 2001, but the Cougars swept the Tigers in 2000, the Tigers' last series sweep at home until this past weekend. The teams are scheduled to play in Baton Rouge in 2004 and in Houston in 2005.



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