



# 2003 LSU BASEBALL

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## 2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Wednesday, March 12

Overall Record: 11-7

Results so far this week:

Tuesday—lost at Tulane, 5-4 in 11 innings

This weekend's games (all times CST):

Friday—Florida, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday—Florida, 2 p.m.

Sunday—Florida, 12:30 p.m.

Notes from the Tulane game:

- Junior 3B Ivan Naccarata extended his hitting streak to 15 games with a sixth-inning single. Naccarata is batting .393 (22-for-56) during the streak with 11 RBI and leads the Tigers in season batting average at .354.
- Junior SS Aaron Hill also extended his hitting streak in the sixth inning with an RBI single, improving his string to six games with an average of .375 (9-for-24) during the streak. Hill is second on the Tigers with a .311 season average.
- The Tigers' third .300 hitter on the year, sophomore OF Bruce Sprowl, was one of two players with two hits in the Tulane game, giving him three two-hit games in his last four outings. Sprowl is batting .310 and has struck out just twice in 61 plate appearances.
- Freshman RHP Justin Meier turned in his longest outing of his brief LSU career, going 5 2/3 innings after going five innings in each of his first three starts.
- Although Meier failed to improve to 4-0, it was another impressive outing for the Florida native, as he struck out a season high five for the second consecutive game and allowed no earned runs. In 20 2/3 innings this season, Meier has allowed just one earned run for a 0.44 ERA. Meier is also allowing just a .171 opponents' batting average, giving up 12 hits in 70 at-bats.
- Junior RHP Billy Sadler made his first pitching appearance in nine days and turned in a career high 3 2/3 innings with four strikeouts. Sadler leads the Tigers in appearances this year with eight and has struck out 18 batters in 16 innings.
- LSU's pitching staff continues to lower its ERA, dropping that mark to 3.03 after having it go as high as 3.77 after the March 1 game at Long Beach St. The Tigers have allowed a total of 10 earned runs in their last six games (55 1/3 innings) and has given up two or fewer earned runs 10 times this year.
- LSU pitching has allowed fewer than 10 hits in six consecutive games, including a total of 16 in the Tigers' three contests. The last time LSU had a streak of allowing fewer than 10



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hits this long was from April 3-13, 2001, when the Tigers did it in seven consecutive games.

- Heading into SEC play this year, the Tigers have improved in several phases of the game compared to this time in 2002. The Tigers' ERA at this time is nearly two-thirds of a run lower (3.09 to 3.74), the opponents' batting average is 29 points lower (.250 to .279), and LSU has committed 12 fewer errors (27, down from 39). At the plate, the Tigers have hit two more home runs (16 to 14) and raised their slugging percentage by 28 points (.438 to .414).
- Tuesday's game at Zephyr Field drew 10,870, the 22<sup>nd</sup> crowd of 10,000 or more to watch an LSU baseball game since 1998, and the ninth crowd of 10,000 or more to watch an LSU-Tulane game in that same stretch. LSU holds the attendance record for every college baseball park in Louisiana except Grambling, whom the Tigers have never played. LSU also has the attendance records at Zephyr Field and the Superdome, including last year's NCAA record crowd of 27,673 for the LSU-Tulane game.
- LSU lost its first game of 2003 against in-state competition, but has still won 16 of its past 18 games against Louisiana foes.

Looking ahead to the Florida series:

- For the fourth time since 1986, the Gators will be the Tigers' first Southeastern Conference opponent. LSU previously opened SEC play against Florida in 1986, 1987 and 1999.
- The Tigers have dominated SEC East division teams at Alex Box Stadium, losing just two series to the East since the league began round-robin play in 1986. Florida is one of four SEC East teams to never win a series in Alex Box Stadium, although the Gators won the 1991 SEC Tournament championship by beating LSU twice in Baton Rouge.
- LSU will be looking for its first above-.500 start in SEC play since 1999. The Tigers started conference play 1-2 in each of the last three years. The Tigers had a winning record out of the chute in the SEC in every year from 1991 through 1999.



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