



2003 LSU BASEBALL

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2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Thursday, April 10

Overall Record: 22-10-1

Southeastern Conference Record: 9-2-1 (2nd in West division, 2nd overall)

Results so far this week:

Wednesday—won at Northwestern St., 6-4

This weekend's games (all times CDT):

Friday—Ole Miss, 7 p.m. (note change in start time; originally listed at 6:30 p.m.)

Saturday—Ole Miss, 2 p.m.

Sunday—Ole Miss, 1 p.m. (live TV on Louisiana Sports Network)

Notes from the Northwestern St. game:

- LSU rallied for four runs in the eighth inning to overcome a 4-2 deficit and complete a four-game season sweep of Northwestern St. It's the second time in as many years under coach Smoke Laval that LSU has swept an in-state opponent in a four-game series; last year, the Tigers swept Louisiana-Monroe, the school Laval coached from 1994 through 2000.
- The comeback victory was LSU's ninth this season, and fifth time where the Tigers scored the eventual winning run in the sixth inning or later. In the season opener on February 7, LSU scored two runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to nip Northwestern St., 2-1.
- The comeback was capped by a two-run double from junior SS Aaron Hill, whose hit allowed the winning runs to score. Hill also had a solo home run in the sixth inning, and in his last three games, Hill is 9-for-12 with nine RBI, two doubles, two triples and two home runs. Hill also walked twice in the Northwestern St. game and reached base in all five plate appearances.
- Hill, the Tigers' leading hitter on the year at .368, will enter the weekend as the SEC leader in walks (27) and on-base percentage (.503). Prior to the hot streak, Hill had been in a 2-for-18 slump that saw his season average drop to .324.
- Hill's home run allowed LSU to extend its streak of consecutive games with a home run to 13, its longest streak since the Tigers hit a home run in 21 straight games from March 1 through March 29, 1998. Of course, the Tigers' longest streak of consecutive games with a home run is the NCAA record of 77, started in the 1996 national championship game and continued all the way through the first six games of 1998.



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- LSU will enter the weekend tied for the SEC lead in home runs with Alabama at 41.
- The only other player to have two hits on Wednesday was sophomore 2B Blake Gill, who went 2-for-4. In four games against Northwestern St. this year, Gill hit .471 (8-for-17) with four runs scored and collected two hits in each game.
- Wednesday's game was another showcase outing for redshirt freshman LHP Jason Determann. Determann, who pitched only twice in 2002 before undergoing Tommy John surgery on his left elbow in late February, entered the game in the sixth with a runner on second and gave up an RBI double, but he then would retire the next eight batters in order, and allowed only a ninth inning single over the final 3 2/3 innings.
- Determann, who threw 32 of his 44 pitches in his stint for strikes, walked no Demon batters and struck out five to improve to 2-0 on the year and lower his ERA to 1.35. Determann has struck out 23 batters and walked only four in 20 innings this season over eight appearances. In his last two outings, Determann has struck out 12, walked none and given up just two unearned runs and five hits in 7 2/3 innings.
- Freshman C Matt Liuzza did not start, but went 0-for-1 with a walk to halt his hitting streak at 12 consecutive games. The Tigers' longest active streak now belongs to sophomore CF J.C. Holt, who has hit safely in his last 10 games. Holt walked in his only
- The Tiger defense continued its solid play by turning in its second consecutive errorless game, the first time LSU has gone back-to-back contests without committing an error since last March 8-9 vs. UL-Monroe. Since committing 21 errors in their first 11 games, the Tigers have committed just 21 in their last 22 games.
- Through 33 games last year, LSU had already committed 62 errors, 20 more than at this time in 2003. The reduction in errors has allowed LSU pitchers to yield 27 fewer unearned runs this year (31) than at this point last year (58).

Looking ahead to the Ole Miss series:

- LSU will be looking to win its 12th consecutive series over the Rebels in Alex Box Stadium. Ole Miss' last series win in Baton Rouge came on the final weekend of the 1982 season, when the coaches were ex-major leaguers Jake Gibbs (Ole Miss) and Jack Lamabe (LSU).
- Since Skip Bertman's arrival at LSU in 1984, Ole Miss has won a total of four series from LSU, and all were at Oxford, in 1987, 1995, 1998 and 2002.
- The old home week for LSU continues as former Tiger catcher and assistant coach Mike Bianco visits with Ole Miss. Bianco was a catcher on the Tigers' 1989 College World Series team, an assistant coach for championship teams in 1993, 1996 and 1997 before taking head coaching positions at McNeese St. (1998-2000) and Ole Miss. Bianco is 5-8 all-time against his alma mater, including 3-5 at Ole Miss.
- A series win by LSU moves it one step closer to tying its own school and SEC record for most consecutive conference series wins with 10, done in the final series of 1985 and all nine series of 1986.
- Friday's series opener will be LSU coach Smoke Laval's 500th career game as a head coach and his 100th career game at LSU. Laval is 307-191-1 overall and 66-32-1 at LSU.



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