



2003 LSU BASEBALL

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2003 LSU BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

Monday, February 24

Overall Record: 6-4

Last week's results

Tuesday—def. Louisiana-Monroe, 9-4

Friday—Houston, ccd., rain

Saturday—lost to Houston, 7-2

Sunday—def. Houston, 5-2

This week's games (all times CT):

Friday—at Long Beach St., 8:30 p.m.

Saturday—at Long Beach St., 3 p.m. (TV: Jumbo Sports Network)

Sunday—at Long Beach St., 3 p.m. (TV: Jumbo Sports Network)

LIVE AUDIO AND STATISTICS FOR ALL LSU GAMES AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT
WWW.LSUSPORTS.NET

PLAYER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE

Jr. 2B/3B Ivan Naccarata—5-11, 185, Longueuil, Quebec (Chipola, JC; Georges-Vanier HS)

Naccarata's game-by-game statistics this week:

Day	Opponent (Result)	Avg.	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB-SBA
Tue.	Louisiana-Monroe (W)	.250	4	1	1	0	1	0	1	0-0
Sat.	Houston (L)	.250	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0-0
Sun.	Houston (W)	.500	4	2	2	0	0	1	2	0-0
THIS WEEK'S TOTALS (3 G-3 GS)		.333	12	3	4	0	1	1	3	0-0
SEASON TOTALS (10 G-8 GS)		.303	33	6	10	2	1	1	8	1-1

Notes on Naccarata:

- Has hit safely in LSU's last seven games, and he has the longest hitting streak for the Tigers this season.
- Is hitting .375 (6-for-16) with four RBI in the Tigers' last five games after batting .235 (6-for-17) in the first five games.
- Batting .471 (8-for-17) with runners on base and batting .364 (4-for-11) with runners in scoring position.
- Started both games of the Houston series at third base after starting six of the first eight games of the season at second base.
- His two-run home run in the sixth inning of Sunday's 5-2 victory gave LSU its winning



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margin over Houston.

- Has not committed an error in the Tigers' last five games, covering 11 total chances.
- A member of the Canadian national team at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.
- Has been drafted twice in her career—in 2000 out of high school by the hometown Montreal Expos (40th round) and in 2002 by the Houston Astros (21st round).

PITCHER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE

Jr. RHP Brian Wilson—6-1, 205, Londonderry, N.H (Londonderry HS)

Wilson's pitching line

Day	Opponent (result)	W-L	ERA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Sun.	Houston (W)	W	0.00	7.0+	6	2	0	0	5
SEASON TOTALS (3 G-3 GS)		2-1	4.08	17.2	25	12	8	3	14

Notes on Wilson:

- Turned in his best outing of the 2003 season in 5-2 victory over Houston, pitching seven shutout innings and allowing no earned runs. He allowed two unearned runs in the eighth inning before Bo Pettit came in and pitched the final two innings for the save.
- Allowed only one runner to reach third base in the first seven innings, and in four of the first seven innings, he retired the side in order.
- Sunday's outing marked the first time Wilson has gone five or more innings without yielding a walk in a game. His previous high without a walk was 4 2/3 innings in relief last April 7 at Auburn.
- Retired 10 consecutive batters, starting with the final batter of the second inning through the end of the fifth inning.
- Performance vs. Houston came seven days after Wilson gave up five runs and 11 hits in loss to Kansas.

Notes on the week:

- The series with Houston was reduced from three games to two when Friday's game was canceled by heavy rain in Baton Rouge. That game will be made up on Wednesday, April 23 with a game against Southeastern Louisiana.
- LSU coach Smoke Laval won his 50th career game at LSU, improving his career mark to 50-26 in his one-plus year in Baton Rouge. Laval is the fastest LSU baseball coach to reach 50 victories, bettering his mentor, Skip Bertman, who won his 50th game in his 80th contest.
- Senior RHP Bo Pettit lost his starting assignment when Friday's game was canceled, but he made the most of a relief opportunity in Sunday's game. Pettit came in with two on and no out for Brian Wilson, and after walking the first batter he faced, Pettit struck out two and got a fly ball to get out of the jam with LSU still holding a 5-2 lead. Pettit then worked a 1-2-3 ninth inning to notch his first career save.
- Pettit missed his first two starts of the season vs. Northwestern State and Kansas with a case of the flu. Pettit will likely be in the Tigers' rotation this weekend at Long Beach State.
- Pettit's performance continues a solid season so far by the LSU bullpen. Tiger relievers have yielded only a 1.34 ERA, giving up five earned runs in 33 2/3 innings while collecting 27 strikeouts. LSU relievers have left nine of 11 inherited runners stranded on base.



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- Junior RHP Brandon Nall has bounced back strong from his first loss of the season on February 14 against Kansas, having retired the last seven batters he has faced. He pitched a perfect ninth inning on Tuesday against UL-Monroe, then worked 1 1/3 perfect innings on Saturday against Houston.
- The Tigers' pitching staff tightened up considerably in two-out situations against Houston. After allowing Kansas to go 19-for-43 with two out, Houston was able to go only 5-for-23 (.217) in two-out situations in the two game series.
- LSU pitchers are allowing a .259 batting average against through 10 games, 11 points lower than .270 average allowed at this point in 2002. Tiger pitchers have yielded 18 extra base hits, three fewer than this point last year.
- Combine the Houston series with a 1-for-10 effort with two out in Tuesday's victory over Louisiana-Monroe, LSU pitchers gave up only a .176 average (6-for-34) in two out situations this week after Kansas hit .443 in those same situations.
- True freshman 1B Will Harris enjoyed a fine weekend against Houston, starting both games at first base and going 3-for-6. In Sunday's game, Harris was 2-for-2 with a sacrifice fly to score LSU's first run, and he later added a double in the seventh inning before scoring an insurance run for LSU's final run.
- LSU's batting average is only .299, but the Tigers continue to make the most of their hits. Of the Tigers' 20 hits this week, nine went for extra bases (5 doubles, 2 triples, 2 home runs).
- As a result of those extra base hits, LSU has raised its slugging percentage by 56 points over the same point in 2002, as LSU has a .460 slugging percentage compared to .404 at this point last year.
- The Tigers have also demonstrated tremendous patience at the plate, striking out 54 times in 391 plate appearances, or one every 7.24 trips to the plate. Last year at this time, LSU struck out 67 times in 437 appearances, or one every 6.52 trips.
- Junior 3B/SS Aaron Hill is the most patient of those Tiger hitters, as he has struck out only one time in 44 plate appearances. Hill has drawn 10 walks and has been hit by four pitches to lead LSU in on-base percentage at .523.
- Although a return to the "Geaux-rilla Ball" days may be still a little ways off, LSU has increased its home run production from this same point last year, as the Tigers have hit eight home runs through the first 10 games this year after hitting six through the first 12 games of 2002.
- LSU extended its winning streak over Louisiana-Monroe to six consecutive games, including four in a row at Baton Rouge. Tiger coach Smoke Laval is now 5-0 against the Indians, whom Laval led to NCAA regional berths in 1995, 1999 and 2000.
- LSU continued its mastery of Louisiana opponents, winning its 16th game in its last 17 outings against in-state competition, with the only loss in the span being a 5-0 defeat to Louisiana-Lafayette in the second round of last year's Baton Rouge regional. The Tigers are 20-5 under Laval against in-state foes.
- LSU has now won its last eight mid-week contests dating back to a 7-0 loss at UL-Lafayette last March 19.
- For the second consecutive Tuesday night, the story of the game was freshman RHP Justin Meier. Making only his second start and second appearance in an LSU uniform, the Florida native allowed one run and three hits over five innings to improve to 2-0. Meier did not allow a run until a leadoff homer by ULM's Joey Wolfe in the fifth, and walked only one batter. Meier is 2-0 with an 0.90 ERA on the season.



- The ULM game was redemption for junior RHP Nate Bumstead. Just two days after giving up eight runs and nine hits in 2 2/3 innings in the series finale vs. Kansas, the Las Vegas native came back vs. the Indians and allowed one hit in two scoreless innings.
- LSU juggled its lineup some against Houston. In both games of that series, Aaron Hill moved from third base to shortstop, the position he started at in 2002. Blake Gill started both games at second, with Ivan Naccarata moving from second to third and Will Harris moving in at first.
- In LSU's loss on Saturday to Houston, the Tigers committed four errors, a season high for errors and the highest total since committing four last March 17 against Vanderbilt. In their last five games against Houston, LSU has committed 18 errors leading to 14 unearned runs for the Cougars.
- In spite of the performance on Saturday, LSU has committed three fewer errors (17) than it did through 10 games in 2002 (20). LSU's fielding percentage is also higher, .957 to .952.
- With the victory on Sunday, LSU averted back-to-back winless weekends for the first time since 1982, when Ole Miss and Auburn swept LSU on the road. LSU has never had back-to-back winless weekends at home in its 110-year history.

On deck this week:

- LSU returns to action on Friday when the Tigers visit Long Beach State to open a three-game series. It will be LSU's first games in California in the program's 110-year history. Prior to a 2001 series at Arizona State, the Tigers' furthest trek west were two series against Texas in Austin in 1994 and 1998.
- LSU took two of three from Long Beach last year in Baton Rouge, losing 8-3 in the opener to 49er ace Abe Alvarez before winning 10-2 and 6-5 in 11 innings. The series finale was memorable not only for Matt Heath's game-winning home run in the 11th inning, but for the fact it was the coldest recorded game in LSU baseball history, with a first pitch temperature of 31 degrees and a wind chill of 18.
- Prior to last year's series, all of the meetings between the Tigers and the 49ers had come during NCAA tournament play. LSU won an 8-5 decision in the 1989 College World Series, and then the two teams met three times in the 1993 CWS. LSU took a 7-1 victory in the opener before Long Beach forced a second elimination game with a 10-8 victory. The bracket one final was one of the classic games in CWS history, with LSU rallying from a 5-3 deficit with three runs in the bottom of the ninth for a 6-5 victory, a win that propelled the Tigers to a national championship the next day with an 8-0 shutout of Wichita State.
- In 1997, the Tigers eliminated the 49ers from the South I Regional with a 14-7 victory in 11 innings in a game that was most notorious for coach Skip Bertman's ejection in the eighth inning.
- The 49ers will be the Tigers' second consecutive ranked opponent, marking the first time LSU has played ranked opponents on back-to-back weekends in non-conference play since hosting Arizona State and Houston in 2000.

