



2003 LSU BASEBALL

LSU Sports Information • (225) 578-8226 • (225) 578-1861 • P.O. Box 25095 • Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5095

2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Tuesday, May 27

Overall Record: 40-19-1

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON CHAMPION

SEC TOURNAMENT RUNNERS-UP

Last week's results (3-1):

SEC TOURNAMENT, BIRMINGHAM

Thursday—def. Arkansas, 5-4

Friday—def. Mississippi St., 7-2

Saturday—def. Mississippi St., 17-5 (7 innings, 10-run rule)

Sunday—lost to Alabama, 10-3

This week's games (all times CDT):

NCAA BATON ROUGE REGIONAL

Friday—Northeastern, 2 p.m. (UNC Wilmington vs. Tulane, 7 p.m.)

Saturday—NCAA regional game, 11 a.m. (loser's bracket) or 3 p.m. (winner's bracket); elimination game at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday—NCAA regional championship round, 1 p.m. (if necessary game, 5 p.m.)

Notes from the week:

- LSU had three players named first team All-SEC: junior SS Aaron Hill, sophomore 1B Clay Harris and sophomore DH Ryan Patterson. Hill was named the conference' position Player of the Year, marking the fourth time since 1993 that an LSU player has won the honor, joining Todd Walker in 1993, Russ Johnson in 1994 and Eddy Furniss in 1996. The three first team selections mark the second time in three years LSU has had that many first teamers.
- The Tigers also had three second team selections: sophomore 2B Blake Gill, sophomore OF Jon Zeringue and junior RHP Nate Bumstead.
- LSU coach Smoke Laval was named the SEC Coach of the Year, as he became the sixth Tiger coach to earn the distinction. Every time an LSU coach has led the Tigers to the SEC championship, he has been named coach of the year, including seven such honors for former coach Skip Bertman.
- LSU reached the SEC Tournament championship game for the 12th time since 1986, but fell short by losing to Alabama. The Tigers are now 6-6 in the SEC Tournament championship game and have lost four of their last five title game appearances, including three (1995, 1997 and 2003) to Alabama. LSU's only SEC Tourney title in the last nine years came in 2000.
- LSU left Birmingham with a 49-28 all-time record in the SEC Tournament. The Tigers hold the SEC record for conference tournament wins and winning percentage (.636). The Tigers' six



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31
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championships are now second to Alabama's seven, six of which have come under former LSU assistant coach Jim Wells.

- LSU has made an SEC record 19 consecutive tournament appearances, and in each of the last 18 years, the Tigers have won at least one game. In 20 tournament appearances, LSU's only two-and-out came in 1985 at home.
- The Tigers' win over Mississippi St. on Saturday extended their streak of 40-win seasons to 15, a streak that began in 1989. Since 1985, LSU has won 40 or more games in 18 of 19 seasons, missing out only with a 39-21 season in 1988. From 1893 through 1984, LSU won 40 games in a season only once, going 40-16 in 1975. Of the other 11 SEC schools, only Mississippi St. has won 40 or more games in every year since 2000.
- The 17-5 win over Mississippi St. on Saturday represented LSU's largest margin of victory in the SEC Tournament, besting a pair of 11-run wins, 16-5 over Auburn in 1993 at home and 13-2 over Ole Miss in 2001 at Birmingham.
- The 17 runs by LSU in that game were the second most scored by LSU in an SEC Tournament game, one shy of the record of 18 in 2000 against Alabama.
- The 10-run rule victory was LSU's fifth mercy rule win at the SEC Tournament since it was instituted in 1999. LSU won by an 8-run rule over Kentucky (10-0) in 1999 and Georgia (11-3) in 2001, and by a 10-run rule over Florida (10-0) and Ole Miss (13-2) in 2001 and Mississippi St. (17-5) this year.
- The Tigers' nine-run first inning on Saturday was LSU's biggest first inning in its SEC Tournament history, besting the seven-run first inning the Tigers enjoyed in the 2000 championship game against Florida. The nine runs in the first were the most in the opening frame by LSU since a 14-run first inning vs. Arkansas on March 22, 1998, the most runs the Tigers have ever scored in the opening inning of any game.
- By defeating Mississippi St. in back-to-back games, LSU took the lead in SEC Tournament meetings at 7-6. It also marked the second time LSU has beaten MSU twice in the same SEC Tournament, with the other occurrence in 1991 at Baton Rouge.
- LSU scored 24 runs in two SEC Tournament wins over Mississippi St., compared to 25 runs in the previous eight contests against the Bulldogs.
- Hill followed up his selection as SEC Player of the Year by earning a spot on the all-tournament team, becoming the only LSU player to earn that distinction. Hill batted .429 (6-for-14) in the tournament, but went hitless in the final to end an 11-game hitting streak.
- Hill is batting .371 on the year entering the regional and is hitting .390 in the month of May with a team high 17 RBI.
- The Tigers also got solid contributions at the plate from Gill and junior 3B Ivan Naccarata, both of whom were 5-for-12 (.417) in the tournament. Naccarata leads the Tigers in batting average in May at .392.
- On the mound, the Tigers' best performance was turned in by Bumstead, who went the distance to defeat Mississippi St. on Friday. Bumstead gave up 11 hits but only two runs as he threw his second complete game of the year, joining a 12-4 win over South Carolina on April 6.
- Bumstead is now 10-2 with a 3.86 ERA on the year, and against SEC competition, he is 9-1 with a 3.36 ERA, striking out 63 batters in 72 1/3 innings.
- One night after Bumstead's performance, senior RHP Bo Pettit also fired a complete game, striking out nine in seven innings to improve to 9-2 on the year. Pettit now has 287 strikeouts in 287 innings on the year, and if he starts in the regional and super regional rounds, could top the 300 mark in both categories.



- LSU's defense was the biggest disappointment in the championship game, as the Tigers committed a season high five errors, the most since booting seven at Houston last February 24. LSU had not committed more than three errors in a game since committing four on February 28 at Long Beach St.

On deck for this week:

- LSU was named a host site for one of 16 NCAA regionals on Sunday, marking the 14th consecutive year and 15th time since 1986 that Alex Box Stadium will host a regional. The Tigers were also rewarded the No. 2 national seed on Monday, marking the second time in the five years under the current NCAA Tournament format that LSU was named the second seed, joining the 2000 national championship season.
- Hosting a regional has almost always meant victory for LSU. The Tigers are 52-10 in home regional games
- LSU opens play in the Baton Rouge regional on Friday against Northeastern, the America East conference tournament champions. The Tigers have never faced the Huskies in baseball, and have played only one current America East team, Maine, going 6-1 against the Black Bears.
- The Huskies become the second Boston-area team to make a regional appearance in Baton Rouge, as Harvard finished third in the 1998 South II Regional behind LSU and Cal St. Fullerton. Northeastern is making its first trip to the post-season since 1997, when it was eliminated in two games at the West Regional in Palo Alto by powerhouses Stanford and Cal St. Fullerton.
- Northeastern will be trying to do something only one other team has ever done, and that's beat LSU in a regional opener. The Tigers are 17-1 in NCAA regional openers, losing only to Houston in 1985 at Austin, Skip Bertman's first regional club.
- The other regional opener in Baton Rouge pits the Tigers' oldest archrival, Tulane, against first-time regional participant UNC Wilmington. Ironically, the last time Wilmington was in the post-season was 1975, when Green Wave coach Rick Jones was a senior on the Seahawks' NAIA World Series team.
- Tulane and LSU have met seven times in the post-season, with LSU holding a 5-2 edge. The Tigers have won the four regional meetings, including three wins (1986, 1992 and 2002) at Alex Box Stadium, but the Green Wave won the 2001 super regional at Zephyr Field in Metairie to advance to Omaha. Only once has Tulane advanced to the finals of a regional in Baton Rouge, losing the 1986 title game to LSU.
- UNC Wilmington is the third current team from the Colonial Athletic Association to play in Baton Rouge in the post-season, joining James Madison (1995) and Virginia Commonwealth (2001). Former CAA member East Carolina, now in Conference USA, played at LSU in 1999. UNCW is also the first team to make its post-season debut at Baton Rouge since Rice in 1995, which that year knocked LSU out of the South Regional by beating the Tigers twice.

