

**2004 LSU Schedule/Results**

Feb. 13 -- at UCF, 5 p.m.  
 Feb. 14 - at UCF, Noon  
 Feb. 15 - at UCF, Noon  
 Feb. 17 - UL-MONROE, 6:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 20 - JACKSONVILLE ST., 6:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 21 - JACKSONVILLE ST., 2 p.m.  
 Feb. 22 - JACKSONVILLE ST., Noon  
 Feb. 25 - Southeastern Louisiana, 6:30 p.m. #  
 Feb. 27 - TEXAS STATE, 6:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 28 - TEXAS STATE, 2 p.m.  
 Feb. 29 - TEXAS STATE, Noon  
 Mar. 2 - Tulane, 7 p.m. #  
 Mar. 5 - HOUSTON, 6:30 p.m.  
 Mar. 6 - HOUSTON, 2 p.m.  
 Mar. 7 - HOUSTON, 1 p.m.  
 Mar. 9 - at UL-Monroe, 6:30 p.m.  
 Mar. 12 - SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA, 6:30 p.m.  
 Mar. 13 - SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA, 2 p.m.  
 Mar. 14 - SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA, 1 p.m.  
 Mar. 16 - NEW ORLEANS, 6:30 p.m.  
 Mar. 19 - at South Carolina, 6 p.m.  
 Mar. 20 - at South Carolina, 3 p.m.  
 Mar. 21 - at South Carolina, 12:30 p.m.  
 Mar. 23 - at Centenary, 7 p.m.  
 Mar. 26 - MISSISSIPPI ST., 6:30 p.m.  
 Mar. 27 - MISSISSIPPI ST., 2 p.m.  
 Mar. 28 - MISSISSIPPI ST., 1 p.m.  
 Mar. 30 - at New Orleans, 6:30 p.m.  
 Apr. 2 - at Auburn, 6:30 p.m.  
 Apr. 3 - at Auburn, 3 p.m.  
 Apr. 4 - at Auburn, 1:30 p.m.  
 Apr. 6 - TULANE, 6:30 p.m.  
 Apr. 9 - ARKANSAS, 6:30 p.m.  
 Apr. 10 - ARKANSAS, 2 p.m.  
 Apr. 11 - ARKANSAS, 1 p.m.  
 Apr. 13 - NICHOLLS STATE, 6:30 p.m.  
 Apr. 16 - GEORGIA, 6:30 p.m.  
 Apr. 17 - GEORGIA, 2 p.m.  
 Apr. 18 - GEORGIA, 1 p.m.  
 Apr. 20 - at Southern, 6:30 p.m.  
 Apr. 23 - at Tennessee, 6 p.m.  
 Apr. 24 - at Tennessee, 6 p.m.  
 Apr. 25 - at Tennessee, 1 p.m.  
 Apr. 27 - Tulane, 7 p.m. \$  
 Apr. 30 - ALABAMA, 6:30 p.m.  
 May 1 - ALABAMA, 2 p.m.  
 May 2 - ALABAMA, 1 p.m.  
 May 7 - at Kentucky, 5:30 p.m.  
 May 8 - at Kentucky, 1 p.m.  
 May 9 - at Kentucky, Noon  
 May 14 - VANDERBILT, 6:30 p.m.  
 May 15 - VANDERBILT, 2 p.m.  
 May 16 - VANDERBILT, 1 p.m.  
 May 21 - at Ole Miss, 6:30 p.m.  
 May 22 - at Ole Miss, 3 p.m.  
 May 23 - at Ole Miss, 1:30 p.m.  
 May 26-30 - SEC Tournament (Hoover, Ala.)  
 June 4-6 - NCAA Regional (sites TBA)  
 June 11-13/14 - NCAA Super Regional (sites TBA)  
 June 18-27/28 - College World Series (Omaha, Neb.)  
 # - Zephyr Field (Metairie, La.) \$ - Louisiana Superdome



**LSU TIGERS**  
 (0-0)  
 at  
**UCF (2-0)**

**Feb. 13 (5 p.m. CST) \* Feb. 14 (Noon CST) \* Feb. 15 (Noon CST) Jay Bergman Field (2,230)**

**Radio: 2/13 & 2/15 (LSU Sports Network) \* 2/14 (WJNH-FM 107.3 in Baton Rouge only)**  
**TV: 2/13 (None) \* 2/14 & 2/15 (Jumbo Sports Network)**

**Tigers Open 2004 Season Versus UCF in Orlando, Fla.**

LSU begins the 2004 season with a three-game series at the University of Central Florida Friday, Feb. 13 through Sunday, Feb. 15. The games will be played on the UCF campus at Jay Bergman Field (cap. 2,230), which opened during the 2001 season. The series marks LSU's fourth trip to Orlando to face UCF in the past 20 seasons. The Tigers will play their season opener away from Alex Box Stadium for the first time since 1995, when the Tigers opened versus Lamar in the Winn-Dixie Showdown in the Louisiana Superdome.

LSU leads the overall series between the clubs, 9-2. The Tigers hold a 5-2 advantage in Orlando and a 4-0 edge in Alex Box Stadium. The Tigers swept the Knights in two-game series in Baton Rouge in 1993 and again in 1999.

The last time LSU opened a season at an opponent's home field was in 1985 at UCF, and the Tigers took two of three games from the Knights (7-0, 4-5, 9-8). The Tigers returned to UCF on March 24, 1992, defeating the Knights in the first game of a scheduled two-game series by a final score of 5-2; the second game was canceled due to inclement weather, including severe hail.

LSU journeyed back to Orlando on March 3-5, 2000, and the Tigers won two of three games against UCF, as the series was contested at Tinker Field in downtown Orlando, adjacent to the Citrus Bowl football stadium. The Knights captured a wild, extra-inning affair, 14-13, in Game 1, before the Tigers rebounded to sweep the remaining two games by scores of 11-4 and 4-1.

**About UCF**

The Knights opened their 2004 season last weekend with a two-game sweep at Florida International (6-2, 8-6). UCF is a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference, which also includes Belmont, Campbell, Florida Atlantic, Gardner-Webb, Georgia State, Jacksonville, Lipscomb, Mercer, Stetson and Troy State. The team competes under the direction of coach Jay Bergman, who is in his 22nd season at the school and his 28th year as a college head coach. Last season, the Knights posted a 31-25 record and a 14-16 mark (ninth place) in Atlantic Sun games. UCF's last appearance in the NCAA Tournament came in 2002, when the Knights posted a 1-2 mark in the Tallahassee Regional.

**LSU vs. UCF: Pitching Matchups**

**Game 1**

LSU - So. RHP Justin Meier (8-3, 2.83 ERA, 95.1 IP, 62 SO in 2003)  
 UCF - Jr. RHP Matt Fox (1-0, 3.60 ERA, 5 IP, 0 BB, 10 SO)

**Game 2**

LSU - Jr. LHP Lane Mestepey (medical redshirt in 2003 - shoulder surgery)  
 UCF - Jr. LHP Jaime Douglas (0-0, 15.00 ERA, 3 IP, 3 BB, 3 SO)

**Game 3**

LSU - Fr. LHP Clay Dirks (first career collegiate appearance - medical redshirt in 2003)  
 UCF - So. RHP Kyle Bono (1-0, 0.00 ERA, 3 IP, 0 BB, 3 SO)

LSU		UCF	
<b>Record</b>	0-0	<b>Record</b>	2-0
<b>Ranking</b>	No. 2 Baseball America No. 3 Collegiate Baseball No. 3 ESPN/Sports Weekly	<b>Ranking</b>	Not Ranked
<b>Coach</b>	Smoke Laval	<b>Coach</b>	Jay Bergman
<b>Career Record</b>	330-203-1 (10th year)	<b>Career Record</b>	1,045-587-3 (28th year)
<b>LSU Record</b>	89-44-1 (third year)	<b>UCF Record</b>	829-474-3 (22nd year)
<b>vs. UCF</b>	First Meeting	<b>vs. LSU</b>	2-9

## Tracking the Tigers

Week	BA	CB	ESPN/SW
Preseason	2	3	3
Feb. 2	2	3	3
Feb. 9	2	3	3

## Baseball America (Feb. 9)

- Rice (0-0)
- LSU (0-0)
- Miami (0-0)
- Stanford (5-1)
- Georgia Tech (0-0)
- Texas (6-0)
- South Carolina (0-0)
- Cal State Fullerton (3-3)
- Long Beach State (2-1)
- Tulane (0-0)
- Clemson (0-0)
- Auburn (0-0)
- Baylor (0-0)
- Wichita State (0-0)
- Arizona (3-0)
- Arizona State (3-0)
- North Carolina (0-0)
- Mississippi (0-0)
- Notre Dame (0-0)
- Florida (2-0)
- Texas A&M (0-0)
- Florida Atlantic (3-0)
- Nebraska (0-0)
- North Carolina State (0-0)
- Florida State (2-3)

## Collegiate Baseball (Feb. 9)

- Rice (0-0)
- Miami, Fla. (0-0)
- LSU (0-0)
- Georgia Tech. (0-0)
- Texas (6-0)
- Stanford (5-1)
- Arizona St. (3-0)
- Cal. St. Fullerton (3-3)
- Wichita St. (0-0)
- Notre Dame (0-0)
- Baylor (0-0)
- Long Beach St. (2-1)
- Tulane (0-0)
- South Carolina (0-0)
- Florida (2-0)
- Southern California (0-0)
- Clemson (0-0)
- Auburn (0-0)
- Florida Atlantic (3-0)
- Nebraska (0-0)
- North Carolina (0-0)
- Arizona (3-0)
- Washington (0-0)
- Florida St. (2-3)
- Minnesota (0-0)

## The LSU Lineup (probable batting order for UCF series)

Player	Pos.	Cl.-Exp.	B/T	Avg.	HR	RBI	Notable
J.C. Holt	CF	Jr.-2L	L/R	.299	5	36	MOP of '03 NCAA Regional
Ryan Patterson	LF	Jr.-1L	R/R	.350	16	51	2003 first-team all-SEC
Ivan Naccarata	3B	Sr.-1L	L/R	.320	6	53	Hit .533 in '03 NCAA Regional
Nick Stavinoha	DH	Jr.-JC	R/R	Belted 37 HRs in two seasons at San Jacinto JC			
Clay Harris	1B	Jr.-2L	R/R	.332	16	62	2003 first-team all-SEC
Jon Zeringue	RF	Jr.-2L	R/R	.339	13	45	2003 second-team all-SEC
Blake Gill	2B	Jr.-2L	L/R	.304	5	54	2003 second-team all-SEC
Matt Liuzza	C	So.-1L	R/R	.312	4	26	54 starts as true freshman in '03
Matt Horwath	SS	Fr.-RS	R/R	Medical redshirt in 2003 (right shoulder)			

## Starting Pitcher Profiles

### Game 1 -- RHP Justin Meier

**6-0, 210, R-R, So., 1L**

**Windermere, Fla. (West Orange HS)**

*2003 Collegiate Baseball Freshman All-American*

*2003 Louisiana Co-Freshman of the Year*

*2003 First-Team All-Louisiana*

Superb hurler who made an immediate impact last season as a true freshman, pitching in the SEC weekend rotation . . . worked his way into the starting rotation by Week 4 of the conference slate and emerged as one of the top freshman pitchers in the nation . . . pitched brilliantly as a reliever last summer in the Cape Cod League for the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox . . . recorded a 1.19 ERA in 22.2 innings in the CCBL, allowing three runs on 13 hits with four walks and 42 strikeouts . . . also was outstanding in LSU's fall 2003 intrasquad games, working 26 innings and posting a 2.42 ERA with two walks and 22 strikeouts . . . Appeared in 16 games (14 starts) in 2003, recording an 8-3 mark and a team-best 2.83 ERA . . . worked 95.1 innings, registering 25 walks and 62 strikeouts . . . finished No. 5 in the SEC in ERA, No. 7 in wins, No. 11 in innings pitched.

### Game 2 -- LHP Lane Mestepey

**6-0, 195, L-L, Jr., 2L**

**Zachary, La. (Central Private HS)**

*2002 First-Team All-Southeastern Conference*

*2002 ABCA First-Team All-South Region*

*2001 Collegiate Baseball National Co-Freshman of the Year*

*2001 Collegiate Baseball Third-Team All-American*

*2001 Baseball America First-Team Freshman All-American*

*2001 Baseball Weekly First-Team Freshman All-American*

*2001 Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year*

*2001 First-Team All-Southeastern Conference*

*2001 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional All-Tournament Team*

*SEC Pitcher of the Week (April 16, 2001)*

LSU's No. 1 pitcher in 2001 and 2002; returns to the mound this season after receiving a medical redshirt in 2003 due to a shoulder injury . . . underwent surgery on the shoulder in summer of 2002 and participated in a rehabilitation program throughout the 2003 season . . . pitched on a limited basis in LSU's 2003 fall intrasquad games and should be ready to pitch when the 2004 season opens . . . a two-time first-team all-SEC selection with a 22-8 career record in 37 starts . . . led the SEC in 2002 in ERA (2.59) and innings pitched (142.1), and was second in the league in wins (11) . . . finished as the 2001 SEC leader in wins (11), starts (19) and innings pitched (139.1) . . . became the only pitcher in LSU history to win at least 10 games in both his freshman and sophomore seasons, and he is one of only two LSU players (along with former 2B Todd Walker) to win first-team all-SEC honors as a freshman and a sophomore.

### Game 3 -- LHP Clay Dirks

**6-4, 235, L-L, Fr., RS**

**Hernando, Miss. (Hernando HS)**

Outstanding southpaw who has an extremely promising future at LSU . . . originally projected as a mid-week starter, but an injury to Nate Bumstead may place him in the full-time weekend rotation . . . the 42nd round selection of the Philadelphia Phillies in the 2002 major league draft . . . received a medical redshirt in 2003 after undergoing elbow surgery for an injury he suffered in the summer of 2002 . . . recorded 17 strikeouts in 18.1 innings of work in LSU's 2003 fall intra-squad games.

## The LSU Injury Report

**RHP Nate Bumstead** -- LSU's leader in wins (11) and innings pitched (110) in 2003, Bumstead's status for this season is questionable after he injured his shoulder during a pre-season intrasquad game on Feb. 3. An MRI revealed a tear in the labrum of his right shoulder. Bumstead will conduct a bullpen workout during this weekend's series at UCF to determine the extent of the injury. If he is able to throw without pain during the bullpen workout, and his velocity is in the mid-to-upper 80s, there is a chance he could pitch this season.

**INF Bryan Harris** -- Harris, a transfer from Santa Ana (Calif.) College, was projected to be the Tigers' starter at third base; however, a hernia operation limited his participation during fall practice, and he underwent arthroscopic surgery in January to remove bone chips from his right knee. He stills several weeks away from being able to contribute to the Tigers lineup.

**RHP Brandon Nail** -- LSU's closer at the beginning of 2003, he pitched in just six games last season before suffering a shoulder injury which required surgery. He could return to the mound at some point this season, depending upon the progress of his rehabilitation.

## Tigers in Season Openers

LSU has won eight of its last nine season openers and 18 of its last 21. The Tigers lost to Kansas State in Baton Rouge to begin the 2001 season. LSU swept a three-game home series with Northwestern State to open the 2003 campaign; in fact, the Tigers have started 3-0 four times in the previous five seasons.

## Tigers Defeat Alumni, 8-2, in Exhibition Contest on Jan. 30

Left fielder Ryan Patterson and shortstop Matt Horwath drove in two runs apiece to lead a 10-hit attack as LSU defeated a squad of former Tiger players, 8-2, in the annual Alumni Game on January 30 in Alex Box Stadium.

LSU is now 5-0 against the Alumni squad in a series which began prior to the 2000 regular season. The Alumni team was composed of former LSU players who are currently active in professional baseball, including second baseman Todd Walker of the Chicago Cubs, who was 2-for-3 at the plate and scored a run. The Alumni grabbed a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning on a two-run single by right fielder Brad Hawpe, but LSU tied the game in the bottom of the inning on an RBI groundout by third baseman Ivan Naccarata and an RBI single by designated hitter Nick Stavinoha.

Horwath's RBI single in the third gave the Tigers a 3-2 advantage before centerfielder J.C. Holt contributed an RBI double in the fourth and scored on a throwing error to increase the margin to 5-2. Horwath again provided an RBI single in the sixth to make it 6-2, and Patterson delivered a two-run homer in the eighth to account for the final score.

True freshman right-hander Michael Bonura earned the victory for LSU, working the first three innings and allowing two runs on four hits with no walks and three strikeouts. Alumni starting pitcher Shane Youman took the loss, as he allowed three runs on four hits in two innings with one walk and one strikeout.

Bonura was relieved in the fourth inning by left-hander Lane Mestepey, who was making his first appearance on the mound since undergoing shoulder surgery in the summer of 2002. Mestepey worked two solid innings, allowing no runs on two hits with one strikeout. Relievers Collin Smith and Clay Dirks combined to pitch the final four innings, surrendering no runs on one hit with five strikeouts. The LSU pitchers did not allow a walk and limited the Alumni squad to only seven hits with nine strikeouts.

ALUMNI 200 000 000 -- 2 7 3  
 LSU 210 201 02x -- 8 10 1

E-Theriot, Cresse, G. Smith, Thompson. DP-Alumni 1. LOB-Alumni 6, LSU 7. 2B-Holt, Gill. HR-Patterson. SB-Walker, Phillips. WP-Bonura. LP-Youman. U-Layrisson, Schexnaydre, Boudreaux. T-2:37. A-4336 paid, 2132 actual.

## Patterson, Harris Earn Collegiate Baseball Pre-Season Recognition

LSU outfielder Ryan Patterson and first baseman Clay Harris were named to the 2004 Collegiate Baseball pre-season all-America team. Patterson, a junior from Rowlett, Texas, was voted to the first team. Harris, a junior from Slidell, La., was a third-team selection.

Patterson earned first-team all-SEC honors last season as the Tigers' primary designated hitter, batting .350 (92-for-263) with 20 doubles, one triple, 16 homers and 51 RBI. He was voted to the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional all-tournament team, and he was named the state's Newcomer of the Year by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association.

Harris, also a 2003 first-team all-SEC selection, tied Patterson for the team lead in home runs with 16. Harris hit .332 (70-for-211) with 16 doubles and 62 RBI, and he was voted second-team all-Louisiana by the LSWA.

## ESPN/Sports Weekly (Feb. 9)

1. Rice (0-0)
2. Miami (0-0)
3. LSU (0-0)
4. Stanford (5-1)
5. Texas (6-0)
6. Georgia Tech (0-0)
7. Arizona State (3-0)
8. South Carolina (0-0)
9. Long Beach State (2-1)
10. Cal State Fullerton (3-3)
11. Baylor (0-0)
12. Tulane (0-0)
13. Wichita State (0-0)
14. Clemson (0-0)
15. Auburn (0-0)
16. Notre Dame (0-0)
17. Arizona (3-0)
18. North Carolina (0-0)
19. Florida (2-0)
20. Nebraska (0-0)
21. Southern California (0-0)
22. Mississippi (0-0)
23. Florida Atlantic (3-0)

## 2003 Final SEC Standings

Eastern Division			
Team	SEC	Pct.	Overall
South Carolina	19-11	.633	45-22
Vanderbilt	14-16	.467	27-28
Florida	13-16-1.450		37-21-1
Tennessee	13-17	.433	31-24
Georgia	10-20	.333	29-26
Kentucky	9-20	.310	24-32
Western Division			
Team	SEC	Pct.	Overall
LSU	20-9-1.682		45-22-1
Auburn	18-12	.600	42-21
Miss. State	17-12	.586	42-20-1
Ole Miss	17-13	.567	35-27
Alabama	14-16	.467	38-24
Arkansas	14-16	.467	35-22

## 2004 SEC Schedule (Feb. 9-15)

### Feb. 13-15

New Orleans at Alabama  
 Louisiana Tech at Arkansas  
 Western Carolina at Auburn  
 Florida at Miami (Fla.)  
 Bethune Cookman at Georgia  
 LSU at UCF  
 Charleston Southern at South Carolina  
 Morehead State at Tennessee  
 Kentucky at Winthrop Tournament  
 2/13 - vs. Kent State  
 2/14 - vs. Winthrop  
 2/15 - vs. Maryland

## LSU TV Schedule

Feb. 14	at UCF	Noon	JSN
Feb. 15	at UCF	Noon	JSN
March 2	at Tulane	7 p.m.	JSN
March 9	at UL-Monroe	6:30 p.m.	JSN
March 14	SE Louisiana	1 p.m.	Cox
March 21	at South Carolina	12:30 p.m.	JSN
March 30	at New Orleans	6:30 p.m.	JSN
April 4	at Auburn	1:30 p.m.	JSN
April 10	Arkansas	2 p.m.	Fox
April 11	Arkansas	1 p.m.	Cox
April 16	Georgia	6:30 p.m.	Cox
April 24	at Tennessee	6 p.m.	CSS
April 25	at Tennessee	1 p.m.	JSN
April 30	Alabama	6:30 p.m.	Cox
May 9	at Kentucky	Noon	JSN
May 14	Vanderbilt	6:30 p.m.	Cox
May 22	at Ole Miss	3 p.m.	Fox
May 23	at Ole Miss	1:30 p.m.	JSN

**JSN - Jumbo Sports Network**

**Cox - Cox Sports Television**

**Fox - Fox Sports Southwest (SEC-TV)**

**CSS - Comcast Sports Southeast**

**All Times are Central and Subject to Change**

## WALLY PONTIFF JR. BASEBALL CLASSIC

LSU and Southeastern Louisiana will meet in the first Wally Pontiff Jr. Baseball Classic on Wednesday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Zephyr Field in Metairie. Tickets for the game are \$15, and all seating is reserved. Tickets are on sale at the Southeastern athletic ticket office (985.549.5466), located at Gate 3 of the University Center. Tickets are also on sale at the Zephyr Field box office (504.734.5155) and at any Ticketmaster locations (800.488.5252).

Pontiff, who was a two-time all-SEC selection at LSU, died unexpectedly on July 24, 2002 at 21. Pontiff started for the Tigers from 2000 through 2002 and was the Most Valuable Player of the 2000 SEC Tournament and helped the Tigers win the 2000 national championship.

Pontiff was also a two-time selection to the SEC Academic Honor Roll and was a member of the 2002 District VI all-academic baseball team with a 3.25 GPA in biological sciences.

The game will mark LSU's first visit to Zephyr Field since winning three games at the park to open the 1998 season. LSU has played at least one game in the park each season since 1998, posting a 9-7 overall mark. Southeastern and LSU also have tentative plans to play in 2005 at Zephyr Field. The Lions and the Tigers will also meet in a three-game series at Alex Box Stadium in Baton Rouge March 12-14.

## Holt, Zeringue Receive *Baseball America* Pre-Season Accolades

LSU outfielders Jon Zeringue and J.C.Holt were named to the 2004 Baseball America pre-season all-America team. Zeringue, a junior from Thibodaux, La., was voted to the second team. Holt, a junior from Sieper, La., was a third-team selection.

Zeringue earned second-team all-SEC honors last season as the Tigers' right fielder, batting .339 (77-for-227) with 15 doubles, 13 homers and 45 RBI. He was LSU's leading hitter during the second half of the season (34 games) with a .382 average.

Holt, the 2003 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional Most Outstanding Player, hit .299 last season with 11 doubles, two triples, five homers, 36 RBI, 51 runs and 16 stolen bases. The Tigers' center fielder was also voted in August the MVP of the Cape Cod League, the wooden-bat summer league for the nation's top collegiate players. Holt batted a league-high .388 (52-for-134) in the CCBL with six doubles, one triple, one homer, 19 RBI, 25 runs and 13 steals.

## LSU Baseball Home Opener Moved to Tuesday, Feb. 17

The LSU baseball home opener versus Louisiana-Monroe will be played at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17, in Alex Box Stadium. The game was originally scheduled for a 3 p.m. start on Wednesday, Feb. 18. The home opener was moved a day earlier to avoid conflict with the LSU men's basketball game versus Auburn, which begins at 7 p.m. on Feb. 18 in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center.

## SEC Coaches Select LSU to Repeat as League Champion

The LSU Tigers are the favorite to win the Southeastern Conference Baseball Championship, as voted by the league's 12 baseball coaches in the 13th annual preseason SEC poll. The Tigers seek to capture their 14th SEC Championship, having won or shared the title three times in the past eight seasons (1996, 1997 & 2003) and seven times since 1990. LSU won the both the overall SEC Championship and Western Division titles in 2003, while finishing as the SEC Tournament runner-up, falling to Alabama in the championship game. In the overall SEC Championship vote, LSU received 11 of the 12 championship votes in the poll, the most possible by one team. South Carolina received the other vote.

In addition to picking a preseason SEC champion, the league's head coaches voted a predicted order of finish in the SEC Eastern and Western Divisions. In the Eastern Division, South Carolina was the favorite with 63 points. Florida came in second with 58 points and Vanderbilt third with 42 points. LSU was the predicted winner in the Western Division with a total of 66, again collecting the maximum points for a team. Auburn was second with 51, while Ole Miss finished third with 41.

Team	Pts.	'03 SEC Rec/Finish
<b>Eastern Division</b>		
1. S. Carolina (8)	63	19-11/1st
2. Florida (4)	58	13-16-1/3rd
3. Vanderbilt	42	14-165/2nd
4. Georgia	36	10-20/5th
5. Tennessee	30	13-17/4th
6. Kentucky	17	9-20/6th
<b>Western Division</b>		
1. LSU (11)	66	20-9-1/1st
2. Auburn (1)	51	18-12/2nd
3. Ole Miss	41	17-13/4th
4. Alabama	38	14-16/t5th
5. Miss. State	30	17-12/3rd
6. Arkansas	20	14-16/t5th

( ) - First Place Votes

**SEC Champion: LSU (11); South Carolina (1)**

# Smoke Laval

HEAD COACH • THIRD YEAR

Raymond "Smoke" Laval enhanced his reputation as one of the country's top college baseball coaches, as, in just his second season at the helm of the LSU program, he guided the 2003 Tigers to the Southeastern Conference title -- LSU's first since 1997 -- and a berth in the College World Series.

Laval, the 2003 SEC Coach of the Year, directed LSU to a 45-22-1 overall record and a 20-9-1 conference mark, as the Tigers finished No. 5 in the final Baseball America rankings.

The magnificent '03 campaign augmented the success Laval enjoyed in his inaugural season as LSU's coach, as he led the 2002 Tigers to a 44-22 overall mark, an appearance in the NCAA Super Regional and a No. 11 final national ranking.

Laval, who served seven seasons (1994-2000) as the head coach at the University of Louisiana-Monroe, assumed control of the LSU program from Bertman, who led the Tigers to five NCAA championships and 11 College World Series appearances during an 18-year (1984-2001) tenure. Laval worked as Bertman's top assistant coach for 10 seasons (1984-93), helping lead LSU to its first two NCAA titles in 1991 and 1993. During Laval's 10 years as assistant coach, LSU posted a 483-182-1 record, won five SEC titles, appeared in six College World Series and captured two national championships.

Laval was known at LSU as one of the nation's best recruiters and brightest assistant coaches, as the Tigers reached the College World Series in only the third season (1986) of the Bertman-Laval regime. LSU followed the '86 CWS appearance with Omaha berths in 1987, 1989 and 1990 before the Tigers claimed the school's first baseball national title in 1991. After LSU captured its second NCAA crown in 1993, Laval departed Baton Rouge to become the head coach at Northeast Louisiana (now Louisiana-Monroe).

During his assistant coaching tenure at LSU, Laval -- who worked as the Tigers' primary recruiter - tutored 24 players who would eventually reach the major leagues. Some of the major leaguers with whom Laval worked include all-stars Albert Belle and Paul Byrd, and first-round draft picks Ben McDonald, Rick Greene, Todd Walker and Russ Johnson.

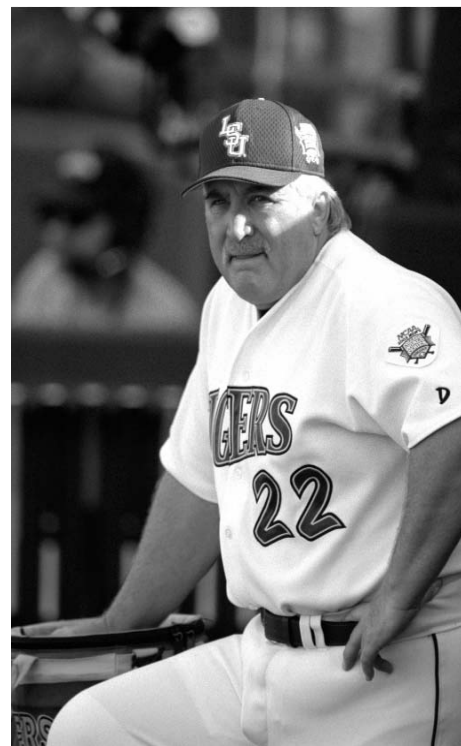
Laval compiled a 241-159 (.603) mark as the head coach at ULM, guiding the Indians to NCAA Regional appearances in 1995, 1999 and 2000.

Laval began his coaching career in 1977 as an assistant at Jacksonville University before moving to Wolfson High School in Jacksonville as a baseball and football coach. He served as a graduate assistant at LSU in 1979 under former Tiger head coach Jack Lamabe before working two years as an assistant at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Fla.

Laval served as an assistant coach at Florida for two seasons (1982-83) before returning to LSU to work under Bertman.

Laval holds a bachelor's degree (1977) from Jacksonville in physical education and a master's degree (1979) from LSU in administration. The McDonald, Pa., native played two seasons at Gulf Coast Community College, where he lettered as a catcher. He completed his playing career at Jacksonville, where he led the ninth-ranked Dolphins in hitting at the 1976 NCAA South Regional.

Laval and his wife, Pam, are the parents of two children, Brandon and Jamie.



## The Laval File

**Full Name:** Raymond Peter Laval  
**Born:** December 20, 1955  
**Hometown:** McDonald, Pa.  
**Wife:** Pam Lewis of Reserve, La.  
**Children:** Jamie and Brandon

## Coaching Experience

1977	Assistant Coach	Jacksonville
1978	Assistant Coach	Wolfson HS (Jacksonville, Fla.)
1979	Graduate Assistant	LSU
1980-81	Assistant Coach	Gulf Coast CC
1982-83	Assistant Coach	Florida
1984-93	Assistant Coach	LSU
1994-2000	Head Coach	UL-Monroe
2001	Administrative Asst.	LSU
2002-	Head Coach	LSU

## Education

High School: South Fayette(McDonald, Pa.), 1973  
 College: Jacksonville, 1977 (physical education)  
 Masters: LSU, 1979 (administration)

## Playing Experience

1970-73: Catcher, South Fayette High School  
 1974-75: Catcher, Gulf Coast CC  
 1976-77: Catcher, Jacksonville University

## The Nickname "Smoke"

As a native of Western Pennsylvania, Raymond Peter Laval grew up as a Pittsburgh Pirates fan. He received the name "Smoke" in the late 1970s from his Gulf Coast Community College teammates, who derived the moniker from Smokey Burgess, a catcher for the Pirates in the 1960s.

## Laval Year-By-Year

Year	W-L	School	Highlights
1994	20-33	UL-Monroe	Defeated Three NCAA Tournament Teams
1995	37-20	UL-Monroe	SLC Tournament Champions; NCAA Regional Participants
1996	41-19	UL-Monroe	School-Record 41 Wins; SLC Louisiana Division Champions
1997	33-21	UL-Monroe	Became Fourth Coach in ULM History To Record 100 Wins
1998	33-22	UL-Monroe	Led SLC In Hitting For Third Straight Season
1999	36-22	UL-Monroe	SLC Champions; NCAA Regional Participants
2000	41-22	UL-Monroe	SLC Champions; NCAA Regional Participants
2002	44-22	LSU	NCAA Regional Champions; NCAA Super Regional Participants
2003	45-22-1	LSU	SEC Champions; College World Series Participants

**Career Record (10th year):** 330-203-1

**LSU Record (3rd year):** 89-44-1

## COACHING HONORS

1995	Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year
1999	Southland Conference Coach of the Year
2002	Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year
2003	SEC Coach of the Year; Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year

# Media Services

## Interview Opportunities

### Head Coach Smoke Laval

Coach Laval is available for phone interviews on weekday mornings (9 a.m. -Noon) during the season. Please coordinate all requests for personal interviews with Coach Laval through his office. Appointments and interviews may be arranged through Virginia Robertson at (225) 578-4148. **Coach Laval will talk to reporters approximately 10 minutes after the end of a game in the LSU dugout.**

### Players

Media members are invited to attend LSU baseball practice sessions. Players are available for interviews before each practice at approximately 1 p.m. in Alex Box Stadium. Requests for live player interviews on the field prior to a game should be made through Bill Franques in the Sports Information Office. **Post-game player interviews are conducted in front of the LSU dugout at the conclusion of a brief team meeting on the field.**

### Mailing Address

LSU Sports Information  
P.O. Box 25095  
Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5095

### Overnight Mail Address

Room 501, LSU Athletics Admin. Bldg.  
N. Stadium Dr. at Nicholson Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5095

### Phone Directory

Press Box: 225-578-4149  
Sports Information: 225-578-8226  
Fax: 225-578-1861  
Baseball Office: 225-578-4148  
Fax: 225-578-4066

### Baseball Contact E-mail Address

wfranqu@lsu.edu

## Who to Contact

### Sports Information Office

(225) 578-8226

### Baseball Contact

Bill Franques - wfranqu@lsu.edu

### Asst. Contact

Bill Martin - wmarti4@lsu.edu

### LSU Television

(225) 578-1797

### Asst. AD/Television

Kevin Wagner - jwagne2@lsu.edu

### Manager/Television

John Schiebe - jschiebe@lsu.edu

### LSU Radio

(225) 578-1882

### Asst. AD/Radio

Jim Hawthorne - lsuradio@lsu.edu

## On the Internet

### www.LSUsports.net

The Official Website of LSU Athletics is home to all the baseball information you need. Schedules, results, rosters, bios, statistics and game notes can be found and are always up to date.

### http://media.lsusports.net

Media can now access images for all LSU athletic teams, including action shots, heads shots, logos, etc. To gain access to the high-resolution pictures, email Bill Franques. You will be assigned a login and password that will enable you to retrieve pictures. This service is for the media use only.

## LSU Electronic Media

### Radio

The LSU Sports Radio Network will distribute all LSU Baseball games by satellite to 25 radio affiliates. WDGL-FM (98.1) Radio in Baton Rouge will serve as the flagship station for the LSU Sports Network. Jim Hawthorne, the "Voice of the Tigers" for all LSU sports, begins his 21st season of calling baseball play-by-play action. He will be joined on the broadcasts by Charles Hanagriff and LSU baseball publicist Bill Franques. Selected LSU Sports Network stations will also air "Tiger Sportsline with Smoke Laval" each Monday from 7-8 p.m., beginning on March 29. The show airs live from Superior Grill on Government Street in Baton Rouge.

### Television

Inside LSU Baseball is a weekly program featuring LSU head coach Smoke Laval. The first installment of the 2004 season will air March 21, and the show will air weekly through May 23. The show features game highlights, player profiles and in-depth stories on college baseball's No. 1 program. Inside LSU Baseball is produced by the LSU Electronic Media Department Kevin Wagner, Executive Producer; John Schiebe, Associate Producer. Inside LSU Baseball Affiliates include WBRZ Channel 2 in Baton Rouge and Cox Cable Channel 4 in Baton Rouge.

Bill Franques  
wfranqu@lsu.edu

## Week 1: February 9-15

Bill Martin  
wmarti4@lsu.edu

MONDAY	9	TUESDAY	10	WEDNESDAY	11	THURSDAY	12	FRIDAY	13	SATURDAY	14	SUNDAY	15
								at UCF 5 p.m. CST Jay Bergman Field Orlando, Fla.	at UCF Noon CST Jay Bergman Field Orlando, Fla.	at UCF Noon CST Jay Bergman Field Orlando, Fla.			
								Radio: LSU Sports Network	Radio: LSU Sports Network	Radio: LSU Sports Network			
								TV: None	TV: Jumbo Sports Network	TV: Jumbo Sports Network			