



# 2003 LSU BASEBALL

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## 2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Monday, April 7

Overall Record: 21-10-1

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

### Last week's results (3-1):

Wednesday—def. Nicholls St., 6-2

Friday—def. South Carolina, 5-1

Saturday—lost to South Carolina, 8-5

Sunday—def. South Carolina, 12-4

### This week's games (all times CDT):

Wednesday—at Northwestern St., 6:30 pm.

Friday—Ole Miss, 7 p.m.

Saturday—Ole Miss, 2 p.m.

Sunday—Ole Miss, 1 p.m.

**POSITION PLAYER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE:** Junior shortstop Aaron Hill  
(6-0, 200, Visalia, Calif.—Redwood HS)

### Notes on Hill:

- Led the Tigers in batting average in LSU's 2-1 series victory over South Carolina, batting .500 (6-for-12) with a double, two triples, a home run, six RBI, a .571 on-base percentage and a 1.167 slugging percentage.
- In 14 plate appearances vs. South Carolina, Hill did not strike out, and he has struck out just 10 times in 147 plate appearances this year.
- Five of his hits in the series came in one spectacular outing on Saturday, as Hill went 5-for-5 and hit for the cycle, becoming the first LSU player to hit for the cycle since Mike Koerner did so on March 1, 1997 against Virginia Commonwealth.
- Hill singled in the first inning before adding a double in the third, a leadoff home run in the sixth, another single in the eighth and an RBI triple in the ninth to complete the cycle.
- Hill also tied the school single-game record for hits with five, becoming the first LSU player to accomplish the feat since Matt Heath did so last May 4 at Tennessee.
- In all, LSU players have achieved five hits in a game 27 times, and a total of 21 different players have pulled off the feat.



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- Hill kept it going on Sunday with a bases-clearing triple in the second inning to give LSU a 6-1 lead. It marked the first time in Hill's career that he has collected a triple in back-to-back games, and Hill now leads LSU with four triples on the year.
- Hill had been in a 2-for-18 slump prior to Saturday's performance, and the final two games of the South Carolina series raised his season batting average to .351, the best mark on the team.
- In addition to batting average and triples, Hill leads LSU in slugging percentage (.588), on-base percentage (.486), runs scored (29), doubles (10), RBI (27), total bases (67), walks (25) and hit by pitch (6).
- In 12 SEC games, Hill is the Tigers' leading hitter at .444, with six doubles, 12 RBI, a .733 slugging percentage and a .569 on-base percentage.
- Hill has grounded into just one double play in 147 plate appearances and is 6-for-7 this season in stolen bases.
- The Tigers' top clutch hitter, batting .429 with runners in scoring position and .419 with 9 RBI with two out.
- Hill, a member of the 2002 United States national team that won the silver medal at the World University Games in Italy last August, is the only LSU player to start all 32 games in 2003.

#### Hill's game-by-game statistics this week:

Day	Opponent	Result	Avg.	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB-SBA
Wed.	Nicholls St.	W	.000	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0-0
Fri.	South Carolina	W	.000	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1-1
Sat.	South Carolina	L	1.000	5	2	5	1	1	1	3	0-0
Sun.	South Carolina	W	.250	4	2	1	0	1	0	3	0-0
<b>USC SERIES (3 G)</b>		<b>2-1</b>	<b>.500</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>WEEK TOTALS (4 G)</b>		<b>3-1</b>	<b>.375</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>SEASON TOTALS (32 G)</b>			<b>.351</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6-7</b>

**PITCHER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE:** Freshman RHP Justin Meier (6-0, 205, Windmere, Fla.—Windmere HS)

#### Notes on Meier:

- In his first career SEC start, Meier limited defending SEC champion to one run despite the fact the Gamecocks got 10 hits, as the Tigers won the series opener, 5-1.
- Meier needed just 101 pitches to throw his complete game, walking none and striking out a career high eight to improve his record to 4-0 and lower his season ERA to 1.38.
- Of South Carolina's 10 hits, only one went for extra bases, and Meier held the Gamecocks to a 2-for-10 mark with runners in scoring position and an 0-for-8 count with two out.
- Meier became the first LSU pitcher to throw a complete game in his first SEC start since March 28, 1998, when Chris Demouy won at Kentucky, 7-2. The last LSU freshman to throw a complete game in his first SEC start was Brett Laxton, who threw a seven inning complete game in a 6-1 win over South Carolina on March 27, 1993.
- Meier was thrust into the Friday night slot in the Tigers' rotation due to an injury to Brian Wilson.
- Through Saturday's games, Meier was fourth in the SEC in ERA, trailing Ole Miss' Anthony Cupps (0.57), Mississippi State's Paul Maholm (1.31) and Alabama's Seth Johnson (1.34).



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- In 39 innings, Meier has given up just eight walks, nine extra base hits and is allowing opponents to hit just .220 against him.
- Allowing opponents to hit just .143 against him with runners in scoring position, and has not allowed a hit in eight at-bats this year with the bases loaded.
- As a starting pitcher, Meier is 4-0 with an 0.98 REA, allowing just four earned runs in 36 2/3 innings.
- Earlier in the week, Meier earned his first career save in the final game of the Tigers' series at Alabama, retiring the final two batters of the game.

#### Meier's pitching line this week:

Day	Opponent (Result)	W-L	ERA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Fri.	South Carolina (W)	1-0	1.00	9.0	10	1	1	0	8
<b>SEASON (8 G-6 GS)</b>		<b>4-0 (1 SV)</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>

#### Notes from the week:

- The Tigers won their eighth consecutive SEC series this weekend by taking two of three from South Carolina at home. LSU's current SEC series winning streak began with the final four series of 2002 (Arkansas, at Tennessee, at Florida, Alabama) and has continued in 2003 vs. Florida, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina.
- LSU is just two SEC series victories away from tying its own school and league mark of 10 consecutive series wins. The Tigers won their final league series of 1985 over Auburn and all nine series of 1986.
- The Tigers' current series winning streak sets the new school mark for most consecutive series victories since the league returned to divisional play in 1992. LSU's old record under the current setup had been seven, done over the final two series of 1996 and the first five of 1997.
- South Carolina remains one of four SEC East teams to never win a series in Baton Rouge, as LSU is 8-3-1 vs. the Gamecocks in four series at Alex Box Stadium. The only two East teams to win a series at Baton Rouge are Georgia in 2000 and Vanderbilt in 2002.
- LSU's 9-2-1 mark in conference play is the Tigers' best mark after 12 games since the 1997 team began 11-1 en route to the conference championship. Last year, LSU didn't win its ninth league game until April 19 at South Carolina, in LSU's 15<sup>th</sup> conference game.
- Saturday's loss to South Carolina broke a streak of 14 consecutive home SEC games without a loss. Sunday's win gives LSU a 14-1-1 mark in its last 16 SEC home games.
- LSU improved to 8-6-1 on the year against ranked teams, including a 6-2-1 mark against ranked teams from the SEC.
- The key to LSU's success in the SEC has been strong hitting. LSU batted a solid .321 in the South Carolina series, leaving the Tigers' SEC batting average through 12 games at .339, as the Tigers have outscored their foes 93-56 in 12 conference contests.
- LSU has not only been hitting the ball, but hitting it hard in SEC games. LSU has hit 21 home runs in 10 SEC games, and at least one home run in 11 of 12 league contests. Four LSU regulars are hitting .353 or better in conference games, with Aaron Hill (.444) and Clay Harris (.438) among the league leaders in batting average in conference games.
- LSU has hit 40 home runs on the year, and has hit at least one home run in 13 consecutive games and two or more home runs in five of its last six contests. Last year at this time, LSU had just 24 home runs and would go on to hit 65 in 66 games on the year. LSU is on a pace for 70



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home runs during the regular season.

- The only drawback is the fact that 21 of LSU's 40 home runs have been solo shots, although 12 of those solo shots have come from the leadoff batter. In all, LSU has 21 solo home runs, 15 two-run blows and three three-run homers. LSU has not hit a grand slam since Blake Gill hit one last April 14 vs. Georgia.
- One of those players capable of hitting the longball, sophomore RF Jon Zeringue, continues his rapid ascent. Zeringue, who was 1 for his last 19 when he was re-inserted into the starting lineup on March 22, batted .429 (8-for-14) in the Tigers' four games this week, raising his season average a total of 77 points since the slump from .204 to .281.
- In the South Carolina series, Zeringue was 5-for-11 (.455) and collected his second three-hit game of the season on Saturday. In helping LSU go 7-3 in its last 10 games, Zeringue is batting .375 (15-for-40) with six home runs and a .900 slugging percentage.
- Zeringue is tied for the team lead in home runs with seven, along with sophomore OF/DH Ryan Patterson.
- Speaking of Patterson, the Texan contributed his biggest home run of the year on Wednesday night against Nicholls St., a three-run shot that gave LSU a 3-2 lead that eventually expanded into a 6-2 victory.
- Patterson, who collected a season high three hits on Sunday, remains one of LSU's most consistent hitters, batting .321 on the year. He has hit safely in 23 of 28 games this year and has not gone consecutive games without a hit. In SEC games, Patterson is hitting .367 with three home runs.
- Sophomore 1B Clay Harris continues his tear, batting .455 (5-for-11) with a home run in the South Carolina series to bring his season average to .405, which would lead the team except for the fact Harris does not have the necessary 2.5 at-bats per game to lead the league.
- In SEC games, Harris is batting a strong .438 with four home runs, 15 RBI and an .812 slugging percentage. Harris has been good in the clutch, batting .346 with runners in scoring position and .444 with 11 RBI with two out on the year.
- Freshman C Matt Liuzza, who like Harris does not have enough at-bats to qualify for the batting leaders list, nonetheless raised his season average above .300 at .301. Liuzza enters the week with a 12-game hitting streak, as he is batting .327 (16-for-49) during the streak.
- Another Tiger with a lengthy hitting streak is sophomore CF J.C. Holt, who has a 10-game streak heading into this week. It's the second double figure hitting streak for Holt in his LSU career, as he had a 16-game streak late last season from April 7 through May 19.
- There were several outstanding pitching performances by Tiger hurlers this week. In addition to Justin Meier's complete game on Friday vs. South Carolina (see above), junior RHP Nate Bumstead wasn't to be outdone. Bumstead threw a complete game in Sunday's victory, limiting the Gamecocks to one run over eight innings while walking just one batter and striking out seven to improve to 3-0 in SEC games and 4-1 overall on the year.
- Bumstead, who needed only 109 pitches to finish his complete game, has now pitched seven or more innings in all three SEC starts this year, and has struck out 21 batters in 24 innings in conference play.
- Under coach Smoke Laval, LSU pitchers have thrown 18 complete games, including 14 in SEC games.
- Meier and Bumstead became the second LSU pitching duo to throw complete games in one SEC series, joining the efforts of Brian Wilson and Bo Pettit vs. Florida on March 14 and 15.



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- Senior RHP Bo Pettit took the loss in Saturday's second game vs. South Carolina, giving up six runs on seven hits in five innings. In his last two starts, Pettit has walked 14 batters in 10 1/3 innings.
- For his career, Pettit is now 0-4 vs. South Carolina, including a pair of losses in 2002.
- On Wednesday in the Tigers' 6-2 win over Nicholls St., LSU got two tremendous pitching performances, most notably that of Chad Vaught. Vaught, a fifth-year senior right-hander who had appeared in three games and a total of seven innings in his career prior to Wednesday night, pitched four scoreless innings of relief to earn the win, his first career decision at LSU. Vaught allowed four singles, but retired seven batters on ground balls and limited the Colonels to 1-for-10 with runners on base.
- LSU's starter in the Nicholls St. game, Jason Determann, was very sharp himself. The redshirt freshman left-hander made his second career start and allowed no earned runs in four innings with no walks and a career high seven strikeouts. Both of Nicholls' runs in the third were unearned thanks to a pair of Tiger errors. Determann's only other start, last February 20 at Centenary, ended in disaster when it was discovered afterward that he would need season ending Tommy John surgery to repair his injury. Determann had appeared in six games out of the Tiger bullpen this season prior to Wednesday.
- The win over Nicholls St. on Wednesday was the Tigers' 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive win over the school from Thibodaux, and LSU's 15<sup>th</sup> straight in the series at Alex Box Stadium. LSU is now 6-0 this year at home against in-state opponents and 7-2 overall vs. Louisiana schools.
- Coach Smoke Laval knows how to defeat the Southland Conference, no big surprise given his success over seven seasons at SLC member Louisiana-Monroe. LSU is now 12-1 under Laval against Southland teams, losing only to Southeastern Louisiana last February 12 in the Tigers' first game against an SLC foe under Laval.
- As mentioned above, junior RHP Brian Wilson missed his scheduled start on Friday against South Carolina after complaining of a sore arm after his start on March 28 at Alabama. Wilson underwent an MRI and will be re-evaluated later this month.
- The Tigers suffered another season ending injury when junior RHP Brandon Nall was diagnosed with a torn labrum in his right shoulder. Nall was expected to undergo arthroscopic surgery later this week. Nall is the eighth LSU player to go down with a season-ending injury, including four who were lost before pre-season practice began in January.
- The Tigers were quite efficient in their series with South Carolina, playing all three games in under two hours and 40 minutes, including a two hour, two minute game on Sunday, LSU's fastest of 2003.

#### On deck for this week:

- LSU begins the week on the road when it travels to Natchitoches to face in-state rival Northwestern State. The Tigers and the Demons are quite familiar with each other this year, as LSU swept Northwestern in a three-game series on a frigid opening weekend in Baton Rouge. Mitch Gaspard, who was a second baseman for LSU on Skip Bertman's first two teams in Baton Rouge in 1984 and 1985, is in his second year as the Demons' coach after leading Northwestern to a 43-17 mark and the Southland Conference title in 2002.
- In the first series between the teams, LSU's top hitter was sophomore 2B Blake Gill, who at the time was the Tigers' starting first baseman. Gill batted .462 (6-for-13), while Jon Zeringue hit the Tigers'



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only home run of the series, a three-run blast in the first inning of the second game.

- It's the first of two games at home against SEC foes for the Demons. On Tuesday, Northwestern welcomes former coach Jim Wells and the Alabama Crimson Tide, and the school is expected to retire the number 17 jersey Wells wore as the Demons' head coach from 1990-94.
- LSU returns home to face another Bertman protégé this weekend, as Mike Bianco leads Ole Miss to Baton Rouge. Bianco was a catcher for Bertman in 1988 and 1989 and an assistant coach from 1993 through 1997, as the Tigers won three national titles in Bianco's five years as an assistant at his alma mater.
- The Rebels won two of three last year in Oxford over the Tigers, including a 10-7 victory in the series finale that saw Ole Miss score six runs in the bottom of the eighth inning. The game was part of a tough 16-12 overall start for the Tigers.
- LSU has dominated the Rebels in the overall series, winning 13 of the last 15 series overall and 11 consecutive series in Baton Rouge since Ole Miss' last victory in 1982. On their last visit to Baton Rouge in 2001, Ole Miss set a record for most runs scored against LSU in Alex Box Stadium in a 23-10 victory.



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