



2003 LSU BASEBALL

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2003 LSU Baseball Notebook

Monday, April 14

Overall Record: 24-11-1

Southeastern Conference Record: 11-3-1 (West division and overall leader)

Last week's results (3-1):

Wednesday—won at Northwestern St., 6-4

Friday—lost to Ole Miss, 6-4

Saturday—def. Ole Miss, 14-6

Sunday—def. Ole Miss, 13-5

This week's games (all times CDT):

Tuesday—Tulane, 6:30 p.m. (live TV on Cox Sports Television)

Friday—at Vanderbilt, 7 p.m.

Saturday—at Vanderbilt, 4 p.m.

Sunday—at Vanderbilt, 1 p.m. (live TV on Jumbo Sports Network)

POSITION PLAYER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE—Junior SS Aaron Hill (6-0, 205, Visalia, Calif.—Redwood HS)

Notes on Hill:

- Enjoyed yet another monster week as he continues to be one of the top offensive threats in the SEC. In four games, Hill batted .625 (10-for-16) with four doubles, a home run, six RBI, a 1.062 slugging percentage and a .700 on-base percentage.
- Batting .550 (11-for-20) with nine runs scored and nine RBI in his last five games and hitting .450 (18-for-40) with 16 runs scored and 12 RBI in his last 10 outings.
- Batted .538 (7-for-13) to lead the Tigers' 29-run, 39-hit assault in the three-game week-end series with Ole Miss.
- Is the SEC leader in walks (29) and on-base percentage (.512). Has struck out just 10 times in 167 total plate appearances this year.
- Is the Tigers' team leader or tied for the team lead in 10 offensive categories, including doubles (14), triples (4), slugging percentage (.646), runs scored (36) and RBI (33).
- Batting .425 (17-for-40) with runners in scoring position and hitting .444 (16-for-36) with 16 RBI with two out.



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- In the Tigers' 15 SEC games, Hill is hitting .466 (27-for-58) with nine doubles, two triples, 15 RBI, a .741 slugging percentage and a .575 on-base percentage.
- Began the week in style as he led LSU to a come-from-behind win at Northwestern St. He launched a solo home run in the sixth inning, then capped off a 3-for-3 night by lacing the game-winning two-run double to left-center field in the eighth to break a 4-4 tie and send the Tigers to a 6-4 win.
- On Saturday, Hill went 3-for-5 with two doubles and two runs scored as LSU scored nine runs in the final four innings to take a 14-6 win over Ole Miss.
- Capped the weekend by going 3-for-4 with a season and career high four runs scored on Sunday in a 13-5 win over the Rebels. Prior to that game, Hill had scored three runs in a game twice—on March 8 vs. Winthrop and March 14 vs. Florida.
- Is the only LSU player to collect four or more hits in a game this season, something he has done twice, going 4-for-4 on March 14 vs. Florida and going 5-for-5 in hitting for the cycle on April 5 vs. South Carolina.
- Slumped to as low as .268 on March 1, but since then, he has gone hitless three times in 24 games as he has raised his batting average to a team leading .385.
- Is the only LSU player to start every game this season.
- Has also improved his defense considerably, handling 33 consecutive chances without an error.

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

| Day | Opponent | Result | Avg. | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB-SBA |
|------------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Wed. | at Northwestern St. | W | 1.000 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0-0 |
| Fri. | Ole Miss | L | .250 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0-0 |
| Sat. | Ole Miss | W | .600 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0-0 |
| Sun. | Ole Miss | W | .750 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1-1 |
| OLE MISS SERIES (3 G) | | 2-1 | .538 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1-1 |
| WEEK TOTALS (4 G) | | 3-1 | .625 | 16 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1-1 |
| SEASON TOTALS (36 G) | | | .385 | 130 | 36 | 50 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 33 | 7-8 |

PITCHER OF THE WEEK NOMINEE—Junior RHP Nate Bumstead (6-2, 215, Las Vegas, Nev.—College of Southern Idaho, Durango HS)

Notes on Bumstead:

- Continues to shine in his new role as the Tigers' Sunday starter, winning his fourth consecutive league start in LSU's victory over Ole Miss. In the SEC, Bumstead is 4-0 with 3.94 ERA, striking out 31 batters in 32 innings.
- Against Ole Miss, Bumstead gave up just two runs on three hits in eight innings and recorded a career high 10 strikeouts, besting his previous career high of eight done three weeks ago at Georgia.
- Has not failed to pitch seven innings in any of his four SEC starts, and has worked eight or more innings in three of those starts.
- In his last two starts, Bumstead has allowed only two hits in 18 at-bats with two out, and in four SEC games, is allowing just a .205 average against with two out.



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- Is now one of three LSU pitchers with five or more wins this year, joining Bo Pettit (6-1) and Brian Wilson (5-3).
- Is 5-1 with a 4.66 ERA on the year, allowing opponents to hit .247 against him and giving up just 12 walks in 48 1/3 innings.

Bumstead's pitching line this week:

| Day | Opponent (Result) | W-L | ERA | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sun. | Ole Miss (W) | 1-0 | 2.25 | 8.0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| SEASON (11 G-6 GS) | | 5-1 | 4.66 | 48.1 | 44 | 25 | 25 | 12 | 42 |

Notes from the week:

- LSU is playing its best defense of the season, and maybe in the last 40 years of the program. The Tigers have not committed an error in their last five contests, accepting 201 consecutive chances without an error. That streak is the first time in the modern history of LSU baseball (since 1965, when records are first available) that the Tigers have gone five consecutive games without an error. Prior to the current streak, LSU's last streak of four errorless games came in March of 1995.
- The Tigers have committed just 21 errors in their last 25 games, compared to 21 errors in the first 11 games of the year. LSU has committed 25 fewer errors at this point in 2003 (42) compared to this point in 2002 (67), allowing the Tigers to raise their fielding percentage by 16 points (.970 to .954) and allow 30 fewer unearned runs (31 to 61).
- The Tigers won their ninth consecutive SEC series this past weekend over Ole Miss, rallying after a Friday loss to win the last two games of the series. LSU and Auburn remain the only SEC schools to win all five conference series in 2003.
- LSU is now one win series win (this weekend at Vanderbilt) away from tying its own school and SEC record for most consecutive conference series wins with 10. LSU accomplished the current record starting with the final series of 1985 at Auburn and continuing through all nine series of 1986.
- Sunday's win over Ole Miss marked the Tigers' third consecutive rubber match victory, joining wins at Alabama and at home vs. South Carolina in the previous two weeks. During the Tigers' current streak, LSU has won five rubber matches, including games last year at Tennessee and Florida.
- LSU has now come back from a game one loss three times during the current streak to win the series, joining series at Tennessee last year and this year at Alabama.
- LSU vaulted back into first place in the SEC West division and overall standings. The Tigers are 11-3-1 in the league, one-half game ahead of Auburn and one game ahead of Mississippi St. The Tigers' 15-game start is their best since the 1998 team began 12-3. LSU didn't win its 11th conference game until last April 27 against Arkansas in the Tigers' 19th SEC game.
- The Tigers appear well on their way to their 19th consecutive year with a winning SEC record, needing just five wins over the second half of the SEC slate. Seven more wins would give LSU 18 conference wins for the 17th time since 1985 and the eighth consecutive year.



- The Tigers continued their home dominance of Ole Miss, winning their 12th consecutive series over the Rebels in Baton Rouge, with Ole Miss' last series win coming in 1982 under Jake Gibbs. Ole Miss is just 7-32 in Baton Rouge since 1983, including a 1-2 mark in the 1993 SEC West tournament.
- The Tigers' hit parade in the SEC continues, as the Tigers are now hitting .342 as a team with 122 runs scored in 15 SEC games. After being held to two runs on six hits on Friday—both season lows in an SEC game for LSU this year—the Tigers busted loose for 27 runs on 33 hits in the final two games of the series.
- LSU has hit double figures in seven of 15 SEC games this year after getting to 10 runs just four times in 29 SEC games in 2002 and six times in 30 league games in 2001. The Tigers have scored 10 or more runs twice in series with Georgia, Alabama and Ole Miss, and once against South Carolina.
- LSU's season batting average of .309 is the highest it has been for LSU since it was at .311 following the February 18 game with Louisiana-Monroe. LSU has raised its season batting average by 22 points since SEC play began.
- The Ole Miss series seemed to be a cure for what ailed LSU at the plate. The Tigers batted a solid .364 (16-for-44) with runners in scoring position in the series after coming in batting just .211 in RISP situations in their previous five games.
- LSU also proved quite adept at two-out hitting, scoring 13 of 29 runs in the series with two out despite a .290 average in the series in those situations.
- In SEC games, LSU is batting .313 with 48 RBI with two out, and .307 with runners in scoring position.
- Sunday's game was a showcase game for sophomore 1B Clay Harris, who has been a key ingredient to the Tigers' surge after a 6-6 start. Harris was 3-for-4 with two home runs and six RBI in the 13-5 win over Ole Miss, his second two home run game of the year and also giving him a career high for RBI. Harris also hit two home runs on March 30 at Alabama, and is the first LSU player to collect more than four RBI in a game this year. The last LSU player to knock in six runs in a game was Blake Gill, who did so last April 14 against Georgia.
- Harris is batting .398 on the season, a mark that would lead LSU, only that he does not have the necessary 2.5 at-bats per game to qualify among the SEC leaders. The two home runs in Sunday's game give Harris eight for the year, tying him with Jon Zeringue for the team lead. Harris also has a .784 slugging percentage, a .481 on-base percentage, and his 29 RBI trail only Aaron Hill (33) and Ivan Naccarata (32) for the team lead.
- In SEC games, Harris is even hotter, batting .441 (26-for-59) with 17 runs scored, six home runs and 22 RBI, good for a .864 slugging percentage and a .500 on-base percentage. In SEC games, Harris is hitting .500 (10-for-20) with runners in scoring position and .450 (9-for-20) with 11 RBI with two out.
- Another Tiger who has been a key contributor as of late has been sophomore RF Jon Zeringue. Zeringue batted .385 (5-for-13) with five RBI in the Ole Miss series, with four of them coming on Saturday—first with a two-run double that gave LSU the lead for good, and then with a two-run home run in the eighth inning, his eighth of the year.
- Since being re-inserted into the starting lineup on March 22, Zeringue is batting .357 (20-for-56) with seven home runs, 15 RBI and a .789 slugging percentage. Zeringue, who was 1-for-19 prior to the return to the lineup, has raised his season batting average



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- by 82 points to .286.
- Sophomore 2B Blake Gill continues to regain confidence after a 2-for-29 slump in late February. Gill batted .364 (4-for-11) in the Ole Miss series and .400 (6-for-15) in four games this week, leaving Gill just shy of the .300 mark at .297 on the year. The Florida native continues to be one of the Tigers' biggest two-out run producers, driving in 13 runs with the end of an inning looming.
 - The biggest improvement from Gill has come against left-handed pitching. Last year, Gill was a mere .115 (3-for-26) against southpaws, but this year, he is batting .292 (19-for-65), the second highest average among LSU left-handed batters.
 - Consistency continues to be the name of the game for sophomore OF/DH Ryan Patterson. Patterson collected at least one hit in all four games last week, including a pair of two-hit games in the wins on Saturday and Sunday over Ole Miss. Patterson is hitting .325 on the year, now second on the team to Aaron Hill's .385 mark. Patterson, who has seven home runs and a .569 slugging percentage, has hit safely in 27 of 32 games this year and has not gone back-to-back games without a hit.
 - Teams are getting the message: don't run against freshman catcher Matt Liuzza. In his last nine games, no team has even attempted a stolen base against Liuzza, and no runner has been successful against Liuzza since Florida's Justin Tordi on March 16. Liuzza has thrown out the last four runners attempting to steal on him and 6 of 12 on the year.
 - Although LSU exploded offensive on Saturday to defeat Ole Miss, the Tigers would have never had the opportunity if not for a remarkable turnaround by fifth-year senior RHP Bo Pettit. Pettit gave up six runs on seven hits in just 2 1/3 innings before making a complete 180. After a third inning home run by Charlie Waite gave the Rebels a 6-5 lead, Ole Miss did not have a baserunner until the eighth inning, as Pettit set down 14 straight Rebel batters. Pettit went 7 2/3 innings to improve to 6-1 on the year.
 - Pettit won his 24th career game at LSU, tying him with Doug Thompson for 10th on the Tigers' career victory chart. Pettit also won his ninth career game immediately after a Tiger loss.
 - It was a solid week for junior RHP Billy Sadler. Sadler gave up just one run on four hits in three innings in his first career start on Wednesday at Northwestern St., then gave up no hits in 1 1/3 innings on Saturday to earn his first career save. Sadler has appeared in a team high 13 games this season.
 - For five innings on Friday, freshman RHP Justin Meier was nearly unhittable, giving up just one hit and striking out six in facing one batter over the minimum. But he couldn't hold the lead, and eventually took his first loss of the year to fall to 4-1. Meier gave up five runs in 6 1/3 innings, his highest run total yielded in 2003.
 - Wednesday's game at Northwestern St. 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.

- Wednesday's win over Northwestern St. improved LSU to 8-2 this season against in-state opponents and 13-1 against Southland Conference schools since Smoke Laval followed legendary LSU coach Skip Bertman in 2002. Laval coached in the Southland for seven years at UL-Monroe, leading the Indians to three NCAA regional berths.

On deck for this week:

- LSU gets its spring break week schedule started on Tuesday when it welcomes in-state archrival Tulane in the 273rd renewal of the oldest intercollegiate athletic rivalry for both schools. The teams have met once already this year, with the Green Wave winning 5-4 in 11 innings on March 11 at Zephyr Field in a game that saw Tulane rally from a 4-0 deficit. The teams meet a third time on April 29 in the Louisiana Superdome, the site of last year's game that drew an NCAA record crowd of 27,673.
- The earlier meeting this year underscores the nature of the series since Rick Jones took over the Tulane program in 1994, as LSU holds a razor-thin 12-11 edge in the series in that time span, with seven of those games decided by one run. Tulane has won four of the last five regular season meetings and has a 6-5 lead overall since 2000.
- The Tigers travel Easter weekend to Vanderbilt for a three-game series against the Commodores. LSU has generally held the upper hand in the series, but last year, Vandy came to Baton Rouge and won the final two games of the series, the Commodores' first series win in Baton Rouge and first anywhere since 1988. The defeats were part of a 2-5 SEC start for the Tigers.
- Ironically, the Commodores enjoyed tremendous success against LSU ace Lane Mestepey, beating the Tigers' two time first team All-SEC left-hander in both 2001 and 2002 at Alex Box Stadium, becoming one of only two teams (Louisiana-Lafayette is the other) to defeat Mestepey twice. Mestepey has not pitched in 2003 and likely will not pitch this year after undergoing shoulder surgery following last year's super regional.
- LSU hasn't visited Nashville since winning two games in a rain-shortened series in 2000, and this will be the first visit to Music City since Vandy opened its renovated Hawkins Field. This also marks the first series for the Tigers against the Commodores' new skipper Tim Corbin, a long-time assistant to Jack Leggett at Clemson.



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