

LSU Baseball Report -- April 25, 2005

Overall Record: 29-13

SEC: 10-8 (second place in Western Division)

Last Week: 3-1

April 19 – at #1 Tulane (L, 8-11)

April 22 – at #11 Arkansas (W, 10-7)

April 23 – at #11 Arkansas (W, 7-0)

April 24 – at #11 Arkansas (W, 6-0)

Nominee for Pitcher of the Week

Clay Dirks, LHP, So. Hernando, Miss.

Dirks pitched a brilliant three-hit shutout on Saturday at Arkansas as the Tigers posted a 7-0 victory . . . Dirks, who allowed just three singles in the contest, walked one and recorded a career-high eight strikeouts . . . only one Arkansas player advanced to second base as Dirks fired 124 pitches in the outing . . . the shutout was the second of Dirks' career – he also blanked Tulane last season on four hits . . . Dirks' performance was the best by an LSU pitcher since April 27, 2002, when Brian Wilson fired a three-hit shutout against Arkansas in Baton Rouge . . . Dirks is 8-1 this season with a 3.06 ERA in 64.2 innings . . . he has registered 20 walks and 45 strikeouts, and opponents are batting .193 against him.

Notes on the Tigers

LSU recorded a three-game series sweep at Arkansas last weekend, marking the Tigers' second SEC sweep on the road this season . . . LSU moved into sole possession of second place in the SEC Western Division and trails first-place Alabama by just one game . . . the Tigers have now won five consecutive SEC games after laboring through a five-game conference losing streak . . . LSU rebounded from a 7-1 fifth-inning deficit on Friday to record a 10-7 victory over Arkansas in Game 1 . . . the comeback was the largest by an LSU squad since May 30, 1999, when the Tigers erased a 9-2 fourth-inning deficit against East Carolina and posted a 12-10 win in the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional . . . LSU hit four homers in Friday's win, including a three-run blast in the top of the ninth inning by right fielder Nick Stavinoha that broke a 7-7 tie . . . center fielder Ryan Patterson launched three homers in the series, including two in Game 1 – Patterson has four two-homer games this season, and he has an SEC-high 16 HRs on the year . . . sophomore left-hander Clay Dirks pitched a brilliant three-hit shutout on Saturday at Arkansas as the Tigers posted a 7-0 victory . . . Dirks, who allowed just three singles in the contest, walked one and recorded a career-high eight strikeouts . . . only one Arkansas player advanced to second base as Dirks fired 124 pitches in the outing . . . the shutout was the second of Dirks' career – he also blanked Tulane last season on four hits . . . Dirks' performance was the best by an LSU pitcher since April 27, 2002, when Brian Wilson fired a three-hit shutout against Arkansas in Baton Rouge . . . Dirks' performance was followed on Sunday by another outstanding outing, as junior left-hander Greg Smith fired the first shutout of his career in a 6-0 win over the Razorbacks . . . Smith, who has pitched 16.2 consecutive scoreless innings, scattered eight hits while recording two walks and three strikeouts in his second straight complete-game victory – Smith also went the distance in a 5-1 win over Ole Miss on April 17 . . . the consecutive shutouts by Dirks and Smith marked LSU's first back-to-back shutouts since April 26 and 27, 2002, when Lane Mestepey and Brian Wilson each blanked Arkansas at Alex Box Stadium in Baton Rouge . . . the Tigers' pitching staff combined last weekend to posted 23.1 straight scoreless innings against the Razorbacks – Arkansas scored seven runs in the first four innings of Friday's game, but could not muster a run for the remainder of the series . . . Arkansas entered the weekend as the No. 2 hitting team in the SEC with a .321 cumulative average.