

LSU BASEBALL -- March 8, 2004

Overall Record: 12-2

Last Week: 3-1

March 2 - at #8 Tulane (W, 6-0)

March 5 - HOUSTON (W, 9-3)

March 6 - HOUSTON (L, 5-10)

March 7 - HOUSTON (W, 8-2)

NOMINEE FOR PITCHER OF THE WEEK

Clay Dirks, LHP, Fr., Hernando, Miss.

LSU blanked eighth-ranked Tulane, 6-0, on March 2 behind the pitching of freshman left-hander Clay Dirks, who fired a complete-game shutout in only his third collegiate start. Dirks limited the Green Wave to no runs on four hits in nine innings with one walk and seven strikeouts. He allowed just two Tulane runners to advance to second base, and he retired 20 of the final 22 batters he faced. Dirks is 2-0 on the year with a 1.37 ERA.

Dirks' shutout on Tuesday was the first by an LSU pitcher since March 14, 2003, when Brian Wilson blanked Florida on five hits. The Tulane game was also the first time LSU held an opponent scoreless since April 15, 2003, when LSU recorded an 8-0 shutout of the Green Wave in Alex Box Stadium.

NOMINEE FOR PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Matt Liuzza, C, So., Metairie, La.

Liuzza extended his hitting streak to 13 games, the longest of his career, in leading the Tigers to three wins in four games against Tulane and Houston. He hit .444 (8-for-18) on the week with one double, one homer and six RBI. The home run highlighted a four-run LSU fourth inning in a 6-0 victory over Tulane at Zephyr Field in Liuzza's hometown of Metairie, La. Liuzza hit .462 (6-for-13) in the Houston series with one double and four RBI, posting a .467 on-base percentage.

NOTES ON THE TIGERS

LSU defeated Houston -- an NCAA Super Regional team in each of the past two seasons -- in two of three games last weekend in Alex Box Stadium. The Tigers hit .378 (42-for-111) in the series with eight doubles, one triple and one homer. Junior right fielder Jon Zeringue paced LSU's offensive effort by hitting .538 (7-for-13) in the series with three doubles, one triple, one homer, six RBI and three runs scored. Zeringue is LSU's leading hitter on the year, batting .434 (23-for-53) with 10 doubles, one triple, three homers and 14 RBI.

Sophomore catcher Matt Liuzza extended his hitting streak to 13 games, the longest of his career. Liuzza hit .462 (6-for-13) in the Houston series with one double and four RBI. He also launched a two-run homer in the Tigers' win over Tulane on Tuesday. On the year, Liuzza is hitting .396 (21-for-53) with four doubles, two homers and 13 RBI.

Junior center fielder J.C. Holt was LSU's top hitter for the week, batting .500 (9-for-18) with two doubles, five RBI, five runs and a .550 on-base percentage. Holt raised his cumulative average to .426 (26-for-61) with three doubles, 11 RBI, 17 runs and a .470 on-base percentage.

Senior right-hander Nate Bumstead defeated Houston on Sunday with his best outing of the season, limiting the Cougars to two runs on nine hits with two walks and seven strikeouts. Bumstead, who is working his way back from a pre-season shoulder injury, is now 2-0 on the year with a 3.18 ERA.

LSU's 12-2 mark through 14 games is the Tigers' best since the 2001 club also posted a 12-2 record through its first 14 contests. LSU's loss to Houston on Saturday ended its win streak at nine games, the longest for the Tigers since the '01 squad won 10 straight from Feb. 17-March 3.

Untitled

LSU's game with Houston on Saturday drew a paid crowd of 8,683, the largest attendance figure in Alex Box Stadium history. The previous mark was 8,622 for a game versus Louisiana-Lafayette in April of 2000.

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