## LSU BASEBALL LEGACY

NATIONAL 1991 • 1993 • 1996 • 1997 • 2000 CHAMPIONS



**Five** 

NCAA College World Series Championships: 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000

LSU is one of only four schools to win five CWS titles. Only LSU and Southern California have won four in one decade.

**13** 

**Southeastern Conference Championships** 

LSU claimed six SEC titles in the '90s. The Tigers won an unprecedented four straight league crowns from 1990-93.

270,300

**The Nation's Best Attendance** 

LSU drew 270,300 fans to Alex Box Stadium in 2005 to lead the USA in attendance for the 10th straight season.

**13** 

CWS Appearances in the Past 20 Years

LSU and Miami (Fla.) are the only two schools in the country with 13 CWS berths since 1986.

21

**NCAA Tournament Berths** 

The Tigers have made 17 straight NCAA Tournament appearances from 1989-2005.

16

**NCAA Regional Host Site for 16 Straight Seasons** 

LSU has played host to an NCAA Regional Tournament each year since 1990.

28-6

**Record on Championship Day in NCAA Tournament Competition** 

LSU is 23-6 in the final rounds of NCAA regionals and super regionals, and the Tigers are 5-0 in CWS championship games.

.721

**Highest All-Time NCAA Tournament Winning Percentage** 

LSU has a 106-41 record and a .721 winning percentage in regional/super regional and CWS games combined.

.630

**Fourth-Highest All-Time College World Series Winning Percentage** 

LSU is 29-17 (.630) at the CWS. The Tigers have won 14 of their last 20 CWS games.

29

Most All-Time CWS Victories (29) and Appearances (13) Among SEC Teams

The second-highest totals among SEC schools are 17 CWS victories and eight CWS appearances.

Nine

**50-Win Seasons** 

LSU is the only SEC school with more than four 50-win seasons in its annals.



1991

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1993



1996



1997



2000

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## AMAZING ACCOLADES



▲ 10TH ANNIVERSARY A decade ago Warren Morris' 9th-inning homer defeated Miami to win the 1996 College World Series. LSU has made 13 CWS appearances in the past 20 years, winning NCAA titles in 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 2000.

#### **United States Olympic Head Coach**

Skip Bertman - 1996 Bronze Medal Team

#### **United States Olympic Medalists**

RHP Kurt Ainsworth - 2000 Gold Medal 2B Warren Morris, SS Jason Williams - 1996 Bronze Medal RHP Ben McDonald - 1988 Gold Medal

#### **National Coach of the Year**

Skip Bertman - 1986, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000 Bertman was voted the second-greatest coach of the 20th Century in a *Baseball America* magazine poll.

#### **National Player of the Year**

RHP Ben McDonald - 1989: RHP Lloyd Peever - 1992: 1B Eddy Furniss - 1998

#### **National Freshman of the Year**

2B Todd Walker - 1992; RHP Brett Laxton - 1993 2B Mike Fontenot - 2000; LHP Lane Mestepey - 2001

#### **Southeastern Conference Player of the Year**

2B Todd Walker - 1993; SS Russ Johnson - 1994 1B Eddy Furniss - 1996; SS Aaron Hill - 2003 OF Jon Zeringue - 2004

#### 16 First-Team All-Americans in the Past 18 Seasons

Outfielder Ryan Patterson received 2005 First-Team All-America recognition from *USA Today/Sports Weekly*.

#### **51 Major League Players**

LSU has produced 37 big-leaguers since 1985, including MLB All-Stars Albert Belle and Paul Byrd.

#### Introduction

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## PROLIFIC PLAYERS



**Albert Belle** Major League All-Star



**Ben McDonald** 1989 National Player of the Year



**Lloyd Peever** 1992 National Player of the Year



**Todd Walker** 1993 & 1994 First Team All-American



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**Russ Johnson** 1994 SEC Player of the Year



**Brett Laxton** 1993 National Freshman of the Year



**Eddy Furniss** 1998 National Player of the Year



**Mike Fontenot** 2000 National Freshman of the Year



**Aaron Hill** 2003 SEC Player of the Year



Jon Zeringue 2004 SEC Player of the Year

#### Records

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#### **Credits**

EDITOR: ASSISTANT EDITOR: LAYOUT & DESIGN:

Bill Franques Bill Martin

Jason Feirman, Brandon Jantz COVER DESIGN: Jason Feirman **PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE:** Peter Hoang, Krystal Bennett

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Steve Franz, Jason Feirman, Jennifer Abelson, Brad Messina, Musemeche Photography, Gabe Jumonville, Glenn LeDoux, MLB Baseball, Prather Warren and Jim Zietz

#### PRINTING

EBSCO Media - Birmingham, Ala.

The 2006 LSU Baseball Official Yearbook



was produced by the LSU Sports Information Office on Power Macintosh G4 using QuarkXpress 6.5 and Adobe Photoshop CS2.

The LSU Baseball Yearbook has been rated among the top six college baseball publications in the nation in 10 of the past 13 seasons. The yearbook was named "Best in the Nation" in 1993 and in 1994 by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association; the publication ranked fourth in 1995, second in 1996, fourth in 1997, second in 1998, sixth in 1999, fifth in 2001, third in 2003 and second in 2004. The cover of the 2003 guide was also named "Best in the Nation" by CoSIDA.

#### 2006 Baseball Schedule/Road Headquarters

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Febru	uary		
10 (Fri.)	NORTH FLORIDA	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
11 (Sat.)	NORTH FLORIDA	ALEX BOX STADIUM	2 p.m.
12 (Sun.)	NORTH FLORIDA	ALEX BOX STADIUM	1 p.m.
14 (Tue.)	CENTENARY	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
17 (Fri.)	TENNESSEE TECH	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
18 (Sat.)	TENNESSEE TECH	ALEX BOX STADIUM	2 p.m.
19 (Sun.)	TENNESSEE TECH	ALEX BOX STADIUM	1 p.m.
21 (Tue.)	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
24 (Fri.)	TEMPLE	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
25 (Sat.)	TEMPLE	ALEX BOX STADIUM	Noon
26 (Sun.)	TEMPLE	ALEX BOX STADILIM	Noon

#### March

	. <del>.</del>		
1 (Wed.)	LOUISIANA-MONROE (COX)	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
3 (Fri.)	HOUSTON	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
4 (Sat.)	HOUSTON	ALEX BOX STADIUM	2 p.m.
5 (Sun.)	HOUSTON	ALEX BOX STADIUM	1 p.m.
7 (Tue.)	TULANE (COX)	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
10 (Fri.)	STETSON	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
11 (Sat.)	STETSON	ALEX BOX STADIUM	2 p.m.
12 (Sun.)	STETSON	ALEX BOX STADIUM	1 p.m.
17 (Fri.)	at Kentucky	Lexington, Ky.	5:30 p.m.
18 (Sat.)	at Kentucky (JSN)	Lexington, Ky.	1 p.m.
19 (Sun.)	at Kentucky (JSN)	Lexington, Ky.	Noon
22 (Wed.)	Southeastern Louisiana	Metairie, La. (Zephyr Field)	7 p.m.
24 (Fri.)	MISSISSIPPI STATE	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
25 (Sat.)	MISSISSIPPI STATE	ALEX BOX STADIUM	2 p.m.
26 (Sun.)	MISSISSIPPI STATE	ALEX BOX STADIUM	1 p.m.
28 (Tue.)	at New Orleans	New Orleans, La. (Maestri Field)	6:30 p.m.
31 (Fri.)	SOUTH CAROLINA	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.

#### April

1 (Sat.)	SOUTH CAROLINA	ALEX BOX STADIUM	4 p.m.
2 (Sun.)	SOUTH CAROLINA	ALEX BOX STADIUM	1 p.m.
4 (Tue.)	SOUTHERN	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
7 (Fri.)	at Tennessee	Knoxville, Tenn.	6 p.m.
8 (Sat.)	at Tennessee (SEC-TV)	Knoxville, Tenn.	3 p.m.
9 (Sun.)	at Tennessee (JSN)	Knoxville, Tenn.	11:30 a.m.
11 (Tue.)	NORTHWESTERN STATE (COX)	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
14 (Fri.)	ALABAMA	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
15 (Sat.)	ALABAMA	ALEX BOX STADIUM	2 p.m.
16 (Sun.)	ALABAMA	ALEX BOX STADIUM	1 p.m.
18 (Tue.)	at Tulane	Metairie, La. (Zephyr Field)	7 p.m.
21 (Fri.)	at Ole Miss	Oxford, Miss.	6:30 p.m.
22 (Sat.)	at Ole Miss (JSN)	Oxford, Miss.	4 p.m.
23 (Sun.)	at Ole Miss (JSN)	Oxford, Miss.	1:30 p.m.
26 (Wed.)	NEW ORLEANS (COX)	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
28 (Fri.)	ARKANSAS (COX)	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
29 (Sat.)	ARKANSAS	ALEX BOX STADIUM	2 p.m.
30 (Sun.)	ARKANSAS (COX)	ALEX BOX STADIUM	1 p.m.

#### May

5 (Fri.)	at Auburn	Auburn, Ala.	7 p.m.
6 (Sat.)	at Auburn (JSN)	Auburn, Ala.	7 p.m.
7 (Sun.)	at Auburn (JSN)	Auburn, Ala.	1 p.m.
12 (Fri.)	VANDERBILT (COX)	ALEX BOX STADIUM	6:30 p.m.
13 (Sat.)	VANDERBILT	ALEX BOX STADIUM	2 p.m.
14 (Sun.)	VANDERBILT	ALEX BOX STADIUM	1 p.m.
16 (Tue.)	Rice	Metairie, La. (Zephyr Field)	7 p.m.
18 (Thu.)	at Florida	Gainesville, Fla.	5:30 p.m.
19 (Fri.)	at Florida	Gainesville, Fla.	5:30 p.m.
20 (Sat.)	at Florida (SEC-TV)	Gainesville, Fla.	Noon
24-28	SEC Tournament	Hoover, Ala.	

#### June

2-5	NCAA Regional Tournament	Site TBA	
9-11/10-12	NCAA Super Regional Series	Site TBA	
16-26/27	College World Series	Omaha, Neb.	

#### All times are Central and subject to change

TV Key | JSN - Jumbo Sports Network | SEC-TV - Fox Sports South/Southwest | COX - Cox Sports Television

#### **Road Headquarters**

#### Kentucky

March 16-19 Hilton Suites 245 Lexington Green Circle Lexington, KY 40503 859.271.4000

#### **Tennessee**

April 6-9 Holiday Inn Select 525 Henley Street Knoxville, TN 37920 865.522.2800

#### Ole Miss

April 20-23 Holiday Inn Express 112 Heritage Drive Oxford, MS 38655 662.236.2500

#### Auburn

May 4-7 The Hotel at Auburn University 214 South College Street Auburn, AL 36830 479.444.6006

#### **Florida**

May 17-20 Cabot Lodge 3726 SW 40th Blvd. Gainesville, FL 32608 352.375.2400

#### **SEC Tournament**

May 23-28 Wynfrey Hotel 1000 Riverchase Galleria Birmingham, AL 35244 205.987.1600



Rosenblatt Stadium - Omaha, Neb.

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#### **2006 LSU Baseball Numerical Roster**

-0	JO EJO DUJEDU	II ITAIIIC	.i icai	1103661				
	NAME	POS.	В-Т	HT.	WT.	CL.	EXP.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
2	Buzzy Haydel	INF	R-R	5-10	185	Fr.	HS	Gonzales, La. (East Ascension HS)
3	Jason Ogata	INF	R-R	6-0	180	Fr.	HS	Portland, Ore. (Westview HS)
5	Chris Jackson	INF	R-R	5-11	165	So.	1L	River Ridge, La. (John Curtis HS)
7	Michael Hollander	INF	R-R	5-10	185	So.	1L	Mandeville, La. (Jesuit HS)
9	Robert Lara	С	R-R	6-1	220	Fr.	HS	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Nova HS)
10	Ryan Byrd	Р	R-L	6-1	165	Fr.	RS	Denham Springs, La. (Denham Springs HS)
11	Jordan Mayer	INF	R-R	6-3	245	So.	1L	Alexandria, La. (Alexandria HS)
12	Jarred Bogany	OF	R-R	6-2	195	Fr.	HS	Houston, Texas (George Bush HS)
13	Clay Dirks	Р	L-L	6-4	235	Jr.	2L	Hernando, Miss. (Hernando HS)
14	Matt Liuzza	С	R-R	6-0	215	Sr.	3L	Metairie, La. (Rummel HS)
18	Nicholas Pontiff	INF	R-R	5-9	175	Fr.	RS	Metairie, La. (Jesuit HS)
20	Derik Olvey	Р	R-R	6-2	220	Jr.	Tr.	Pelham, Ala. (Notre Dame)
21	J.T. Wise	INF/C	R-R	6-0	215	Fr.	HS	Apopka, Fla. (Apopka HS)
23	Chase Dardar	Р	R-R	5-11	200	Sr.	1L	Marrero, La. (Delgado CC)
24	Bruce Sprowl	OF	L-R	5-8	170	Sr.	2L	Knoxville, Tenn. (Shelton State CC)
25	Will Harris	INF	R-R	6-3	240	Sr.	3L	Slidell, La. (Slidell HS)
28	Michael Bonura	Р	R-R	6-1	175	So.	1L	Destrehan, La. (St. Charles Catholic HS)
29	Louis Coleman	Р	S-R	6-3	195	Fr.	HS	Schlater, Miss. (Pillow Academy)
30	Darryl Shaffer	Р	R-R	5-10	175	Fr.	HS	Greenwell Springs, La. (Central Private HS)
32	Chris McGhee	OF	R-R	5-9	155	Fr.	HS	Alexandria, La. (Alexandria HS)
33	Jonathan Wilhite	Р	R-R	6-0	175	Jr.	JC	River Ridge, La. (Delgado CC)
34	Eric English	Р	R-R	6-0	200	So.	1L	Weston, Fla. (Cypress Bay HS)
35	Justin Meier	P	R-R	6-0	215	Sr.	3L	Windermere, Fla. (West Orange HS)
36	Edgar Ramirez	P	R-R	6-4	230	Sr.	1L	Miami, Fla. (Florida International)
37	Daniel Forrer	P	R-L	6-2	200	Jr.	RS	Montgomery, Ala. (Chipola College)
38	Steven Waguespack	INF	L-L	6-1	185	Jr.	JC	Thibodaux, La. (Delgado CC)
39	Nolan Cain	P	R-R	6-3	255	Fr.	RS	Cantonment, Fla. (Tate HS)
40	Ouinn Stewart	OF	R-R	6-1	200	Sr.	2L	Rowlett, Texas (Odessa JC)
41	Chris Cahill	P	R-R	6-2	190	Sr.	1L	Orlando, Fla. (Florida Gulf Coast Univ.)
42	Trey Simon	OF	L-L	5-11	190	Fr.	RS	Destrehan, La. (Destrehan HS)
44	Paul Bertuccini	P	R-R	5-11	175	Fr.	HS	Metairie, La. (Rummel HS)
46	Cade Gautreau	C	L-R	5-10	185	Fr.	HS	Gonzales, La. (East Ascension HS)
47	Kade Keowen	OF	R-R	6-5	205	Fr.	RS	Baker, La. (Central HS)
51	Andrew York	P	R-R	6-2	200	Fr.	HS	Panama City, Fla. (Bay HS)
52	Will Davis	C	R-R	6-0	185	Jr.	2L	Baton Rouge, La. (Lee HS)
53	Gerard Victoriano	С	R-R	5-9	210	Sr.	1L	Lafitte, La. (Delgado CC)
54	Steven Broschofsky	OF	R-R	6-2	215	So.	Sqd.	Metairie, La. (Jesuit HS)
57	Will Goodwin	P	R-R	6-0	225	So.	Sqd.	Houston, Texas (Episcopal HS)
Ji	TTIII GOOGWIII		IV IV	0 0	223	50.	Jqu.	Houston, Texas (Episcopai His)

**Coaching Staff** 

22	Smoke Laval	Head Coach (Jacksonville, 1977 - 17th season at LSU; fifth season as LSU head coach)
17	Turtle Thomas	Assistant Coach (High Point College, 1975 - seventh season at LSU)
26	Brady Wiederhold	Assistant Coach (Kennesaw State, 1994 - fifth season at LSU)
4	Justin Hill	Assistant Coach (LSU, 2002 - first season at LSU)
	Jeramie Moore	Administrative Assistant (LSU, 1997 - second season at LSU

#### **Pronunciation Guide**

Jarred Bogany	BAH-guh-nee	Kade k
Michael Bonura	Buh-NURR-uh	Robert
Steven Broschofsky	BRO-shawf-skee	Smoke
Daniel Forrer	FOR-er	Matt L
Cade Gautreau	GO-tro	Jordan
Buzzy Haydel	HIGH-dell	Justin

Kade Keowen	COWEN
Robert Lara	LAIR-uh
Smoke Laval	Luh-VAL
Matt Liuzza	LYE-oo-zah
Jordan Mayer	MAYOR
Justin Meier	MYFR

Jason Ogata	OH-got-uh
Derik Olvey	OLE-vee
Darryl Shaffer	SHAY-fer
Trey Simon	SIGH-mon
Steven Waguespack	WAG-ess-pack
Brady Wiederhold	WEE-der-hold

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#### **University Facts**

Founded:

Enrollment:

Nickname:

Colors:

Mascot:

Stadium:

Baton Rouge, La. (State Capital)

1860 31,234 Fighting Tigers

Purple (PMS 267) and Gold (PMS 123) Mike V (Live Bengal Tiger) Alex Box Stadium

1938

Year Opened: Capacity: 7.760

LF-330; LC-365; CF-405; RC-365; RF-330 Dimensions Playing Surface:

Natural Grass

Conference: Southeastern (Western Division)

LSU System President: .....Pretoria, 1958 Dr. William L. Jenkins ..... Chancellor: Sean O'Keefe ......Loyola, 1977 Chairman, Athletic Council: Kenneth E. Carpenter ......Oklahoma, 1962

#### **Athletics Administration**

Athletics Department	Phone	
Athletics Director:	Skip Bertman	Miami (Fla.), 1961
Sr. Associate Athletic Director:	Dan Radakovich	Indiana (Pa.), 1980
Associate AD/SWA:	Judy Southard	Coker, 1970
Associate AD/Operations:	Verge Ausberry	LSU, 1990
Associate AD/Internal Relations:	Bo Bahnsen	LSU, 1982
Associate AD/Business:	Mark Ewing	LSU, 1978
Associate AD/External Affairs:	Herb Vincent	LSU, 1983
Associate AD/Compliance:	Chris Howard	Kansas, 1997
Assistant AD/Sports Information:	Michael Bonnette	LSU, 1993
Assistant AD/Student Services:	Miriam Segar	LSU, 1994
Assistant AD/Operations:	Eddie Nunez	Florida, 1998

Sports illiorillation		
Phone/Fax	225.578.8226	
Web Site/E-Mail	www.LSUsports.net	wfranqu@lsu.edu
Baseball Contact:	Bill Franques	LSU, 1985
Sports Information Director:	Michael Bonnette	LSU, 1993
Sr. Associate SID:	Kent Lowe	LSU-Shreveport, 1979
Associate SID:	Melissa Reynaud	LSU, 1997
Associate SID:	Brian Miller	Northeastern, 1998
Associate SID:	Laurie Cannon	Utah State, 1999
Publications Director:	Jason Feirman	LSU, 2000
Graphic Design Coordinator:	Peter Hoang	LSU, 2005
Photographer:	Steve Franz	LSU, 1993
Administrative Secretary:	Pat Fredericks	

#### **Electronic Media**

Phone/TV/Radio	225.578.1797 (TV)	
Director of Television:	Kevin Wagner	LSU, 1980
Asst. Director of Television:	John Schiebe	Oklahoma State, 1986
Television Producer	Paul Danna	LSU, 1995
Director of Radio Broadcasting:	Jim Hawthorne	Northwestern St.,1967

#### **Ticket Office**

Phone/Toll-Free	225.578.2184	1-800-960-8587
Fax/E-mail	225.578.3344	tickets@etigers.net

#### **Baseball Facts**

Baseball Office: 225.578.4149 Press Box: vrobert@lsu.edu Head Coach: Raymond "Smoke" Laval Alma Mater: Jacksonville, 1977 fifth as head coach, 17th overall Year at LSU: Record at LSU: 175-85-1 (.672, four seasons) Career Record: 416-244-1 (.630, 11 seasons)

#### LSU All-Time W-L-T Record: 1993-1329-21 (.599 - since 1893)

NCAA Championships: 5 (1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000)

College World Series Appearances: 13 (1986, '87, '89, '90, '91, '93, '94, '96, '97, '98, 2000, '03, '04)

College World Series Record: 29-17 (.630) NCAA Tournament Record: 106-41 (.721)

NCAA Regional Titles: 16 (1986, '87, '89, '90, '91, '93, '94, '96, '97, '98, '99, 2000, '01, '02, '03,

(04)

21 (1975, '85, '86, '87, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, NCAA Regional Appearances: .

2000, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05) 70-17 (.805)

NCAA Regional Record: NCAA Super Regional Titles: NCAA Super Regional Appearances: 3 (2000, '03, '04) 6 (1999, 2000, '01, '02, '03, '04)

NCAA Super Regional Record: 7-7 (.500)

13 (1939, '43, '46, '61, '75, '86, '90, '91, '92, '93, '96, '97, 2003) 13 (1961, '75, '85, '92, '93, '94, '96, '97, '98, 2000, '01, '03, '05) SEC Championships: SEC Western Division Championships:

SEC Record: 754-620-3 (.549)

SEC Tournament Championships: 6 (1986, '90, '92, '93, '94, 2000)

SEC Tournament Record: 49-32 (.605)

2005 Record/SEC Record (finish) 40-22/18-12 (first in West, third overall)

0-2 in SEC Tournament; 2-2 in NCAA Baton Rouge Regional #18 (ESPN/Sports Weekly); #18 (Baseball America); #19 (Collegiate 2005 Post-Season Finish: Final Ranking:

Baseball)

Lettermen Returning/Lost: 15/15 6/4 7/5 Position Starters Returning/Lost: Pitchers Returning/Lost:

#### **Coaching Staff**

POSITION	NAMEYEAR AT L	SU
Head Coach	Smoke LavalJacksonville, 19775th as head coach, 17th over	all
Asst. Coach	Turtle ThomasHigh Point College, 1975	'th
Asst. Coach	Brady Wiederhold Kennesaw State, 1994	th
Volunteer Coach	Justin Hill	lst
Administrative Asst.	Jeramie Moore JSU 1997 2	nd

#### **Support Staff**

Academic Counselor	Tommy Powell	
Trainer	Beau Lowery	
Student Trainers	Minekazu Isobe, Jason Girard	
Strength Coaches	Will Jones, Jeff Dillman	
Secretary	Virginia Robertson	
Student Secretary	Kallia O'Naal	

Equipment Managers Ryan Babin, Matthew Montgomery, Jonathon Moore



◆ The 2005 Tigers captured LSU's 13th SEC Western Division title.

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#### **▲ MEDIA ATTENTION**

Justin Meier answers questions from the press prior to the 2005 NCAA Regional.

The 2006 LSU Baseball Media Guide is a source of information for the news media. Additional information is available upon request from the LSU Sports Information Office. News releases, photographs, and videotape cassettes will be made available to accredited members of the news media.

The LSU Sports Information Office is located on the fifth floor of the LSU Athletic Administration Building.

#### **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

#### **Credentials**

All media attending LSU baseball home games must present a media pass for admission to Alex Box Stadium. Credentials for home games are issued for working media only and should be requested as early as possible.

- Requests for credentials should be made in advance by e-mail and directed to Associate SID Bill Franques.
- Requests will be screened to insure a working press box.
- Requests are honored from sports editors of daily and weekly newspapers, editors of sports periodicals, and sports directors of radio and television stations who broadcast regularly-scheduled daily sports reports and talk shows.
- Credentials not mailed may be picked up beginning 90 minutes prior to game time at the Will Call window in front of Alex Box Stadium.
- LSU reserves the right to refuse any credential request deemed not to be in the
  best interest of the university. Any requests placed less than 24 hours prior to
  the game may not be honored.

#### **Press Box Services**

A complete NCAA box score and pertinent game facts will be distributed to members of the working media.

- Press packets are provided 60 minutes prior to the first pitch, or earlier upon request. Press packets include a scorecard and team rosters, updated statistics for each team, conference statistics and game notes.
- A meal ticket, redeemable for refreshments from the concessions stand, will be issued to each media member during the game.

#### **Parking**

Reserved media parking is located in Lot K on Skip Bertman Drive adjacent to the third base side of Alex Box Stadium. There is also ample unreserved parking within easy walking distance of the stadium. Because of limited space, requests for parking passes should be made with credential requests. It should not be assumed that parking passes will be provided with all media credentials.

#### **Phones/Fax Machine**

There are three phones available in the press box on a first-come, first-served basis. Fax service is also available upon request.

#### Radio/Television

Radio and television space for broadcasting baseball games is located in the press box. LSU provides courtesy lines for radio stations wishing to broadcast a game from Alex Box Stadium.



#### 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, e-mail LSU Baseball SID **Bill Franques (wfranqu@lsu.edu)**. You will be assigned a login ID and password that will enable you to retrieve pictures. This service is for the media use only. Resale of these pictures is strictly prohibited.

#### **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. Post-game player interviews are conducted in front of the LSU dugout at the conclusion of a brief team meeting on the field. The LSU locker room is closed to the media.



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#### Print

#### Associated Press

1001 Howard Avenue, Suite 200-A New Orleans, LA 70113 SPORTS EDITOR: Mary Foster PHONE: (504) 523-3931 FAX: (504) 586-0531 E-MAIL: nrle@aa.org

#### The Advocate

P.O. Box 588 Baton Rouge, LA 70821

EXEC. SPORTS EDITOR: Butch Muir ASST. SPORTS EDITOR: Matt Randolph

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E-MAIL: sports@theadvocate.com
WEB SITE: www.2theadvocate.com

#### **Times-Picayune**

3800 Howard Avenue New Orleans, LA 70140 SPORTS EDITOR: David Meeks SPORTS EDITOR: Peter Finney (columnist) ASST. SPORTS EDITOR: Doug Tatum

PHONE: (504) 826-3405

FAX: (504) 826-3401

E-MAIL: sports@timespicayune.com
WEB SITE: www.nola.com

#### The Shreveport Times

222 Lake Street Shreveport, LA 71130 SPORTS EDITOR: Scott Ferrell PHONE: (318) 459-3300 FAX: (318) 459-3301

**E-MAIL:** sports@shreveporttimes.com **WEB SITE:** www.shreveporttimes.com

#### **Lake Charles American Press**

PO. Box 2893 Lake Charles, LA 70602 SPORTS EDITOR: Scooter Hobbs PHONE: (337) 494-4069 FAX: (337) 494-4036 E-MAIL: sports@americanpress.com WEB SITE: www.americanpress.com

#### **Alexandria Daily Town Talk**

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SPORTS EDITOR: John Marcase
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FAX: Borts@thetowntalk.com
WEB SITE: www.thetowntalk.com

#### **Monroe News-Star**

411 North Fourth Street Monroe, LA 71201 SPORTS EDITOR: Nick Deriso PHONE: (318) 362-0267

FAX: (318) 362-0273

E-MAIL: nderiso@thenewsstar.com
WEB SITE: www.thenewsstar.com

#### **Gannett News Services**

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Baton Rouge, LA 70804
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CELL: (225) 907-8701
HOME: (225) 788-1931
E-MAIL: gguilbeau@gannett.com

#### **Lafayette Daily Advertiser**

PO. Box 3268 Lafayette, LA 70502 SPORTS EDITOR: Bruce Brown PHONE: (337) 289-6303 FAX: (337) 289-6403 FAX: (337) 289-6403 E-MAIL: sports@theadvertiser.com WEB SITE: www.acadiananow.com

#### **Opelousas Daily World**

Pol. Box 1179
Opelousas, LA 70570
SPORTS EDITOR: Tom Dodge
PHONE: (337) 942-4971
FAX: (337) 948-6572
E-MAIL: tomdodge@dailyworld.com

### WEB SITE: www.dailyworld.com Ruston Daily Leader

212 West Park Avenue Ruston, LA 71270 SPORTS EDITOR: O.K. Buddy Davis PHONE: (318) 255-4353 FAX: (318) 255-4006 E-MAIL: buddy@rustonleader.com

#### **Television**

#### WAFB-TV (CBS Affiliate - Channel 9)

844 Government Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802 SPORTS DIRECTOR: Steve Schneider

REPORTS DIRECTOR: Steve Schneider REPORTER: Jacques Doucet, James Verrett PHONE: (225) 215-4826 FAX: (225) 379-7880

FAX: (225) 379-7880 E-MAIL: sports@wafb.com WEB SITE: www.wafb.com

#### WBRZ-TV (ABC Affiliate - Channel 2)

P.O. Box 2906
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
SPORTS DIRECTOR: Michael Cauble
REPORTER: Andy Pepper, Brian Davies
PHONE: (225) 336-2361

FAX: (225) 336-2347 E-MAIL: sports@wbrz.com WEB SITE: www.2theadvocate.com

#### WVLA-TV (NBC Affiliate Channel 33)

5220 Essen Lane Baton Rouge, LA 70809 PHONE: (225) 766-3233 FAX: (225) 768-9191 WEB SITE: www.nbc33tv.com

#### WWL-TV (CBS Affiliate - Channel 4)

1024 No. Rampart Street New Orleans, LA 70116 SPORTS DIRECTOR: Jim Henderson REPORTERS: Lee Zurik, Juan Kincaid PHONE: (504) 529-6291

FAX: (504) 529-6472 E-Mail: Izurik@wwltv.com WEB SITE: www.wwltv.com

#### WDSU-TV (NBC Affiliate - Channel 6)

846 Howard Avenue New Orleans, LA 70113 SPORTS DIRECTOR: Rich Lenz REPORTEE: Fletcher Mackle PHONE: (504) 679-0657 FAX: (504) 679-0733 E-Mail: rlenz@wdsu.com

#### WGNO-TV (ABC Affiliate - Channel26)

ITM Building
New Orleans, LA 70112
SPORTS DIRECTOR: Ed Daniels
PHONE: (504) 619-6328
FAX: (504) 619-6332
FAX: Edaniels@tribune.com
WEB SITE: abc26.trb.com

#### WVUE-TV (FOX Affiliate - Channel 8)

P.O. Box 13847 New Orleans, LA 70185 SPORTS DIRECTOR: Eric Clemons PHONE: (504) 483-1542 FAX: (504) 483-1543 WEB SITE: www.fox8live.com

#### Radio

#### WDGL/WTGE (FM 981/1073)

(LSU Radio Network Flagship) P.O. Box 2231 Baton Rouge, LA 70821 PHONE: (225) 388-9898 FAX: (225) 499-9800

#### Louisiana Network

263 Third Street, 5th Floor Baton Rouge, LA 70801 Sports: Jeff Palermo PHONE: (225) 383-8788 FAX: (225) 342-9950 WEB SITE: www.la-net.net

#### **WJBO/WSKR** (AM 1150/1210)

PO. Box 14061 Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4061 PHONE: (225) 231-1860 FAX: (225) 499-9696 WEB SITE: www.wjbo.com

#### WWL (AM 870)

1450 Poydras Street, Suite 440 New Orleans, LA 70112 SPORTS TALK: Kenny Wilkerson, Bobby Hebert, Kaare Johnson PHONE: (504) 593-6376 FAX: (504) 593-1850

#### **Specialty Media**

#### **Tiger Rag**

PO. Box 496
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0496
EDITOR/BEAT: Matt Deville
PHONE: (225) 383-5271
FAX: (225) 343-4785
E-MAIL: mattie/tigerrag.com
WEB SITE: louisianastate.theinsiders.com

#### Sports Monday

PO. Box 14825 Baton Rouge, LA 70898 HOST: Lee Feinswog PHONE: (225) 926-3256 E-MAIL: lee@sportsbatonrouge.com WEB SITE: www.sportsbatonrouge.com

#### **Campus Services**

#### **LSU Daily Reveille**

Room 39, Hodges Hall, LSU
Baton Rouge, LA 70140
PHONE: (225) 578-8676
FAX: (225) 578-1698
E-MAIL:soports@reveille.stumedia.lsu.edu

WEB SITE: www.lsureveille.com

#### **KLSU** (FM 91.1)

Hodges Hall, LSU
Baton Rouge, LA 70894
PHONE: (225) 578-5911
FAX: (225) 578-1698
WEB SITE: www.klsu.fm

#### Tiger Television

Hodges Hall, LSU
Baton Rouge, LA 70894
PHONE: (225) 578-8687
FAX: (225) 578-1698
WEB SITE: www.tigertv.tv

#### **Tiger Weekly**

546i Highland Road #167 Baton Rouge, LA 70808 SPORTS EDITOR: Brennan David PHONE: (225) 757-8308 WEB SITE: www.tigerweekly.com E-MAIL: editor@tigerweekly.com



## THE **PROGRAM**

aymond "Smoke" Laval begins his fifth season in 2006 as the head coach of the LSU Fighting Tigers. In four seasons at the helm of the LSU program, he has guided the Tigers to two College World Series berths, two NCAA Super Regional titles, three NCAA Regional championships, one SEC title, two SEC division championships and two Top 10 finishes. Laval, the 2003 SEC Coach of the Year, served as the legendary Skip Bertman's No. 1 assistant coach at LSU from 1984-93, helping lead the Tigers to two national championships (1991, 1993), six College World Series appearances and five Southeastern Conference titles in 10 seasons. Laval served as the head coach at Louisiana-Monroe from 1994-2000 before taking command of the LSU program prior to the 2002 season.

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Smoke Laval took over as LSU's head coach in 2002 and has directed the Tigers to two CWS berths.

## **FIVE**

NCAA Championships won by the LSU Tigers **1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000** 

LSU is one of only four schools to win five national titles in the 59-year history of the CWS. The other schools are Southern California (12 titles), Texas (6) and Arizona State (5).

LSU has claimed its five CWS titles in the past 15 years. Southern Cal has one national title in the past 27 years; Texas has won three CWS titles in the past 23 seasons; and Arizona State's last national championship came in 1981.



#### The Smoke Laval Era (2002-

aymond "Smoke" Laval continues to enhance his reputation as one of the country's top college baseball coaches, as, in four seasons at the helm of the LSU program, he has guided the Tigers to two College World Series berths, two NCAA Super Regional titles, three NCAA Regional championships, one SEC title, two SEC division championships and two Top 10 finishes.

Laval, the 2003 SEC Coach of the Year, has directed LSU to the best SEC regular-season record in the past four seasons, posting a 75-43-1 (.634) mark. South Carolina has the second-best league record (73-46, .613), and Florida is third (70-49-1, .588).

LSU earned its 17th consecutive final Top 20 ranking in 2005, as the Tigers finished the season No. 18 in both the *Baseball America* poll and the *Sports Weekly/ESPN* rankings. The Tigers advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the 17th straight season, recording a 40-22 final overall record. LSU played host to an NCAA Regional tournament for the 16th straight year, competing as a No. 1 seed for the 14th time in 16 seasons. LSU reached the 40-win mark for the 17th consecutive season.

Laval directed the Tigers to the 2005 SEC Western Division championship with an 18-12 conference mark. LSU won 13 of its final 17 league games to claim the division title, which was the 13th in school history and the fourth for LSU this decade. LSU has finished no lower than second in the SEC West and no lower than fourth in the overall league race during Laval's four seasons as head coach.

Six LSU players were selected in the 2005 Major League Draft, the highest total since eight Tigers were drafted in 2001. The drafted players included a pair of all-Americans - outfielder Ryan Patterson (fourth round, Toronto) and pitcher Greg Smith (sixth round, Arizona).

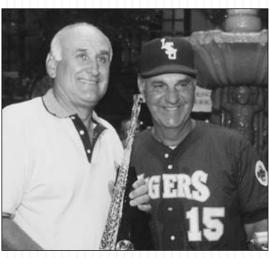
LSU placed 12 players on the 2005 SEC Academic Honor Roll, the highest total in the program's history. Pitcher Jason Determann was named the SEC Baseball Scholar-Athlete of the Year with a 3.781 gpa in biology. Pitcher Jordan Faircloth received the SEC Community Service Post-Graduate Scholarship, and he was named to the SEC Good Works team.

LSU's 2005 total home attendance with 36 playing dates was 270,300, the seventh-largest figure in LSU history. The average paid attendance in 2005 was 7,508, which is the third-highest average in LSU annals. LSU has been ranked No. 1 in the nation in attendance in each of the last 10 seasons (1996-2005).

LSU earned its second consecutive final Top 10 ranking in 2004, as the Tigers finished No. 6 in the USA Today/Sports Weekly poll, No. 7 in the Baseball America poll and No. 8 in the Collegiate Baseball poll. The final rankings culminated a magnificent 2004 season that also featured record-breaking marks for academic achievements and attendance figures.

The 2004 Tigers advanced to the College World Series for the second straight season, recording a 46-19 overall record, LSU's best mark since the 2000 club finished 52-17.

LSU played host to an NCAA Regional for the 15th straight season, winning the tournament with consecutive victories over Army, Southern Mississippi and College of Charleston. The Tigers then played host to an NCAA Super Regional for the third time in five years, defeating Texas A&M in a best two-of-three series to earn a berth in the CWS.



Skip Bertman (right) accepts the 1997 Louisville Slugger national championship trophy with LSU President Dr. William Jenkins.

The 2004 Tigers had the best offensive club in the SEC, completing the year with a .333 team batting average, the second-highest in school history. The Tigers were led by two first-team all-SEC players - right fielder Jon Zeringue, the 2004 SEC Co-Player of the Year and a first-team all-America selection, and center fielder J.C. Holt, a third-team all-America choice.

In just his second season at the helm of the LSU program, Laval guided the Tigers to the 2003 Southeastern Conference title and an appearance in the College World Series. The '03 Tigers posted a 45-22-1 overall record and completed the season ranked No. 5 in the nation by Baseball America magazine.

LSU played host to an NCAA Regional tournament for the 14th straight year and captured its eighth consecutive regional title. LSU won two of three games over Baylor in the NCAA Super Regional to advance to the CWS for the 12th time in school history.

Laval was named 2003 SEC Coach of the Year and Louisiana Coach of the Year

In the first season of the Laval era, the 2002 Tigers played host to an NCAA Regional at Alex Box Stadium for the 13th straight year. LSU captured its seventh consecutive regional title with two wins over Louisiana-Lafayette on the tournament's final day to advance to the Super Regional at Rice University.

For his outstanding efforts in his inaugural LSU season, Laval was named the 2002 Louisiana Coach of the Year by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association.

Prior to his new tenure at LSU, Laval resuscitated the UL-Monroe program, as in seven seasons he guided the Indians to a 241-159 record, including NCAA Regional appearances in 1995, 1999 and 2000. The 2000 ULM club posted a 41-22 mark en route to the Southland Conference title, tying the school record for wins. Laval, the 1999 SLC Coach of the Year, also led the Indians to the 1999 regular-season league title and to the 1995 conference tournament crown.

#### The Skip Bertman Era (1984-2001)

Skip Bertman is LSU's all-time winningest coach, as he compiled an 870-330-3 (.724) record in 18 seasons (1984-2001). Bertman, the National Coach of the Year in 1986, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 2000, and the 1996 United States Olympic head coach, guided the Tigers to five national championships (1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000) and 11 College World Series appearances (1986, '87, '89, '90, '91, '93, '94, '96, '97, '98, '00). In a poll released by *Baseball America* in January, 1999, Bertman was voted the second-greatest college baseball coach of the 20th century, trailing only Rod Dedeaux of Southern California. Under Bertman, LSU finished no worse than seventh in the national polls in 12 of his final 16 seasons.

Bertman is one of only three coaches to have won five College World Series titles in the 59-year history of the event. Southern Cal's Dedeaux won 10 CWS crowns from 1958-78, and Augie Garrido has captured five championships with two schools (Cal State Fullerton, 1979, '84, '95; Texas, 2002, '05). Bertman has the fourth-highest CWS winning percentage (29-13, .690), and the sixth-highest total of CWS victories (29).

Bertman's record in SEC games was 328-159-2 (.673). Under Bertman, LSU dominated the SEC from 1989-2001, registering a 654-235-2 (.734) overall mark (an average of 50 wins per year) with five national championships, nine CWS appearances, six conference titles and eight 50-win seasons.

In addition to the five national titles, Bertman directed LSU to 13 NCAA Regional championships (1986, '87, '89, '90, '91, '93, '94,



'96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01), one NCAA Super Regional title (2000), seven Southeastern Conference regular-season titles (1986, '90, '91, '92, '93, '96, '97), six SEC Tournament crowns (1986, '90, '92, '93, '94, '00) and nine 50-win seasons (1986, 1989-93, 1996-97, 2000).

#### **National Championship History**

Skip Bertman directed LSU to its fifth national title in 2000, as the Tigers recorded a 52-17 mark, including a perfect 13-0 post-season record. LSU won the SEC Tournament with four straight wins, and the Tigers raced to a 9-0 mark in the NCAA Tournament. The Tigers captured the national title with a thrilling 6-5 win over Stanford in the CWS championship game, as LSU scored four runs in the last two innings to overcome a 5-2 deficit. Catcher Brad Cresse's RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning drove home shortstop Ryan Theriot with the winning run.

LSU's road to the 2000 NCAA crown was arguably the most difficult in CWS history, as the Tigers had to defeat perennial powers Texas (28 CWS appearances), Southern California (20), Florida State (18) and Stanford (12) in order to claim the national championship.

The 2000 squad was Bertman's most productive offensive team, setting a school record for team batting average with a .340 mark. The Tigers also established Southeastern Conference records for hits (864) and doubles (194). For the fifth time, Bertman was voted National Coach of the Year by Collegiate Baseball magazine.

LSU claimed its fourth NCAA title in June, 1997, as the Tigers overwhelmed Alabama, 13-6, in the College World Series final. LSU became the first school to win back-to-back national championships since Stanford in 1987-88. The Tigers completed the year with a 57-13 mark, setting the Southeastern Conference record for most single-season victories. The Tigers also established the NCAA record for single-season home runs, as LSU unloaded a remarkable 188 round-trippers en route to the national championship. LSU joined Southern California (six titles in the 1970s) as the only schools to win four CWS crowns in one decade.

**LSU claimed its third national championship of the 1990s in 1996** when second baseman Warren Morris belted a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift the Tigers to a thrilling 9-8 College World Series title game win over Miami (Fla.). The '96 Tigers were one of the most prolific offensive teams in Southeastern Conference history, establishing league records for home runs (131), runs scored (648), RBI (549) and total bases (1331)

In 1993, LSU won its second NCAA title in three years with an 8-0 victory over Wichita State in the CWS final. The 1993 Tigers also captured the Southeastern Conference title, as LSU became the first SEC school to win the league championship in four consecutive seasons (1990-93).

In 1991, LSU captured its first national championship

The 1997 Tigers produced an SEC-record 57 wins en route to the CWS title.

270,300

Number of fans who attended LSU baseball games in Alex Box Stadium during the 2005 season. LSU ranked first in the nation in attendance for the 10th straight year. INTRO
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The 1975 Tigers earned LSU's first NCAA Tournament berth.



Southeastern Conference championships claimed by LSU in the 1990s, including an unprecedented four in a row from 1990-93



with a record-setting performance at the CWS. The Tigers defeated Wichita State, 6-3, in the title game and established Series marks for home runs, runs per game, slugging percentage and fielding percentage.

LSU is one of only four schools to win five national titles in the 59-year history of the CWS. The others are Southern California (12 titles), Texas (6) and Arizona State (5). LSU has claimed its five CWS titles in the past 15 years. By comparison, Southern Cal has just one national title in the past 27 seasons; Arizona State has played 24 seasons without a CWS crown; and Texas has won three CWS titles in the past 23 seasons.

All 13 of the Tigers' CWS appearances have come since 1986 -- LSU is one of only 10 schools to have made at least 13 CWS trips since the Series began in 1947. The Tigers have the fourth-highest all-time CWS winning percentage (minimum 20 games) -- LSU has a 29-17 (.630) CWS mark, trailing Southern California (74-26, .740), Minnesota (17-7, .708) and Arizona State (58-32, .644).

LSU has the highest all-time NCAA Tournament winning percentage (.721) with a 106-41 record. Remarkably, LSU has a 28-6 record in championship rounds of NCAA post-season play. The Tigers are 5-0 in CWS finals, 19-2 in NCAA Regional final rounds and 4-4 in NCAA Super Regional final rounds.

#### **College World Series Teams**

**LSU made its first-ever CWS appearance in 1986,** when the Tigers finished fifth with a 1-2 record. LSU lost its CWS debut, 4-3, to Loyola-Marymount before rebounding with its first Series win, an 8-4 triumph over Maine. The Tigers were then eliminated by defending CWS champion Miami (Fla.), 4-3.

**LSU returned to Omaha in 1987**, marking the first time a Southeastern Conference team made back-to-back CWS appearances. The Tigers placed fourth in '87 with a 2-2 mark, as LSU was eliminated when Stanford's Paul Carey sent a Ben McDonald pitch over the left-field wall with the bases loaded in the 10th inning to give the Cardinal a 6-5 win.

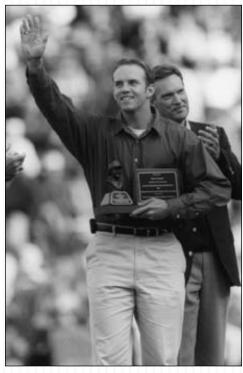
In 1989, after an incredible two-game sweep of top-ranked Texas A&M -- the Aggies entered the regional final round with a 58-5 record -- in the NCAA Central Regional at College Station, Texas, LSU joined the CWS field, placing in a tie for third with a 2-2 record.

In 1990, the Tigers again emerged from an NCAA regional tournament losers' bracket to earn a CWS berth, as LSU captured the South I Regional at Baton Rouge with two scintillating one-run wins over Southern California. LSU

finished in a tie for third at the '90 CWS, recording a 2-2 mark in the summer classic.

LSU claimed its first NCAA championship in 1991 as the Tigers decimated the CWS field, outscoring their opponents 48-15 in four games. LSU, which won the SEC regular-season title for the second straight year, became the first team since 1982 to win the national championship without a loss in the NCAA Tournament -- the Tigers won four consecutive games in both the NCAA South Regional and the College World Series. LSU's domination in Omaha was evidenced by the fact that the Tigers set CWS team records for most runs per game (12), highest fielding percentage (.993), highest slugging percentage (.603) and most home runs (nine).

**LSU returned to Omaha in 1993 for another national championship crusade** as the Tigers posted a 4-1 CWS mark, including an 8-0 victory over Wichita State in the final. Perhaps more memorable than the championship contest was LSU's 6-5 victory over Long Beach State in the CWS semi-finals, as the



Eddy Furniss claimed the 1998 Dick Howser Award as college baseball's most outstanding player.

Tigers scored three runs in the bottom of the ninth inning for the win. LSU, which won the SEC for an unprecedented fourth straight year, advanced to the CWS by capturing the NCAA South Regional championship at Alex Box Stadium, which played host to a regional tournament for the fourth consecutive year.

In 1994, LSU became the first defending national champion to return to the CWS since Stanford accomplished the feat in 1988. The Tigers earned the CWS berth with four straight wins in the NCAA South Regional at Baton Rouge, including a thrilling 12-10 triumph over Southern California in the regional final. However, for the first time in its CWS history, LSU went "two-and-out" in Omaha, as the Tigers dropped consecutive decisions to Florida State and Cal State-Fullerton.

In 1996, the Tigers posted an 8-0 NCAA Tournament record to win the school's third national championship. LSU won four straight in Omaha, defeating Wichita State, Florida (twice), and Miami (Fla.). The championship game versus Miami provided the greatest finish in the history of the CWS as LSU second baseman Warren Morris launched a two-out, two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Tigers an electrifying 9-8 triumph.

The 1997 Tigers unloaded an NCAA-record 188 homers en route to the national title. The '97 club played host to the NCAA South I Regional, defeating North Carolina-Greensboro and Oklahoma in their first two games before suffering a third-round loss to South Alabama. The Tigers rebounded for a thrilling 14-7, 11-inning triumph over Long Beach State before posting a doubleheader sweep over South Alabama (14-4 and 15-4) to claim the regional crown. For the second straight year, the Tigers went 4-0 in the College World Series, defeating Rice (5-4), Stanford (10-5 and 13-9) and Alabama (13-6). LSU became the first team to win back-to-back national titles without losing a CWS game. The only other teams to win consecutive national championships are Stanford (1987-88), Southern California (1970-71-72-73-74) and Texas (1949-50).

The 1998 LSU squad earned the Tigers' seventh CWS berth of the '90s by capturing the NCAA South II Regional title in Baton Rouge with victories over Nicholls State (18-4), Southwestern Louisiana (15-6) and Cal State-Fullerton (13-11 and 14-3). LSU defeated Southern California (12-10) and Mississippi State (10-8) in its first two CWS games, increasing the Tigers' Series winning streak to 10 games over three years. However, LSU suffered back-to-back losses to Southern Cal (5-4 and 7-3), and the Trojans advanced to the national championship game, where they defeated Arizona State.

**LSU earned its 11th CWS trip in 15 seasons in 2000**, as the Tigers played host to and won both an NCAA Regional and NCAA Super Regional. The Tigers defeated Jackson State and Louisiana-Monroe (twice) in the regional before sweeping two super regional games from UCLA to claim the ticket to Omaha. LSU then posted four straight victories in the CWS, securing the national title with wins over Texas (13-5), Southern California (10-4), Florida State (6-3) and Stanford (6-5). The Tigers completed the year with a perfect 13-0 post-season mark, as LSU also won four straight games in capturing the SEC Tournament crown.

LSU's 2003 SEC Championship club earned the school's first CWS trip since 2000. The Tigers played host to an NCAA Regional for the 14th straight year, as the Tigers won the tournament with a thrilling 9-8, 11-inning victory over North Carolina-Wilmington in the final game. LSU then entertained Baylor in NCAA Super Regional play, defeating the Bears in two of three games to advance to the CWS.

For just the second time in 12 CWS appearances, LSU failed to win a game in Omaha as the Tigers were defeated by Cal State Fullerton (8-2) and South Carolina (11-10).

The 2004 Tigers advanced to the College World Series, marking LSU's first back-to-back trips since 1996, '97 and '98. The '04 squad posted a 46-19 overall record, LSU's



best mark since the 2000 team finished 52-17.

LSU played host in 2004 to an NCAA Regional for the 15th straight season, winning the tournament with consecutive victories over Army, Southern Mississippi and College of Charleston. The Tigers then played host to an NCAA Super Regional for the third time in five years, defeating Texas A&M in a best two-of-three series to earn a berth in the CWS. LSU was eliminated from the CWS in two games, as the Tigers dropped decisions to Miami (Fla.) and South Carolina.

#### **NCAA Regional History**

LSU has a 77-24 (.762) mark in NCAA Regional and Super Regional contests. The Tigers have advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 17 consecutive seasons and in 20 of the past 21 years. LSU first qualified for NCAA regional play in 1975, when the Tigers posted a 1-2 mark at the South Regional in Starkville, Miss.

In 1985 -- the Tigers' first NCAA appearance under Skip Bertman -- LSU dropped two consecutive games at the Central Regional in Austin, Texas, before advancing to its first College World Series a year later with a four-game sweep through the 1986 South I Regional field in Baton Rouge, La. The Tigers defeated Tulane, 7-6, in the '86 regional final to earn LSU's first CWS berth.

The Tigers returned to Omaha in 1987 after taking four straight games at the South II Regional in New Orleans, La., including a 5-2 victory over Cal State Fullerton in the final game.

After failing to receive an NCAA bid in 1988, LSU won five of six games at the 1989 Central Regional in College Station, Texas, to secure its third CWS berth in four years. The Tigers defeated top-ranked Texas A&M twice on the tournament's final day --including a 5-4, 11-inning victory in the championship game. LSU earned its fourth berth to the CWS in 1990 as the Tigers took of five of six games at the South I Regional in Baton Rouge. The Tigers posted consecutive victories over powerful Southern California -- including a thrilling 7-6 win in the final contest -- to capture the regional title.

In 1991, LSU posted four straight victories at the South Regional in Baton Rouge to set the stage for its national title drive in Omaha. In 1992, LSU played host to an NCAA Regional for the third straight year; however, the Tigers were eliminated in the South I semifinal by Cal State-Fullerton. The loss marked the first time since 1985 LSU did not win a regional after receiving an NCAA Tournament bid. In 1993, after a second-round loss to Kent State University, LSU won three straight NCAA South Regional

Ben McDonald received the 1989 Golden Spikes Award as the nation's best amateur baseball player.

188

Home runs by the Tigers in their 1997 National Championship season

The total is an NCAA record, shattering the previous mark of 161 set in 1988 by Brigham Young. LSU hit at least one home run in all 70 of its 1997 games.

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.721

LSU has the nation's highest all-time NCAA Tournament winning percentage (106-41, .721) and the fourth-highest all-time College World Series winning percentage (29-17, .630).

games to earn its sixth CWS trip. The Tigers defeated South Alabama, 9-4, in the regional final.

The Tigers played host to an NCAA Regional for the fifth straight season in 1994, as LSU defeated Southeastern Louisiana, Fresno State and Southern California (twice) to earn another trip to Omaha. Alex Box Stadium again served as the host site for an NCAA tournament in 1995, as the Tigers participated in the South Regional, finishing third behind champion Cal State-Fullerton and runner-up Rice. In 1996, LSU captured the South II Regional crown in Alex Box Stadium, defeating Georgia Tech, 29-13, in the championship game. The contest featured a record-setting seventh inning in which LSU scored 18 runs on 13 hits with 17 consecutive Tiger batters reaching base.

In 1997, the Tigers claimed the South I regional title in Baton Rouge, defeating South Alabama twice (14-4 and 15-4) on the tournament's final day. LSU hit .339 (82-for-242) in its six regional games, outscoring the opposition 76-29 while unloading 20 home runs. In 1998, the Tigers swept four games in the NCAA South II Regional at Baton Rouge, including two wins over former post-season nemesis Cal State-Fullerton. LSU hit .406 in the tournament while launching 20 homers in regional play for the second straight year.

In 1999, LSU claimed the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional as the Tigers emerged from the losers' bracket and posted consecutive victories over East Carolina. LSU advanced to the NCAA Super Regional in Tuscaloosa, Ala., where the Tigers dropped consecutive decisions to Alabama to end their post-season drive.

The 2000 Tigers played host to both a regional and super regional, marking the 11th straight year Alex Box Stadium served as a site for NCAA post-season play. The Tigers blitzed Jackson State (19-1) and Louisiana-Monroe (21-0, 5-3) to win the regional, and LSU overwhelmed UCLA (8-2, 14-8) in the super regional. In its five regional/super regional games, the Tigers hit .366 (70-for-192) with 18 doubles, one triple and 11 homers.

The 2001 Tigers captured LSU's sixth straight NCAA Regional championship with a 14-9 title-game victory over Virginia Commonwealth in Alex Box Stadium. The Tigers advanced to NCAA Super Regional play against Tulane at Zephyr Field in Metairie, La., where the teams played three games before

sell-out crowds of nearly 12,000 per contest. LSU won a 13-inning thriller, 4-3, in Game 1, before the Green Wave rebounded for consecutive victories (9-4 and 7-1) to earn Tulane's first trip to the

The 2002 Tigers claimed LSU's seventh consecutive NCAA Regional crown, defeating Louisiana-Lafayette twice (by identical 12-2 scores) on the tournament's final day in Alex Box Stadium. LSU advanced to the NCAA Super Regional at Rice University, where the Owls blanked the Tigers twice (6-0 and 3-0) to capture the CWS bid.

LSU won its eighth straight regional in 2003, as the Tigers defeated Northeastern (11-8), Tulane (13-5) and UNC-Wilmington (9-8, 11 innings). Right fielder Jon Zeringue's solo homer in the bottom of the 11th inning propelled the Tigers to victory over UNCW. LSU faced Baylor in a Super Regional series at Alex Box Stadium, and, after dropping the opener to the Bears (4-1), the Tigers came back to record 6-5 and 20-5 victories to earn another trip to Omaha.

The 2004 Tigers earned LSU's ninth consecutive NCAA Regional title, winning consecutive games over Army (9-0), Southern Mississippi (6-2) and College of Charleston (11-3). The Tigers played host to Texas A&M in the Super Regional, sweeping the Aggies in two games (11-8 and 4-0) to advance to Omaha for the second year in a row.

LSU's streak of nine consecutive NCAA Regional titles ended in 2005, when the Tigers posted a 2-2 mark at the Baton Rouge Regional in Alex Box Stadium. The Tigers posted wins over Marist and Northwestern State, but two losses to Rice eliminated LSU from the tournament. Alex Box Stadium served as an NCAA Regional site for the 16th straight season.

#### **SEC History**

**LSU captured its 13th Southeastern Conference title when the 2003 Tigers claimed the league crown.** The Tigers recorded a 20-9-1 conference mark to win the 13th league championship in school history. LSU and Alabama each have claimed a league-best 13 SEC titles. LSU won six SEC championships in the 1990s, including an unprecedented four in a row from 1990-93.

LSU has finished either first or second in the overall confer-



LSU has earned 13 CWS trips to Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium.



Ray Wright's brilliant catch prevented a Stanford home run in the 2000 College World Series Championship Game. THIS IS LSU
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**28-6** 

LSU has a 28-6 record on championship day in NCAA post-season play (regional, super regional and CWS combined), including a 5-0 mark in CWS final games.

ence standings in 12 of the past 17 years. LSU has won six SEC Tournament crowns (1986, '90, '92, '93, '94, 2000), and the Tigers are the only SEC team to have appeared in every conference tournament since 1985.

In 1993, LSU became the first team in Southeastern Conference history to win four straight league titles. The '93 Tigers, who registered an 18-8-1 SEC mark, clinched the overall championship by winning the SEC Western Division Tournament title in Alex Box Stadium. LSU defeated Mississippi State, 7-3, in the final game after battling out of the tournament losers' bracket. In 1992, LSU became the first league team to win three straight championships since Alabama in 1940, '41 and '42. Alabama also won three straight from 1934-36 and is the only other school with three consecutive titles since the SEC began recognizing a champion in 1933.

The Tigers have won more College World Series games (29) than any other SEC school. South Carolina is second among league schools with 17 CWS triumphs. LSU (13 CWS berths) is the only SEC squad with more than 10 CWS trips; South Carolina is second with eight all-time CWS berths. Since 1986, while LSU has made 13 CWS appearances, no other SEC school has reached Omaha more than five times. Other league schools in the CWS



Lyle Mouton (21), catcher Gary Hymel and the Tigers won LSU's first NCAA championship in 1991 with a victory over Wichita State in the CWS.

since '86 are Florida (five appearances), Georgia (four), Mississippi State (three), Alabama (three), Arkansas (three), South Carolina (three). Tennessee (three) and Auburn (two).

LSU has reached the 50-win plateau eight times in the past 17 years. LSU posted five consecutive 50-win seasons from 1989-93. No other Southeastern Conference team has had more than two consecutive 50-win campaigns. LSU in 1997 established the SEC record for most wins (57) in a season, breaking its own previous league mark of 55 set in 1986, 1989 and 1991. While LSU has nine 50-win seasons in its annals, no other SEC school has more than four 50-win campaigns in its history.

#### **Individual Honors**

Former LSU pitcher Ben McDonald, a right-hander from Denham Springs, La., capped a magnificent 1989 season by receiving the Golden Spikes Award, given by the United States Baseball Federation to the nation's most outstanding amateur player. McDonald, the consensus College Player of the Year, was the first player chosen in the free-agent amateur draft and made his major league debut with the Baltimore Orioles in September, 1989.

McDonald, who set an LSU career mark with 373 Ks, established Southeastern Conference standards for single-season strikeouts (202), innings pitched (152.1) and consecutive scoreless innings (44.2). A two-time All-American and a 1988 Olympic gold medalist, he finished his LSU career with a 29-14 record and a 3.24 ERA.

Lloyd Peever, a right-handed pitcher from Stonewall, Okla., was named the 1992 National Player of the Year by Collegiate Baseball magazine. Peever, one of nine finalists for the 1992 Golden Spikes Award, was named first-team All-America by Collegiate Baseball, Baseball America and the American Baseball Coaches Association. He finished the season with a 14-0 record and a 1.98 ERA in 104.2 innings, and he became the first SEC pitcher to post 14 straight wins in one year. Peever signed with the expansion Colorado Rockies in 1992 after being selected in the fourth round of the major league draft.

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LSU has produced 37 major leaguers over the past 21 years, including former allstar outfielder Albert Belle. Among the Tigers' current big leaguers are Paul Byrd of the Cleveland Indians, Todd Walker of the Chicago Cubs, Aaron Hill of the Toronto Blue Jays and Brad Hawpe of the Colorado Rockies.

LSU first baseman Eddy Furniss culminated a sterling four-year career by receiving the 1998 Dick Howser Trophy as college baseball's most outstanding player. Furniss finished his career as the SEC's all-time leader in hits (352), home runs (80), RBI (308), doubles. (87) and total bases (689). He is also No. 1 on the LSU career list for slugging percentage (.727) and walks (191). In NCAA annals, Furniss finished his career No. 3 all-time in total bases, No. 4 in home runs and doubles, and No. 5 in RBI. The Nacogdoches, Texas, native -- who posted a .371 lifetime batting average -- hit .403 in 1998 with 27 doubles, three triples, 28 homers, 85 runs and 76 RBI, earning First-Team All-America and all-SEC honors. He was also voted a second-team Academic all-American with a 3.5 gpa in zoology.

In 1997, Furniss helped lead LSU to its second straight NCAA title, earning second-team all-America and all-SEC recognition and first-team Academic all-America honors. He batted .377 with 25 doubles, 17 homers and 77 RBI.

Furniss, a 1996 consensus first-team all-American, was voted the '96 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year after batting .374 (89-for-238) with a school-record 26 homers and an SEC-record 103 RBI. Furniss, whose home run

and RBI totals were the best in the nation, also was named a second-team Academic all-American with a 3.7 gpa in zoology. Furniss became the third LSU player in four years to be named SEC Player of the Year (Todd Walker was the '93 recipient and Russ Johnson was the '94 honoree).

Todd Walker was voted in 1996 as the second baseman on the College World Series All-Time Team by the readers of the *Omaha World-Herald*. Walker, a 2006 inductee into the LSU Athletics Hall of Fame, completed a brilliant three-year LSU career in 1994 as he became the SEC's all-time leader in hits (310), runs (234), RBI (246) and total bases (557). Walker, a native of Bossier City, La., was a 1994 finalist for the Golden Spikes Award and the Smith Award, as he batted .393 with 18 homers and 68 RBI. A consensus '94 All-American, he was also named the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA South Regional, and he was selected to the College World Series All-Tournament team. Walker finished his career as LSU's all-time leader in hits, runs, RBI, total bases, home runs (52), doubles (61), triples (15) and batting average (.396).

In 1993, Walker led LSU to the national championship as he was named the Most Outstanding Player of the College World Series and the SEC Player of the Year. Walker batted .350 in the CWS with three homers and 12 RBI. On the year, he hit .395 with 22 homers while establishing single-season SEC records for RBI (102), total bases (214) and hitting streak (33 games). Walker, a 1993 consensus first-team All-American and a finalist for the Golden Spikes Award, also set the LSU career RBI mark with 178 in only two seasons.

Walker was named the 1992 National Freshman of the Year by *Collegiate Baseball* and by *Baseball America*. He enjoyed a phenomenal rookie season, batting .400 with 12 homers and an SEC-high 76 RBI. Walker also led the conference in runs (72) and total bases (163), and he became the first player in LSU annals to hit .400 in a single season. Along with being a first-team Freshman All-American, Walker was named second-team All-America by *Collegiate Baseball* and *Baseball America*.

Shortstop Russ Johnson was named the 1994 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year after enjoying one of the best seasons in LSU annals. Johnson, a native of Denham Springs, La., batted .410 -- the highest single-season



Former LSU pitcher Paul Byrd (1989-91) was named to the 1999 National League All-Star team.

average in school history -- with 17 homers and 74 RBI. He led the SEC in doubles (26 - an LSU record), walks (67) and on-base percentage (.532), and he completed his three-year career with a .367 lifetime batting average.

Johnson was named a 1994 first-team All-American by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, and he was voted Louisiana Collegiate Player of the Year by the La. Sportswriters Association. He was also selected as the Most Outstanding Player of the SEC Western Division Tournament, and he was named to the NCAA South Regional All-Tournament team. A Freshman All-America selection in 1992, Johnson finished his career in second place on the all-time LSU lists for runs (216), RBI (181), batting average (.367), doubles (60) and total bases (445).

**Pitcher Brett Laxton was named the 1993 National Freshman of the Year** by Baseball America and the National CoFreshman of the Year by Collegiate Baseball, marking the second
straight season an LSU player received such an honor (Todd
Walker was the 1992 recipient). Laxton posted a 12-1 record and
an SEC-best 1.98 ERA with five complete games, 98 strikeouts
and 47 walks in 109 innings. He pitched a three-hit shutout in the
CWS title contest against Wichita State, establishing a World
Series championship game record by fanning 16 Shockers. A
native of Audubon, N.J., Laxton earned first-team All-America and
first-team All-Southeastern Conference recognition.

Shortstop Brandon Larson in 1997 became only the fourth player in NCAA history to hit 40 home runs. The consensus all-American from San Antonio, Texas, enjoyed a phenomenal season, batting .381 with SEC-record totals of 40 homers, 118 RBI and 250 total bases. Larson was named the Most Outstanding Player of the '97 CWS, leading LSU to the national title by hitting .368 (7-for-19) with three homers, eight RBI and six runs. Larson, a first-round draft choice of the Cincinnati Reds, established the LSU mark for most hits in a season (110), and he was named the Louisiana Collegiate Player of the Year.

Catcher Brad Cresse was a 2000 first-team all-America selection, as he led the nation in home runs (30) and RBI (106). Cresse, a native of Seal Beach, Calif., was named the 2000 recipient of the Johnny Bench National Collegiate Catcher of the Year award, and he was a finalist for the 2000 Golden Spikes Award.

Cresse, the fifth-round selection by the Arizona

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Alex Box Stadium has played host to an NCAA Regional Tournament for 16 straight years.

Diamondbacks in the 2000 major league draft, helped lead LSU to the 2000 national title by hitting .388 (106-for-273) with 21 doubles, 30 homers, 106 RBI, 73 runs, 217 total bases and a .790 slugging percentage. He provided the game-winning RBI in the 2000 national championship game versus Stanford, as his single in the bottom of the ninth inning scored shortstop Ryan Theriot from second base to give LSU a 6-5 win.

Cresse completed his career in second place on the SEC alltime HR list with 78 round-trippers, trailing Eddy Furniss, who hit 80 homers for LSU from 1995-98. Cresse ranked No. 2 in LSU career RBI with 257; Furniss was No. 1 with 308 RBI.

Second baseman Mike Fontenot was named 2000 National Freshman of the Year by *The Sporting News* and by *Collegiate Baseball*. Fontenot, a Slidell, La., native, became the third LSU player to earn freshman of the year accolades, following second baseman Todd Walker (1992) and pitcher Brett Laxton (1993). Fontenot, who was also voted the Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year by the league's coaches, helped lead LSU to the 2000 national championship, as he batted .353 (103-for-292) with 13 doubles, three triples, 17 homers, 93 runs (SEC leader) and 64 RBI. He posted a .452 on-base percentage and stole eight bases in nine attempts. His 17 homers set the LSU freshman HR record formerly held by Blair Barbier (15 HR in 1997).

Fontenot was LSU's leading hitter in the 2000 College World Series, as he batted .462 (6-for-13) with two doubles, one homer, two RBI, six runs and five walks, earning CWS all-tournament honors.

He was also the Tigers' top hitter in nine NCAA Tournament games, batting .432 (16-for-37) with four doubles, two homers, nine RBI, eight walks and 13 runs.

Pitcher Lane Mestepey was voted the 2001 National Co-Freshman of the Year by *Collegiate Baseball*. Mestepey, a left-hander from Zachary, La., shared the honor with Wake Forest first baseman Jamie D'Antona. Mestepey emerged as the Tigers' No. 1 pitcher during the 2001 season, posting an 11-3 record and a 3.75 ERA with 79 strikeouts and 37 walks in 139.1 innings. He was voted first-team all-SEC and SEC Freshman of the Year by the league's coaches.

Mestepey also earned third-team all-America honors from Collegiate Baseball, and he was voted to the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional all-tournament team.

Mestepey became the fourth LSU player to earn National Freshman of the Year recognition. The others are second baseman

Todd Walker (1992), pitcher Brett Laxton (1993) and second baseman Mike Fontenot (2000).

Shortstop Aaron Hill was named 2003 SEC Player of the Year, and he earned first-team all-America recognition from *Baseball America*. Hill, a native of Visalia, Calif., was also named a second team All-American by Collegiate Baseball newspaper, the American Baseball Coaches Association and *USA Today Sports Weekly*.

Hill, who signed a contract with the Toronto Blue Jays as the club's first round selection (13th overall) in the '03 Major League Baseball draft, batted .358 on the year with nine home runs, 68 runs scored, 67 RBI and 27 doubles, the second-highest single-season total in LSU history.

Hill was also voted to the SEC all-Tournament team and to the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional all-Tournament squad.

Hill batted .335 for his three-year career with 23 home runs, 150 RBI, 141 runs scored and 208 hits. His 50 doubles ranked him seventh on the LSU career list.

Outfielder Jon Zeringue earned 2004 first-team all-America honors, and he was named the '04 SEC Co-Player of the Year (with Ole Miss 1B Stephen Head). Zeringue, a Thibodaux, La., native, was voted to USA Today/Sports Weekly's first-team all-America squad, as he hit .384 (98-for-255) with 19 doubles, 12 homers, 57 RBI and 56 runs. Zeringue hit a remarkable .432 in SEC regular-season games.

A second-round draft choice of the Arizona Diamondbacks, Zeringue was also named a second-team all-America by *Collegiate Baseball*. He was voted to the 2004 NCAA Regional all-Tournament team, and he was named Player of the Year in Louisiana by the state's sportswriters association.

#### **Major Leagues**

Fifty-one former LSU players have played major league baseball, including 37 big-leaguers (19 pitchers, 18 position players) since 1985. During his 18 years at LSU, Skip Bertman produced 111 players who signed professional contracts.

Thirteen Bertman-coached LSU products appeared on major league rosters in 2005, including Russ Springer (Astros), Todd Walker (Cubs), Russ Johnson (Yankees), Keith Osik (Nationals), Paul Byrd (Angels), Aaron Hill (Blue Jays), Mike Fontenot (Cubs), Ryan Jorgensen (Marlins), Ryan Theriot (Cubs), Randy Keisler (Reds), Brian Tallet (Indians), Todd Linden (Giants) and Brad

# **NINE**

LSU has nine 50-win seasons since 1986, including six in the 1990s. No other Southeastern Conference team has more than four 50-win seasons in its history. LSU won an SEC-record 57 games in 1997.

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LSU's Kurt Ainsworth pitched the United States to wins over Holland and Australia en route to the 2000 gold medal in Sydney.

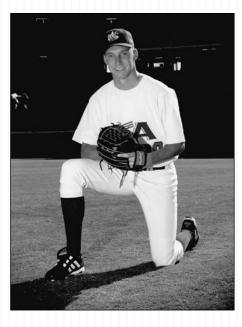
# USA

LSU has established an outstanding international reputation with represen-Olympic squads:

Skip Bertman - 1988, 1996

Warren Morris - 1996 Jason Williams - 1996

Kurt Ainsworth - 2000



Hawpe (Rockies).

Current LSU head coach Smoke Laval worked with 24 future major leaguers during his tenure as Bertman's top assistant tatives on U.S. (1984-93). Eighteen LSU players have been drafted during Laval's four-season head coaching tenure (2002-05), including 2003 first-round selection Aaron Hill by the Toronto Blue Jays.

A total of 114 LSU players -- exactly 57 pitchers and 57 posi-Ben McDonald - 1988 tion players -- have been selected in the Major League draft since Rick Greene - 1992 1984, an average of five players per season. LSU has produced nine first-round draft picks in the past 22 seasons.

#### International Baseball

LSU has established an outstanding international reputation with representatives on U.S. Olympic squads in 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000. Skip Bertman served as the head coach of the United States Olympic team in 1996, directing the Americans to the bronze medal in Atlanta. As the USA Baseball head coach for two summers (1995 and '96), Bertman guided the U.S. to an incredible 71-11 record (.866 winning percentage), culminating his tenure with a victory over Nicaragua for the 1996 Olympic bronze medal.

In 1995, Bertman led the United States to an unprecedented four-game sweep of Cuba, the reigning World and Olympic champion, and the squad ended its summer tour on a 21-game win streak, the longest in the history of USA Baseball. The '96 U.S. team added to the streak by winning its first 18 games before dropping a 5-1 decision to Cuba on June 29.

In the fall of '96, USA Baseball presented Bertman with its annual Achievement Award, which is given to an individual who has participated in amateur baseball and has gone on to excel in his professional endeavors.

LSU second baseman Warren Morris and shortstop Jason Williams were two of the '96 Olympic team's brightest stars as the starting middle infielders. Morris was the Americans' leading hitter in the Olympics, batting .409 in nine games with five homers, one double, 11 RBI and 10 runs. Williams batted .367 in the Olympics with three homers, nine RBI and 10 runs.

Bertman served as the pitching coach of the 1988 U.S. Olympic team which captured a gold medal in Seoul. The '88 squad featured LSU pitcher Ben McDonald, who posted two Olympic victories. LSU pitcher Rick Greene was a member of the '92 Olympic team which competed in Barcelona, but fell short of earning a medal. LSU pitcher Kurt Ainsworth helped lead the U.S.

to the gold medal at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. Ainsworth pitched the Americans to wins over Holland and Australia en route to the Olympic title.

#### **Attendance/Facilities**

LSU led the nation in attendance for the 10th straight season in 2005, as the Tigers drew 270,300 fans to Alex Box Stadium, which played host to an NCAA Regional for the 16th consecutive season.

LSU set an NCAA average attendance record in 2004 with 7,898 tickets sold per contest, and LSU established the NCAA total attendance mark in 2003, attracting 291,676 fans to Alex Box Stadium.

Over three million fans have seen LSU baseball over the past 22 seasons. A total of 3,704,932 patrons have experienced "Baseball at the Box" during that period.

LSU also helped to establish an NCAA single-game attendance mark, as the Tigers and Tulane played before an actual crowd of 25,101 (27,673 paid) on April 10, 2002, in the Louisiana Superdome. LSU won that contest, 9-5. The LSU-Tulane mark was surpassed in 2004, when San Diego State and Houston played before over 40,000 fans to christen Petco Park in San Diego.

LSU's single-game attendance mark at home was established in 2004 when 8,683 tickets were sold for a March 6 game versus the University of Houston.

Innovative promotional schemes, record-breaking crowds and increasing revenues characterize LSU's baseball program. In 1983, the year before Skip Bertman's arrival as head coach, LSU drew only 10,002 fans for 22 dates at Alex Box Stadium, an average of 454 per game.

First-class is an appropriate description for LSU's playing and practice facilities, which are among the nation's finest. A recent improvement at Alex Box Stadium was the installation in 1999 of bleachers in left-center field, increasing capacity by about 800 seats. The stadium scoreboard was moved in the fall of 1998 from left-center field to right-center to make room for the new bleachers. Another major renovation project was completed at Alex Box Stadium in 1997, as four of the facility's light towers were moved behind the seating areas, providing all fans with an unobstructed view of the playing field.

In 1995, a squad meeting room was constructed which is also utilized for press conferences and receptions. The 1995 campaign also marked the debut of the "Home Run Village," a seating/picnic area behind the outfield fence. In 1994, the players' locker room and lounge were renovated and expanded, additional chair-back gold seats were installed, and the press box was refurbished. In 1993. Alex Box Stadium featured a new, advanced outfield drainage system. In 1992, the facility included a new umpires' locker room behind the visiting team dugout, terracelevel seating just above third base and bleachers behind the leftfield wall.

Other improvements completed in recent years include the installation of a new grandstand roof; the insertion of chair-back seats in the grandstand and adjacent to the first-base dugout; and the addition of playground/picnic areas behind the outfield-line

Alex Box Stadium also features a modern scoreboard and message center, an underground field sprinkler system, modernized restroom and concessions facilities and a beautifully landscaped entranceway. Other significant projects include the installation of luminous field lighting and a state-of-the art public address system, and construction of a coaches' office building.

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#### **Academic Excellence**

The coaching staff's influence on LSU Baseball goes beyond the Tigers' achievements on the playing field. The primary ingredient in the Tigers' winning formula is a commitment to the education and emotional development of the players. The scholastic progress of the players is closely monitored by both the coaching staff and by the counselors in LSU's Academic Center for Athletes. Monthly reports are sent to the players' parents detailing the athletes' educational and social advancement. Study sessions and exams always take precedence when conflicting with a baseball practice schedule.

LSU's steadfast emphasis on academics has produced exceptional results. Nearly 100 percent of the players who competed for at least four years at LSU have received their degrees. In addition, student-athletes who leave the university early to play professional baseball often return at a later time to earn their degrees. For example, pitcher Clay Parker, who completed his athletic eligibility in 1984, received his LSU degree in 1995 after enjoying a lengthy major league career. Chicago Cubs second baseman Todd Walker, who signed a pro contract in 1994, received a business degree from LSU in the fall of 1998.

LSU placed a school-record 12 players on the 2005 SEC Academic Honor Roll. Players named to the honor roll included: Brad Bass, C; Steven Broschofsky, OF; Chase Dardar, RHP; Will Davis, C; Jason Determann, LHP; Jordan Faircloth, RHP; Bryan Harris, INF; Chris McDougall, LHP; Lane Mestepey, LHP; Brandon Nall, RHP; Bruce Sprowl, OF; Nick Stavinoha, DH.

Left-handed pitcher Jason Determann was named the 2005 SEC Baseball Scholar-Athlete of the Year with a 3.781 GPA in biology. He was also voted to the *ESPN The Magazine* second-team Academic All-America squad. Determann received his undergraduate degree in May, and he was accepted to the LSU Medical School in New Orleans.

Right-handed pitcher Jordan Faircloth received the 2005 SEC Community Service Post-Graduate Scholarship, and he was named to the SEC Good Works Team. Faircloth, who received his LSU degree in political science with a 3.383 GPA, was a volunteer speaker to children at local schools, served food at homeless shelters and was active in Habitat for Humanity, building homes for needy families. He was a member of the 2005 SEC Academic Honor Roll and a five-time member of the LSU Dean's List.

Former LSU first baseman Eddy Furniss was named a 1997 first-team Academic all-American by GTE-CoSIDA, and he received second-team Academic all-America recognition in 1996 and 1998. LSU's other Academic all-America selections include pitcher Chris Demouy (third-team, 1996), second baseman Warren Morris (first-team, 1995) and catcher Tim Lanier (third-team, 1994). Third baseman Wally Pontiff was a member of the 2002 GTE/CoSIDA District VI Academic all-America team.

#### **Recent Graduates**

Fifty-five former baseball players have earned LSU degrees over the past six years.

In December, 1999, five Tigers became LSU graduates -- pitchers Doug Thompson and Kevin Shipp, outfielders Danny Higgins and Wes Davis, and infielder Mike Neal. Twelve more former Tigers earned degrees in the 2000 calendar year -- pitchers Matt Colvin, Trey Hodges, Jeremy Loftice and Ben Saxon, outfielders Tom Bernhardt, Mike Koerner, Jeremy



2002 LSU graduate Blair Barbier

Witten, Christian Bourgeois and Antoine Simon, and infielders Mike Daly, Josh Dalton and Eddy Furniss. Infielder Trey McClure, a three-time team captain (1997-99), received his LSU degree in May, 2001.

Former Tigers earning degrees from May-December, 2002 were: infielders Blair Barbier and Jeff Leaumont; outfielders David Raymer, Bryon Bennett, Johnnie Thibodeaux, Tommy Morel and Christian Bourgeois (master's degree); catchers Jamin Garidel, Courtney Hernandez and Kevin Ward (MBA); and pitchers Billy Brian, Justin Hill, Weylin Guidry, Tim Nugent, Patrick Coogan, Barry Manuel, David Miller, Chucky Son and Bhrett McCabe (Ph.D in psychology).

Graduates from May-December, 2003 included pitchers Rick Greene, Bo Pettit, Chad Vaught and Jake Tompkins; outfielders Billy McBride and Matt Heath; and catcher Shawn French

LSU's 2004 graduates included pitchers Kurt Ainsworth, Brad David and Brandon Nall; catchers Ty Jensen and Chris Phillips; and first baseman Eric Wiethorn. The Tigers earning degrees in 2005 included pitchers Lane Mestepey, Jordan Faircloth, Jason Determann and Ryan Richard, outfielder Nick Stavinoha and catchers Dustin Weaver and Brad Bass.

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LSU placed a school record twelve players on the 2005 SEC Academic Honor Roll.

Players named to the honor roll included:

Brad Bass, C
Steven Broschofsky, OF
Jason Determann, LHP
Chase Dardar, RHP
Will Davis, C
Jordan Faircloth, RHP
Bryan Harris, INF
Chris McDougall, LHP
Lane Mestepey, LHP
Brandon Nall, RHP
Bruce Sprowl, OF
Nick Stavinoha, OF



Warren Morris, a 1995 Academic All-American, is one of 37 former LSU players appearing on major league rosters since 1985.