

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 Cal have won four in one decade.

12 Southeastern Conference Championships

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

271,179 The Nation's Best Attendance

LSU drew 271,179 fans to Alex Box Stadium in 2002 to lead the USA in attendance for the seventh straight season.

11 CWS Appearances in the Past 17 Years

LSU is one of only three schools in the country with 11 CWS berths since 1986.

18 NCAA Tournament Berths

The Tigers have made 14 straight NCAA Tournament appearances from 1989-2002.

13 NCAA Regional Host Site for 13 Straight Seasons

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

23-5 Record on Championship Day in NCAA Tournament Competition

LSU is 18-5 in the final rounds of NCAA regionals/super regionals, and the Tigers are 5-0 in CWS championship games.

.734 Highest All-Time NCAA Tournament Winning Percentage

LSU has a 94-34 record and a .734 winning percentage in regional/super regional and CWS games combined.

.690 Third-Highest All-Time College World Series Winning Percentage

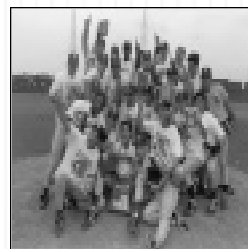
LSU is 29-13 (.690) at the CWS. The Tigers have won 14 of their last 16 CWS games.

29 Most All-Time CWS Victories (29) and Appearances (11) Among SEC Teams

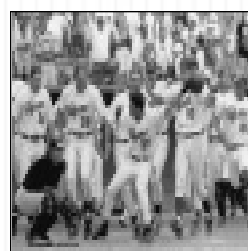
The second-highest totals among SEC schools are 13 CWS victories and seven CWS appearances.

Nine 50-Win Seasons

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



1991



1993



1996



1997



2000

The LSU Baseball Legacy

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

13 First-Team All-Americans in the Past 15 Seasons

Catcher Brad Cresse earned 2000 first-team all-America honors and was named the first recipient of the Johnny Bench Award.

44 Major League Players

LSU has produced 30 big-leaguers since 1985, including MLB All-Stars Albert Belle and Paul Byrd.

LSU has made 11 College World Series appearances in the past 17 years, winning NCAA titles in 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 2000.



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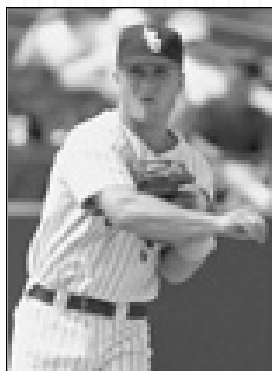
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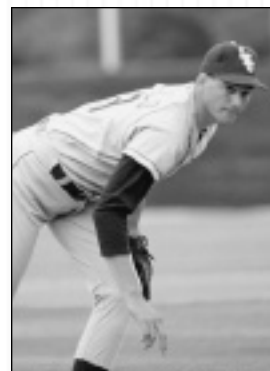
Todd Walker
1993 & 1994 First Team All-American



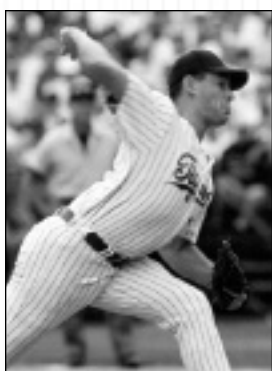
Russ Johnson
1994 SEC Player of the Year



Albert Belle
Major League All-Star



Ben McDonald
1989 National 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



Lane Mestepey
2001 National Freshman of the Year

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Printing
 EBSCOMedia - Birmingham, Ala.



The 2003 LSU Baseball Official Yearbook was produced by the LSU Sports Information Office on Power Macintosh G4 using QuarkXpress 5.0 and Adobe Photoshop 7.0.

The LSU Baseball Yearbook has been rated among the top six college baseball publications in the nation in eight of the past 10 years. The yearbook was named "Best in the Nation" in 1993 and in 1994 by the College Sports Information Directors of America 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 and fifth in 2001.

2003 Schedule

2003 LSU Baseball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
FEBRUARY			
7 (Fri.)	NorthwesternState	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
8 (Sat.)	Northwestern State	Baton Rouge	2 pm
9 (Sun.)	Northwestern State	Baton Rouge	1 pm
11 (Tue.)	at Centenary (Fair Grounds Field)	Shreveport,La.	7 pm
14 (Fri.)	Kansas	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
15 (Sat.)	Kansas	Baton Rouge	2 pm
16 (Sun.)	Kansas	Baton Rouge	1 pm
18 (Tue.)	Louisiana-Monroe	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
21 (Fri.)	Houston	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
22 (Sat.)	Houston	Baton Rouge	2 pm
23 (Sun.)	Houston	Baton Rouge	1 pm
28 (Fri.)	at Long Beach State	Long Beach,Calif.	8:30 pm
MARCH			
1 (Sat.)	at Long Beach State	Long Beach,Calif.	3 pm
2 (Sun.)	at Long Beach State	Long Beach,Calif.	3 pm
5 (Wed.)	Southeastern Louisiana	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
7 (Fri.)	Winthrop	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
8 (Sat.)	Winthrop	Baton Rouge	2 pm
9 (Sun.)	Winthrop	Baton Rouge	1 pm
11 (Tue.)	at Tulane (Zephyr Field)	Metairie,La.	7 pm
14 (Fri.)	Florida *	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
15 (Sat.)	Florida *	Baton Rouge	2 pm
16 (Sun.)	Florida *	Baton Rouge	12:30 pm
18 (Tue.)	at Southern	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
21 (Fri.)	at Georgia *	Athens,Ga.	6 pm
22 (Sat.)	at Georgia *	Athens,Ga.	1 pm
23 (Sun.)	at Georgia *	Athens,Ga.	Noon
25 (Tue.)	at New Orleans (Zephyr Field)	Metairie,La.	6:30 pm
28 (Fri.)	at Alabama *	Tuscaloosa,Ala.	6:30 pm
29 (Sat.)	at Alabama *	Tuscaloosa,Ala.	4 pm
30 (Sun.)	at Alabama *	Tuscaloosa,Ala.	2 pm
APRIL			
2 (Wed.)	Nicholls State	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
4 (Fri.)	South Carolina *	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
5 (Sat.)	South Carolina *	Baton Rouge	3 pm
6 (Sun.)	South Carolina *	Baton Rouge	1 pm
9 (Wed.)	at Northwestern State	Natchitoches,La.	6:30 pm
11 (Fri.)	Ole Miss *	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
12 (Sat.)	Ole Miss *	Baton Rouge	2 pm
13 (Sun.)	Ole Miss *	Baton Rouge	1 pm
15 (Tue.)	Tulane	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
18 (Fri.)	at Vanderbilt *	Nashville, Tenn.	7 pm
19 (Sat.)	at Vanderbilt *	Nashville, Tenn.	4 pm
20 (Sun.)	at Vanderbilt *	Nashville, Tenn.	1 pm
25 (Fri.)	Tennessee *	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
26 (Sat.)	Tennessee *	Baton Rouge	2 pm
27 (Sun.)	Tennessee *	Baton Rouge	12:30 pm
29 (Tue.)	Tulane (Superdome)	New Orleans,La.	7 pm
30 (Wed.)	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
MAY			
2 (Fri.)	at Mississippi State *	Starkville,Miss.	6:30 pm
3 (Sat.)	at Mississippi State *	Starkville,Miss.	3 pm
4 (Sun.)	at Mississippi State *	Starkville,Miss.	1:30 pm
9 (Fri.)	Auburn *	Baton Rouge	6:30 pm
10 (Sat.)	Auburn *	Baton Rouge	2 pm
11 (Sun.)	Auburn *	Baton Rouge	1 pm
16 (Fri.)	at Arkansas *	Fayetteville,Ark.	6:30 pm
17 (Sat.)	at Arkansas *	Fayetteville,Ark.	6:30 pm
18 (Sun.)	at Arkansas *	Fayetteville,Ark.	1 pm
May 21-25	SEC Tournament	Hoover, Ala.	
May 30-June 1	NCAA Regional Tournament	Site TBA	
June 6-8	NCAA Super Regional Series	Site TBA	
June 13-23	College World Series	Omaha,Neb.	

* - denotes SECgame
All times are Central and subject to change



ROAD HEADQUARTERS

Long Beach State
February 27-March 2
Long Beach Marriott
4700 Airport Plaza Drive
Long Beach, CA 90815
(562) 465-5210

Georgia
March 20-23
Holiday Inn Athens
197 East Broad Street
Athens, GA 30603
(706) 549-4433

Alabama
March 27-30
Hampton Inn University
600 Harper Lee Drive
Tuscaloosa,AL 35404
(205) 553-9800

Vanderbilt
April 17-20
Holiday Inn Vanderbilt
2613 West End Avenue
Nashville,TN 37203
(615) 327-4707

Mississippi State
May 1-4
Comfort Inn
801 Russell Street
Starkville, MS 39759
(662) 324-9595

Arkansas
May 15-18
Holiday Inn Express
1251 North Shiloh Road
Fayetteville,AR 72701
(501) 444-6006

SEC Tournament
May 20-25
Headquarters TBA
Hoover, AL

2003 LSU Baseball Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown (Previous School)
1	J.C. Holt	OF	L-R	5-9	170	So.	1L	Sieper, La. (Oak Hill HS)
2	Matt Horwath	INF	R-R	5-10	170	Fr.	HS	Lake Mary, Fla. (Lake Mary HS)
3	Blake Gill	INF	L-R	5-10	200	So.	1L	Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee HS)
4	Billy Sadler	P	R-R	6-0	190	Jr.	JC	Pensacola, Fla. (Pensacola JC)
5	Aaron Hill	INF	R-R	6-0	200	Jr.	2L	Visalia, Calif. (Redwood HS)
6	Collin Smith	P	R-R	6-0	195	Jr.	JC	Baker, La. (Pearl River CC)
7	Ivan Naccarata	INF	L-R	5-11	185	Jr.	JC	Longueuil, Quebec (Chipola JC)
8	Brandon Nall	P	R-R	6-3	185	Jr.	JC	Dothan, Ala. (Wallace State CC)
9	Dustin Weaver	C	R-R	6-0	195	So.	RS	St. Amant, La. (SE Louisiana Univ.)
10	Ty Jensen	C	R-R	6-0	180	Jr.	JC	San Mateo, Calif. (College of San Mateo)
11	Michael Murray	INF	R-R	5-10	170	Fr.	HS	Baton Rouge, La. (Catholic HS)
12	Jake Tompkins	P	R-R	6-0	195	Sr.	1L	Auburn, Calif. (Sacramento City College)
13	Clay Dirks	P	L-L	6-4	225	Fr.	HS	Hernando, Miss. (Hernando HS)
14	Matt Liuzza	C	R-R	6-0	190	Fr.	HS	Metairie, La. (Rummel HS)
16	Jon Zeringue	OF/C	R-R	6-2	210	So.	1L	Thibodaux, La. (E.D. White HS)
21	Clay Harris	INF/P	R-R	6-4	225	So.	1L	Slidell, La. (Slidell HS)
23	Chad Vaught	P	R-R	6-4	220	Sr.	2L	Ferriday, La. (Huntington HS)
24	Bruce Sprowl	OF	L-R	5-9	165	So.	JC	Knoxville, Tenn. (Shelton State CC)
25	Will Harris	P/1B	R-R	6-4	230	Fr.	HS	Slidell, La. (Slidell HS)
27	Greg Smith	P/1B	L-L	6-2	180	Fr.	HS	Alexandria, La. (Alexandria HS)
28	Ryan Patterson	OF	R-R	5-11	195	So.	JC	Rowlett, Texas (Texarkana College)
29	Jordan Faircloth	P	R-R	6-3	210	So.	Sq.	Alexandria, La. (Alexandria HS)
30	Bobby DiLiberto	INF	R-R	5-10	190	Jr.	JC	Chicago, Ill. (Mesa CC)
32	Rhett Buteau	OF	L-R	5-9	165	So.	1L	Jeanerette, La. (Catholic-New Iberia HS)
33	Jason Determann	P	R-L	5-11	160	Fr.	RS	Baton Rouge, La. (Catholic HS)
34	Bo Pettit	P	R-R	6-1	215	Sr.	3L	Houston, Texas (Sharpstown HS)
35	Justin Meier	P	R-R	6-0	205	Fr.	HS	Windermere, Fla. (West Orange HS)
36	Justin Gee	P	R-R	6-3	200	Fr.	HS	Sarasota, Fla. (Sarasota HS)
38	Brian Wilson	P	R-R	6-1	205	Jr.	2L	Londonderry, N.H. (Londonderry HS)
40	Quinn Stewart	OF	R-R	6-2	190	So.	JC	Rowlett, Texas (Odessa JC)
41	Nate Bumstead	P	R-R	6-2	215	Jr.	JC	Las Vegas, Nev. (Southern Idaho)
46	Lane Mestepey	P	L-L	6-0	190	Jr.	2L	Zachary, La. (Central Private HS)
47	Eric Wiethorn	1B	R-R	6-2	200	Sr.	2L	Newport Beach, Calif. (Orange Coast JC)
50	Shawn French	C	R-R	6-0	195	Sr.	Sq.	San Mateo, Calif. (College of San Mateo)
60	Chris McDougall	P	L-L	6-4	225	Fr.	RS	Arabi, La. (Jesuit HS)

Coaching Staff

22	Smoke Laval	Head Coach (Jacksonville, 1977)
17	Turtle Thomas	Assistant Coach (High Point College, 1975)
26	Brady Wiederhold	Assistant Coach (Kennesaw State, 1994)
20	Jody Autery	Assistant Coach (LSU, 2001)
	Ted White	Administrative Assistant (Louisiana-Monroe, 2002)

Pronunciation Guide

Rhett Buteau:	Byoo-toe
Jason Determann:	Dett-er-man
Matt Horwath:	Hor-wahth
Smoke Laval:	Luh-val
Matt Liuzza:	Lye-oo-zah
Lane Mestepey:	Mess-tuh-pay
Ivan Naccarata:	Knock-er-ah-tuh
Brady Wiederhold:	Wee-der-hold
Eric Wiethorn:	Wheat-horn
Jon Zeringue:	Zuh-rang



Facts About LSU

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THIS IS LSU

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LSU

University Facts

Location:	Baton Rouge, La. (State Capital)
Founded:	1860
Enrollment:	31,582
Nickname:	Fighting Tigers
Colors:	Purple (PMS 267) and Gold (PMS 123)
Mascot:	Mike V (Live Bengal Tiger)
Stadium:	Alex Box Stadium
Year Opened:	1938
Capacity:	7,760
Dimensions:	LF—330; LC—365; CF—405; RC—365; RF—330
Playing Surface:	Natural Grass
Conference:	Southeastern (Western Division)
LSU System President:	Dr. William L. Jenkins Pretoria, 1958
Chancellor:	Dr. Mark A. Emmert Washington, 1975
Chairman, Athletic Council:	Ken Carpenter Oklahoma, 1962

Athletics Facts

Athletics Department	225.578.8001
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/Internal Operations:	Verge Ausberry LSU, 1990
Associate AD/Student Services:	Bo Bahnsen LSU, 1982
Associate AD/Facilities:	Jerry Blanchard LSU, 1973
Associate AD/Business:	Mark Ewing LSU, 1978
Associate AD/External Affairs:	Herb Vincent LSU, 1983

Sports Information

Phone/Fax	225.578.8226 225.578.1861 (Fax)
Web Site/E-Mail	www.LSUbaseball.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 Coordinator:	Jason Feirman LSU, 2000
Graphic Artist:	Marie Brewer LSU, 2002
Photographer:	Steve Franz LSU, 1993
Administrative Secretary:	Pat Fredericks

Electronic Media

Phone/TV/Radio	225.578.1795 (TV) 225.578.1882 (Radio)
Asst. AD/Television:	Kevin Wagner LSU, 1980
Asst. Coordinator/Television:	John Schiebe Oklahoma State, 1986
Asst. AD/Radio:	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:	225.578.4148 225.578.4066 (FAX)
Press Box:	225.578.4149
E-Mail:	vrobort@lsu.edu
Head Coach:	Raymond "Smoke" Laval
Alma Mater:	Jacksonville, 1977
Year at LSU:	second as head coach, 14th overall
Record at LSU:	44-22 (.667, one season)
Career Record:	285-181 (.612, eight seasons)

LSU All-Time W-L Record: 1862-1266 (.595 - since 1893)

NCAA Championships:	. . . . . 5 (1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000)
College World Series Appearances:	. . . . . 11 (1986, '87, '89, '90, '91, '93, '94, '96, '97, '98, '00)
College World Series Record:	. . . . . 29-13 (.690)
NCAA Tournament Record:	. . . . . 94-34 (.734)
NCAA Regional Titles:	. . . . . 14 (1986, '87, '89, '90, '91, '93, '94, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02)
NCAA Regional Appearances:	. . . . . 18 (1975, '85, '86, '87, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02)
NCAA Regional Record:	. . . . . 62-15 (.805)
NCAASuper Regional Titles:	. . . . . 1 (2000)
NCAA Super Regional Appearances:	. . . . . 4 (1999, '00, '01, '02)
NCAASuper Regional Record:	. . . . . 3-6
SEC Championships:	. . . . . 12 (1939, '43, '46, '61, '75, '86, '90, '91, '92, '93, '96, '97)
SEC Western Division Championships:	. . . . . 11 (1961, '75, '85, '92, '93, '94, '96, '97, '98, '00, '01)
SEC Record:	. . . . . 698-587 (.543)
SEC Tournament Championships:	. . . . . 6 (1986, '90, '92, '93, '94, '00)
SEC Tournament Record:	. . . . . 46-27 (.630)
2002 Record/SEC Record (finish)	. . . . . 44-22/19-10 (2nd in West, 4th overall)
2002 Post-Season Finish:	. . . . . 0-2 in NCAA Rice Super Regional
Final Ranking:	. . . . . #11 (consensus)
Lettermen Returning/Lost:	. . . . . 12/18
Position Starters Returning/Lost:	. . . . . 5/7
Pitchers Returning/Lost:	. . . . . 9/7

Coaching Staff

POSITION	NAME	ALMA MATER	YEAR AT LSU
Head Coach	Smoke Laval	Jacksonville, 1977	2nd as head coach, 14th overall
Asst. Coach	Turtle Thomas	High Point College, 1975	4th
Asst. Coach	Brady Wiederhold	Kennesaw State, 1994	2nd
Volunteer Coach	Jody Autery	LSU, 2001	4th
Administrative Asst.	Ted White	Louisiana-Monroe, 2002	1st

Support Staff

Academic Counselor	. . . . . Mary Boudreaux
Trainer	. . . . . Shawn Eddy
Student Trainer	. . . . . Aaron Bachert
Strength Coach	. . . . . William Jones
Secretary	. . . . . Virginia Robertson
Equipment Managers	. . . . . George Branigan, B.J. Branigan, Ryan Babin



The 2003 version of "The Intimidator" billboard - located behind the right-field wall of Alex Box Stadium - includes recognition of the late Wally Pontiff, a two-time all-SEC third baseman.

The 2003 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 Athletic 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 mail on company stationery and directed to Associate SID Bill Franques.
- Requests will be screened to insure a working press box. Children, spouses, dates and pets are not permitted.
- 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 30 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-day notes.
- A meal ticket, redeemable for refreshments from the concessions stand, will be issued to each media member during the game.

Parking

Media parking is located in the lot across the street from Alex Box 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 two 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.

LSU Sports Information Website

LSUsports.net

<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 and password that will enable you to retrieve pictures. This service is for the media use only. Resale of these pictures is strictly prohibited.

INTERVIEW POLICIES

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.

Requests for live player interviews on the field prior to a game should be made through Bill Franques in the Sports Information Office.

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.

Media List

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HISTORY

RECORDS

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The Program

Raymond "Smoke" Laval begins his second season in 2003 as the head coach of the LSU Fighting Tigers. Laval is a former University of Louisiana-Monroe head coach (1994-2000) who 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. In his first season as the LSU head coach, Laval directed the 2002 squad to the school's fourth straight NCAA Super Regional appearance. The Tigers completed the '02 campaign with a 44-22 record and a consensus No. 11 national ranking.

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

FIVE

NCAA Championships won by the LSU Tigers

LSU is one of only four schools to win five national titles in the 56-year history of the CWS. The other schools are Southern California, Arizona State and Texas.

LSU's success, however, has been more immediate, as the Tigers have claimed five CWS titles in the past 12 years.

By comparison, Southern Cal has just one national title in the past 24 years; Arizona State has gone 21 years without a CWS crown; and Texas has won two CWS titles in 20 seasons.

1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000



*I*n the first season of the Smoke 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.

Skip Bertman is LSU's all-time winningest coach, as he compiled an 870-330-3 (.724) record in 18 seasons. 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 final national polls in 12 of his final 16 seasons.

Bertman is one of only two coaches to have won five College World Series titles in the 56-year history of the event (Southern Cal's Dedeaux won 10 CWS crowns in the 1950s, '60s and '70s). Bertman has the

fourth-highest total of CWS victories (29) and the fourth-highest CWS winning percentage (29-13, .690).

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.

Significantly, LSU was 146-149 overall (.495) in the six seasons

prior to Bertman's arrival -- after eight years as an assistant coach at Miami (Fla.) -- in 1984.

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 became only the third school in NCAA baseball history to win five national championships, joining Southern California and Arizona State.

LSU's road to the 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.



Smoke Laval (right) took over as LSU's head coach in 2002, as Skip Bertman (left) has assumed the job of athletics director.

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.

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).

In its Jan. 19, 1997, issue, *Baseball America* magazine named LSU the "Team of the '90s." *Baseball America* listed the top 100 college baseball programs based upon a formula which encompasses the following categories: winning percentage, NCAA regional appearances, College World Series appearances, national championships, all-Americans, players who have been drafted, major league players and total attendance. LSU, which won four national championships (1991, '93, '96, '97) in the '90s, was No. 1 in the survey with 308 total points, easily outdistancing second-place Florida State with 257 points. Arizona State was third (247), followed by Texas (244), Cal State-Fullerton (240), Miami (236), Wichita State (227), Clemson (211), Stanford (209) and Oklahoma State (208).

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 histo-



Warren Morris' ninth-inning homer lifted LSU to the 1996 national championship.

ry, establishing league records for home runs (131), runs scored (648), RBI (549) and total bases (1,331).

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 with a record-setting performance at the CWS in Omaha, Neb. 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.

In the 1990s, the Tigers posted a .737 winning percentage (503-179-2, an average of over 50 victories per year).

LSU is one of only four schools to win five national titles in the 56-year history of the CWS. The others are Southern California (12 titles), Arizona State (5) and Texas (5). LSU has claimed its five CWS titles in the past 12 years. By comparison, Southern Cal has just one national title in the past 24 seasons; Arizona State has played 21 seasons without a CWS crown; and Texas has won two CWS titles in the past 20 seasons.

LSU was one of just three schools in the country with seven College World Series appearances in the 1990s. Miami (Fla.) and Florida State also earned seven CWS trips in the last decade. All 11 of the Tigers' CWS appearances have come since 1986 -- LSU is one of only 10 schools to have made at least 11 CWS trips since the Series began in 1947. The Tigers have the third-highest all-time CWS winning percentage (minimum 20 games) -- LSU has a 29-13 (.691) CWS mark, trailing Southern California (74-26, .740) and Minnesota (17-7, .708).

LSU has the highest all-time NCAA Tournament winning percentage (.734) with a 94-34 record. Remarkably, LSU has a 23-5 record in championship rounds of NCAA post-season play. The Tigers are 5-0 in CWS finals, 17-

271,159

Number of fans who attended LSU baseball games in Alex Box Stadium during the 2002 season. LSU ranked first in the nation in attendance for the seventh straight year. LSU has placed among the top six schools in attendance each year since 1991.

The 1975 Tigers earned LSU's first NCAA Tournament berth.

SIX

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

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



1 in NCAA Regional final rounds and 1-4 in NCAA Super Regional final rounds.

The Tigers have won more College World Series games (29) than any other Southeastern Conference school. South Carolina is second among league schools with 13 CWS triumphs. LSU is the only SEC squad with 11 CWS trips; Mississippi State is second with seven all-time CWS berths. Since 1986, while LSU has made 11 CWS appearances, no other SEC school has reached Omaha more than four times. Other league schools in the CWS since '86 are Florida (four appearances), Mississippi State (three), Alabama (three), Georgia (three), Arkansas (two), Auburn (two), Tennessee (two) and South Carolina (one).

LSU claimed six Southeastern Conference championships in the 1990s, including an unprecedented four in a row from 1990-93. In 1997, the Tigers claimed their sixth SEC title in eight years, posting a 22-7 conference mark. The conference championship was the 12th in LSU's history and the seventh during Skip Bertman's tenure.

LSU has finished either first or second in the overall conference standings in 11 of the past 14 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 tour-

namment 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.

LSU has reached the 50-win plateau eight times in the past 14 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.

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 ninth inning to give the Cardinal a 6-5 win.

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 1989 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 percent-

age (.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 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 only 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, LSU played host to an NCAA regional tournament for the seventh straight year, and the Tigers swept to four wins over Austin Peay, Nevada-Las Vegas, New Orleans and Georgia Tech to advance to the CWS. LSU also won four straight in Omaha, defeating Wichita State, Florida (twice), and Miami (Fla.). The championship game versus Miami provided the greatest finish in the 50-year 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.

In 1997, the Tigers 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 double-header 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



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 was 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.

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.

The Tigers were 89-29 (.754) in NCAA post-season play during coach Skip Bertman's 18-year tenure and have won 66 of their last 84 tournament games, including 22 of their last 27 CWS contests. LSU has also won 64 of its last 81 games in NCAA Regional or Super Regional play. LSU has advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 14 consecutive seasons and in 17 of the past 18 years. Of LSU's 17 NCAA Tournament appearances since 1985, the Tigers have failed to reach the College World Series only six times (1985, 1992, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2002).

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

.734

LSU has the nation's highest all-time NCAA Tournament winning percentage (94-34, .734) and the third-highest all-time College World Series winning percentage (29-13, .690).

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 returned to Omaha in 1987 after taking four straight games at the South II Regional in New Orleans, La. 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. LSU earned its fourth berth to the CWS in 1990 as the Tigers took five of six games at the South I Regional in Baton Rouge.

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 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 CWS.

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

LSU has made 11 CWS appearances in Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium.



Owls blanked the Tigers twice (6-0 and 3-0) to capture the CWS bid.

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.

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



Ray Wright's brilliant catch prevented a Stanford home run in the 2000 College World Series.

23-5

LSU has a 23-5

record on

championship

day in NCAA

post-season play

(regional, super

regional and

CWS combined),

including a 5-0

mark in CWS

final games.

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 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),



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.

30

LSU has produced 30 major leaguers over the past 18 years, including former Baltimore Orioles all-star outfielder Albert Belle. Among the Tigers' current big leaguers are Paul Byrd of the Atlanta Braves, Todd Walker of the Boston Red Sox, Armando Rios of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Warren Morris of the Detroit Tigers, Mark Guthrie of the New York Mets and Kurt Answorth of the San Francisco Giants.

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 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 Co-Freshman 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



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

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 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 all-time 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 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).

Forty-four former LSU players have played major league baseball, including 30 big-leaguers since 1985. During his 18 years at LSU, Skip Bertman produced 111 players who signed professional contracts.Thirteen Bertman-

coached LSU products played major league baseball in 2002,including Mark Guthrie (Mets),Russ Johnson (Devil Rays),Andy Sheets (Devil Rays), Todd Walker (Reds), Keith Osik (Pirates), Paul Byrd (Royals), Jeff Reboulet (Dodgers),Armando Rios (Pirates), Warren Morris (Twins),Brandon Larson (Reds), Kurt Ainsworth (Giants), Brian Tallet (Indians) and Trey Hodges (Braves).

LSU has established an outstanding international reputation with representatives on each of the last four U.S. Olympic squads (1988, '92, '96, 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

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.

Alex Box Stadium has played host to an NCAA Regional Tournament for 13 straight years.



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 representatives on each of the last four U.S. Olympic squads:

- Ben McDonald - 1988
- Rick Greene - 1992
- Skip Bertman - 1988, 1996
- Warren Morris - 1996
- Jason Williams - 1996
- Kurt Ainsworth - 2000

LSU has led the nation in attendance in each of the past seven seasons. The Tigers drew an average of 7,532 fans to Alex Box Stadium in 2002.



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.

LSU led the nation in attendance in 2002, as 271,159 fans purchased tickets for games in Alex Box Stadium, which played host to an NCAA Regional tournament for the 13th

consecutive year. LSU placed first in total attendance for the seventh year in a row in a national survey released by *Collegiate Baseball* magazine, as an average of 7,532 fans witnessed Tiger baseball in 2002. The Tigers have finished among the top six nationally in attendance in each of the past 12 seasons. Over two million fans have seen LSU baseball over the past 19 seasons. A total of 2,858,628 patrons have experienced "Baseball at the Box" during that period.

LSU's single-game attendance mark was established in 2000 when 8,622 fans jammed "The Box" for an April 11 game against Louisiana-Lafayette.

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. The latest 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. A 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, terrace-level seating just above third base and bleachers behind the left-field 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 bleachers.

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.

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. 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. Boston Red Sox second baseman Todd Walker, who signed a pro contract in 1994, received a business degree from LSU in the fall of 1998.

Thirty-six former baseball players have earned LSU degrees over the past three 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 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 include: 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).

LSU placed six players on the 2002 SEC Academic Honor Roll. The honorees included pitcher Brad David (3.1 gpa in management), pitcher David Miller (3.1 gpa in civil engineering), pitcher Tim Nugent (3.2 gpa in general business), third baseman Wally Pontiff (3.3 gpa in biology), pitcher Justin Hill (3.5 gpa in general studies) and pitcher Chad Vaught (3.5 gpa in zoology). Pontiff was named to the 2002 GTE/CoSIDA District VI Academic all-America team.

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).

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.

Major leaguer Warren Morris a 1995 Academic All-American, was one of 13 former LSU players appearing on 2002 major league rosters.

SIX

LSU placed six players on the 2002 SEC Academic Honor Roll. The honorees included pitcher Brad David, pitcher David Miller, pitcher Tim Nugent, third baseman Wally Pontiff, pitcher Justin Hill and pitcher Chad Vaught.