

COACHES





SMOKE Laval

#22 | Head Baseball Coach

2003 SEC Coach of the Year

CAREER RECORD

330-203-1 (.619, nine seasons)

AT LSU

89-44-1 (.668, two seasons)

Raymond "Smoke" Laval enhanced his reputation as one of the country's top college baseball coaches as, in just his second season at the helm of the LSU program, he guided the 2003 Tigers to the Southeastern Conference title -- LSU's first since 1997 -- and a berth in the College World Series.

Laval, the 2003 SEC Coach of the Year, directed LSU to a 45-22-1 overall record and a 20-9-1 conference mark, as the Tigers finished No. 5 in the final *Baseball America* rankings.

LSU played host to an NCAA Regional tournament for the 14th straight season and captured its eighth consecutive regional title. The Tigers entertained Baylor in an NCAA Super Regional series, defeating the Bears in two of three games to earn LSU's first CWS berth since 2000.

LSU also set an NCAA total attendance record in 2003, drawing 291,676 patrons to Alex Box Stadium.

The Tigers' shortstop, Aaron Hill, was named 2003 SEC Player of the

Year and a first-team all-American. Hill was the first-round draft selection (13th pick overall) by the Toronto Blue Jays.

The magnificent '03 campaign augmented the success Laval enjoyed in his inaugural season as LSU's coach, as he led the 2002 Tigers to a 44-22 overall mark, an appearance in the NCAA Super Regional and a No. 11 final national ranking. Laval, named the 2002 Louisiana Coach of the Year by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association, continued the phenomenal tradition of excellence created by his predecessor, the legendary Skip Bertman.

Laval, who served seven seasons (1994-2000) as the head coach at the University of Louisiana-Monroe, assumed control of the LSU program from Bertman, who led the Tigers to five NCAA championships and 11 College World Series appearances during an 18-year (1984-2001) tenure. Laval worked as Bertman's top assistant coach for 10 seasons (1984-93), helping lead LSU to its first two NCAA titles in 1991 and 1993. During Laval's 10 years as assistant coach, LSU posted a 483-182-1 record, won five SEC titles, appeared in six College World Series and cap-



tured two national championships.

Laval helped Bertman create what has become the nation's No. 1 college baseball program. Accordingly, Bertman - now LSU's athletics director - rewarded Laval with the opportunity to perpetuate the Tigers' outstanding heritage.

Laval was known at LSU as one



"Smoke certainly deserves this opportunity. He has done everything necessary to earn the position of head coach at LSU. He was with me at the beginning, when nobody believed baseball could be successful at LSU, or in the SEC. The only thing on the locker room walls when we got here was food. That obviously has changed, and Smoke played a large role in making it happen."

-- Former LSU head coach and current athletics director Skip Bertman



Smoke Laval helped lead LSU to national championships in 1991 and 1993.

"I know as well as anyone the magnitude of the expectations to win at LSU. That's why I'm here, and that's why our players are here."

-- LSU head coach Smoke Laval



Smoke and Pam Laval with children Jamie and Brandon, and dogs Ribby and Shortstop

of the nation's best recruiters and brightest assistant coaches, as the Tigers reached the College World Series in only the third season (1986) of the Bertman-Laval regime. LSU followed the '86 CWS appearance with Omaha berths in 1987, 1989 and 1990 before the Tigers claimed the school's first baseball national title in 1991. After LSU captured its second NCAA crown in 1993, Laval departed Baton Rouge to become the head coach at Northeast Louisiana (now Louisiana-Monroe).

During his assistant coaching tenure at LSU, Laval -- who worked as the Tigers' primary recruiter - tutored 24 players who would eventually reach the major leagues. Some of the major leaguers with whom Laval worked include all-stars Albert Belle (Cleveland, Chicago White Sox,

Baltimore) and Paul Byrd (New York Mets, Philadelphia, Kansas City, Atlanta), and first-round draft picks Ben McDonald (Baltimore, Milwaukee), Rick Greene (Cincinnati, Minnesota), Todd Walker (Minnesota, Colorado, Cincinnati, Boston) and Russ Johnson (Houston, Tampa Bay, New York Mets).

Laval has also worked as an evaluator for USA Baseball, as he helped select the members of the 2003 U.S. Pan American Games team.

Laval compiled a 241-159 (.603) mark as the head coach at ULM, guiding the Indians to NCAA Regional appearances in 1995, 1999 and 2000. The 2000 club posted a 41-22 mark en route to the Southland Conference title, tying the ULM record for wins. Laval, the 1999 SLC Coach of the Year, also led the Indians to the 1999 regular-season title and to the 1995 conference tournament crown. He was voted the 1995 Louisiana Coach of the Year by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association.

Laval helped make ULM baseball one of the hottest attractions in the Northeast Louisiana region. The Coaches Committee, a baseball booster organization started by Laval, grew from 62 members in its first year to over 200 members by the end of his tenure.

Laval supervised major improvements to ULM's Indian Field, including the addition of an outdoor batting facility, a picnic area for Coaches Committee members, renovations to the locker room, a players' lounge, a



Smoke Laval (second from left) served as Skip Bertman's (center) top assistant coach from 1984-93.

"Smoke did the best coaching job in the (LSU athletics) building last year, and we have 20 sports. In my best time, I couldn't have done the job he did. He held the team together after a slow start. He made all the right moves . . . the man knows baseball."

**- LSU Athletics Director
Skip Bertman**

"I am extremely pleased that Coach Laval has returned to LSU. This appointment provides continuity and leadership for the best collegiate baseball program in the nation and allows for a smooth transition. Coach Laval's record of success, his approach to the game, and his concern for his student-athletes make him an excellent fit with LSU."

- LSU Chancellor Mark Emmert

new sound system and a new scoreboard.

Laval began his coaching career in 1977 as an assistant at Jacksonville University before moving to Wolfson High School in Jacksonville as a baseball and football coach. He served as a graduate assistant at LSU in 1979 under former Tiger head coach Jack Lamabe before working two years as an assistant at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Fla.

Laval served as an assistant coach at Florida for two seasons (1982-83) before returning to LSU to work under Bertman.

Laval holds a bachelor's degree (1977) from Jacksonville in physical education and a master's degree (1979) from LSU in administration. The McDonald, Pa., native played two seasons at Gulf Coast Community College, where he lettered as a catcher. He completed his playing career at Jacksonville, where he led the ninth-ranked Dolphins in hitting at the 1976 NCAA South Regional.

Laval and his wife, Pam, are the parents of two children, Brandon and Jamie.



PERSONAL DATA

Full Name:Raymond Peter Laval
Birthdate:December 20, 1955, in McDonald, Pa.
Wife:Former Pam Lewis of Reserve, La.
Children:Jamie and Brandon

EDUCATION

1973High School DiplomaSouth Fayette HS (McDonald, Pa.)
1977Bachelor's in Physical EducationJacksonville University
1979Master's in AdministrationLSU

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1970-73CatcherSouth Fayette High School
1974-75CatcherGulf Coast Community College
1976-77CatcherJacksonville University

COACHING EXPERIENCE

1977Assistant CoachJacksonville University
1978Assistant CoachWolfson High School (Jacksonville, Fla.)
1979Graduate Assistant CoachLSU
1980-81Assistant CoachGulf Coast Community College
1982-83Assistant CoachUniversity of Florida
1984-93Assistant CoachLSU
1994-2000Head CoachUniversity of Louisiana-Monroe
2001Administrative AssistantLSU
2002-Head CoachLSU

HEAD COACHING RECORD

YEAR	W-L	SCHOOL	HIGHLIGHTS
1994	20-33	UL-Monroe	Defeated Three NCAA Tournament Teams
1995	37-20	UL-Monroe	SLC Tournament Champions; NCAA Regional Participants
1996	41-19	UL-Monroe	School-Record 41 Wins; SLC Louisiana Division Champions
1997	33-21	UL-Monroe	Became Fourth Coach in ULM History To Record 100 Wins
1998	33-22	UL-Monroe	Led SLC In Hitting For Third Straight Season
1999	36-22	UL-Monroe	SLC Champions; NCAA Regional Participants
2000	41-22	UL-Monroe	SLC Champions; NCAA Regional Participants
2002	44-22	LSU	NCAA Regional Champions; NCAA Super Regional Participants
2003	45-22-1	LSU	SEC Champions; College World Series Participants

COACHING HONORS

1995 Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year
1999 Southland Conference Coach of the Year
2002 Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year
2003 SEC Coach of the Year; Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year



T U R T L E Thomas

#17 | Assistant Coach



Henry "Turtle" Thomas joined the LSU staff on July 1, 1999, after serving 12 seasons as an assistant coach at Miami (Fla.). Thomas serves as the Tigers' recruiting coordinator and hitting instructor, and he supervises LSU's catchers.

Thomas has developed a reputation as one of the nation's best college baseball recruiters, as *Collegiate Baseball* has ranked his LSU signing classes among the top six in the nation for four consecutive years. His 2000 and 2001 classes were rated No. 2, his 2002 class earned the No. 3 ranking, and his 2003 class was rated No. 6.

Thomas' record as LSU's hitting instructor is also exemplary, as the Tigers have led the Southeastern Conference in hits, runs scored and RBI in three of the past four seasons. The 2003 LSU club was No. 1 in the league in eight offensive categories, including home runs, hits, runs scored, RBI, doubles, total bases, plate appearances and at-bats.

Thomas' impact at LSU was immediate, as he helped direct the Tigers to the 2000 CWS title. Under his supervision, LSU's hitters established Southeastern Conference single-season records for hits (864) and doubles (194), and the Tigers set a school mark for batting average (.340).

Thomas' star pupil in 2000 was LSU catcher Brad Cresse, who led the nation in home runs (30) and RBI (106). Cresse also won the 2000 Johnny Bench Award as the nation's most outstanding collegiate catcher.

Thomas also tutored LSU short-stop Aaron Hill, the 2003 SEC Player of the Year and a first-team all-America selection. Hill was the '03 first-round draft selection (13th pick overall) of the Toronto Blue Jays.

As the recruiting coordinator and hitting coach at Miami, Thomas helped lead the Hurricanes to six consecutive College World Series appearances (1994-99), including the 1999 national championship.

Collegiate Baseball ranked each of his Miami recruiting classes from 1989-99 in the top 10. The 1989, '92 and '94 classes were ranked No. 1, and the 1991 and '99 classes were ranked No. 2.

In addition to his recruiting duties, Thomas served as Miami's hitting coach from 1996-99. In his first three seasons in that capacity, the Hurricanes posted a .334 team batting average and a .557 slugging percentage while averaging more than nine runs per game. Miami's 1999 NCAA championship team batted .333 and launched 104 home runs.

More than 60 of Thomas' recruits have gone on to play professional baseball, including major leaguers like catcher Charles Johnson, pitcher Alex Fernandez, catcher Jorge Fabregas, infielder Pat Burrell, outfielder Todd Linden and pitcher Roy Corcoran.

Thomas is a 1975 graduate of High Point (N.C.) College, and he earned a master's degree from UNC-Greensboro in 1978. He was a four-year letterman at catcher, playing two seasons at Campbell University before completing his final two undergraduate years at High Point.

Thomas worked as an assistant coach at Clemson from 1979-85 before joining the Georgia Tech staff under current Miami head coach Jim Morris. Thomas worked two years at Georgia Tech, where he was elevated to assistant head coach. He was then hired by legendary Miami coach Ron Fraser on October 13, 1987.

Thomas is married to the former Maria Carmen Nateman, and they have three children, Kevin, Kristen and Keith.

Finally, why the name "Turtle?"

Thomas explains, "It wasn't because I was slow, some kid in junior high school thought I looked like a turtle."



Turtle and Maria Thomas with children Keith, Kevin, and Kristen, and granddaughter Katiana

THE THOMAS FILE

PERSONAL DATA

Year at LSU:Fifth
Birthdate:January 17, 1953
Hometown:High Point, N.C.
Wife:Maria
Children:Kevin, Kristen, Keith
Bachelors:High Point College (1975)
Master's:UNC-Greensboro (1978)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

1979-85Clemson (asst. coach)
1986-87Georgia Tech (asst. head coach)
1988-99Miami, Fla. (asst. coach/recruiting coordinator)
2000-LSU (asst. coach/recruiting coordinator)



B R A D Y

Wiederhold

#26 | Assistant Coach

Brady Wiederhold begins his second season in 2003 as LSU's pitching coach. He was promoted to pitching coach in the summer of 2002 after serving one season as the Tigers' administrative assistant.

Wiederhold supervised a 2003 LSU pitching staff that led the Southeastern Conference in strikeouts with 515. Wiederhold tutored all-SEC hurler Nate Bumstead and Freshman all-America selections Jason Determann and Justin Meier. Wiederhold also worked with four 2003 major-league draft selections: Billy Sadler, Brian Wilson, Jake Tompkins and Bo Pettit.

Prior to coming to LSU, Wiederhold worked two seasons as the pitching coach at Louisiana-Monroe. He was Smoke Laval's pitching coach in 2000, when the Indians advanced to the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional, and he served in 2001 under current ULM head coach Brad Holland.

Prior to his tenure at ULM, Wiederhold worked four seasons as the pitching coach at Kennesaw (Ga.) State.

Wiederhold in 2000 directed the ULM pitching staff to a Top 15 national ranking in team ERA, and the Indians' top three pitchers -- Kevin Orga, Kenny Holubec and Mike Wombacher -- combined to form the nation's fifth-best rotation. Under Wiederhold, ULM in 2000 set the

school's single-season strikeout mark en route to a school-record 41 wins.

During Wiederhold's tenure at Kennesaw State, the Owls appeared in four Division II College World Series. KSU won the 1996 national title and were runners-up in 1998 and 1999. Wiederhold's KSU pitching staffs led the nation in ERA in 1997 and 1998.

Prior to his stint at KSU, Wiederhold spent two seasons as an assistant coach at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. During his stay at Oglethorpe, the Stormy Petrels went 46-28 overall (.622 winning percentage) with a Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Eastern Division title in 1994.

Wiederhold was a four-year letterman at Kennesaw State from 1990-93. The former catcher was named the squad's top defensive player as a senior and was selected to the 1990 Georgia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference all-Freshman team.

Wiederhold, 33, earned his bachelor's of science in sports management from Kennesaw State in 1994. A native of Columbus, Ga., he is married to the former Aimee Wooster, and they have a two-year-old son, Dalton, and a newborn daughter, Daira.



THE WIEDERHOLD FILE

PERSONAL DATA

Year at LSU:Third
Birthdate:November 21, 1970
Hometown:Columbus, Ga.
Wife:Aimee
Children:Dalton, new baby TBA in Dec.
Bachelors:Kennesaw (Ga.) State (1994)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

1994-95Oglethorpe (asst. coach)
1996-99Kennesaw State (asst. coach/pitching)
2000-01Louisiana-Monroe (asst. coach/pitching)
2002LSU (administrative asst.)
2003-LSU (asst. coach/pitching)



Brady and Aimee Wiederhold with Dalton and Daira



J O D Y

Autery

#20 | Assistant Coach

Jody Autery is in his third season as LSU's volunteer assistant coach after working two seasons as a student assistant for the Tigers.

Autery, 29, coaches the LSU outfielders, and he serves as the Tigers' third-base coach. He also works as director of the Smoke Laval Baseball Camp.

Autery coached two 2003 all-SEC outfielders, Ryan Patterson and Jon Zeringue.

A native of Pine Hill, Ala., Autery was a pitcher at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tenn., where he helped lead his team to a runners-up finish at the 1995 NAIA College World Series. Autery also played tight end for the Cumberland football team.

Autery played baseball, football and basketball as a prep athlete at Catherine (Ala.) Academy, which captured two Alabama state football titles during his career.

He won all-state football honors in 1992 and all-state baseball recognition in 1992 and '93.

A 2001 LSU graduate, he earned a master's degree in sports management in 2002.

Autery and his wife, the former Beth Collins, were married in 1996. They are the parents of triplets - Beau, Gracie and Faith -- born October 1, 2002.

THE AUTERY FILE

PERSONAL DATA

Year at LSU:Fifth
 Birthdate: July 22, 1974
 Hometown:Pine Hill, Ala.
 Wife:Beth
 Children:Beau, Gracie, Faith
 Bachelors:LSU (2001)
 Master's:LSU (2002)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2000-01LSU (student asst. coach)
 2002-LSU (asst. coach)



Jody and Beth Autery with triplets Faith, Gracie, and Beau



T E D

White

Administrative Assistant

Ted White, a former all-Southland Conference catcher/third baseman at Louisiana-Monroe, is in his second season on the LSU staff as administrative assistant. White, 24, played at ULM from 1998-2002 and performed for his first three seasons under the tutelage of current LSU coach Smoke Laval.

White received first-team all-SLC honors in his junior season, leading the Indians to a second-place finish in the 2000 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional.

A thumb injury forced White to receive a medical redshirt in 2001, and in 2002, he served as the Indians' team captain and received second-team all-conference accolades as a third baseman.

White earned honorable mention all-conference recognition as a freshman, and he was a second-team all-SLC choice in his sophomore season.

He was the battery mate for two seasons (1998-99) of ULM all-American and Olympic gold medalist Ben Sheets, who currently pitches for the Milwaukee Brewers.

A Pittsburgh, Pa., native, White was a four-year letterman in baseball and basketball at Bethel Park High School.

THE WHITE FILE

PERSONAL DATA

Year at LSU:Second
 Birthdate: June 21, 1979
 Hometown:Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Bachelors:Louisiana-Monroe (2002)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2003-LSU (administrative asst.)



SHAWN
Eddy
Assistant Trainer

Shawn Eddy is in his eighth season as an assistant trainer for the LSU athletic department. His primary responsibility is working with the baseball program, as he supervises the Tigers' needs in the areas of medicine and rehabilitation.

Eddy came to LSU in July of 1996 from Vanderbilt University, where he worked as a graduate assistant trainer for two years.

Eddy earned a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology in 1994 from the University of West Virginia. He also earned a master's degree from Vanderbilt in health promotion and education.

Eddy, 32, was married in July, 2002, to Ashlee Ducote, a former all-SEC softball player at LSU.



WILL
Jones
Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coordinator

Will Jones is in his second year as a full-time member of the LSU strength and conditioning staff after being promoted to assistant coordinator in the summer of 2002.

Jones, who graduated with a Master of Science degree within the LSU kinesiology department in May of 2002, served as a graduate assistant in the LSU weight room for two seasons prior to his promotion.

As a graduate assistant, Jones worked with the LSU football program, and he was also responsible for developing and implementing strength and conditioning programs for the volleyball and soccer teams.

Prior to joining the LSU staff, Jones worked in the private sector as a fitness consultant and trainer, as well as an exercise specialist.

Jones graduated from Louisiana-Lafayette in May of 1999 with a degree in exercise science. He was a defensive back for the Ragin' Cajuns football team for four years.



GEORGE
Branigan
Equipment Manager

George Branigan is in his fourth season as a student equipment manager for the LSU baseball program. A native of Kenner, La., Branigan prepped at Brother Martin High School in New Orleans, where he earned letters in football as a linebacker and in baseball as a catcher.

Branigan is majoring in general studies at LSU. He was born on March 19, 1982.



B. J.
Branigan
Equipment Manager

B.J. Branigan is in his third season as a student equipment manager for the LSU baseball program. A native of Kenner, La., Branigan prepped at Brother Martin High School in New Orleans, where he participated in baseball (right fielder), cross country and swimming (team captain). He helped lead Brother Martin to state cross country titles in 1998 and 1999.

Branigan, whose interests include swimming and running, is a business management major at LSU. He was born on August 13, 1983.



RYAN
Babin
Equipment Manager

Ryan Babin is in his third season as a student equipment manager for the LSU baseball program. A native of Gonzales, La., Babin prepped at East Ascension High School, where he participated in baseball and soccer.

Babin, a sports studies major at LSU, says "it is a life-long dream to attend school here and be a part of the baseball program." He was born on July 11, 1983.



Bill Franques
Publicist/Stadium Announcer



Virginia Robertson
Secretary



Pamela Workman
Student Trainer



Kellie O'Neal
Student Secretary



Bridget Raymond
Student Secretary