

# 1991 National Champions

# 1991

## PLAYERS

- Dale Adams, C
- Adrian Antonini, C
- Tim Bauer, C
- Harry Berrios, OF
- Tiger Blackwell, OF
- Paul Byrd, RHP
- Matt Chamberlain, RHP
- Keyaan Cook, INF
- Rich Cordani, OF
- Luis Garcia, INF
- Pat Garrity, DH
- Mike Graham, OF
- Rick Greene, RHP
- David Herry, RHP
- Gary Hymel, C
- Tookie Johnson, 2B
- Mark LaRosa, LHP
- Bhrett McCabe, RHP
- Chris Moock, 3B
- Gregg Moock, RHP
- Lyle Mouton, RF
- Jared Mula, OF
- Jeff Naquin, RHP
- Mike Neal, INF
- Chad Ogea, RHP
- Ronnie Rantz, LHP
- Armando Rios, CF
- Henri Saunders, RHP
- Andy Sheets, SS
- Mike Sirotko, LHP
- Johnny Tellechea, 1B

## COACHES

- Skip Bertman - Head Coach
- Smoke Laval - Assistant Coach
- Beetle Bailey - Assistant Coach
- Dan Canevari - Graduate Assistant Coach
- Gregg Patterson - Student Asst. Coach

## MANAGERS

- Russ Rome
- Mike Biandolillo

## TRAINERS

- Andy Sonnier
- Scott Newman



LSU completed a magnificent 1991 season with a 55-18 record as the Tigers captured their first baseball national title and the 19th overall national championship for the school.

Head coach Skip Bertman directed the Tigers to the 1991 NCAA title after having led his team to the College World Series in five of the past six seasons. Bertman was recognized as the National Coach of the Year by *Collegiate Baseball* magazine shortly after LSU's World Series victory.

The Tigers became the first team since Miami (Fla.) in 1982 to win the national title without a loss in the NCAA Tournament; LSU won eight consecutive games in the tournament, including four in the South Regional and four in the College World Series.

As a team, the Tigers set a College World Series record by averaging 12 runs per game,

breaking the previous mark of 11 per contest established by Notre Dame in 1957.

LSU also set a new Series mark with a team fielding percentage of .993. The Tigers committed only one error in 148 chances.

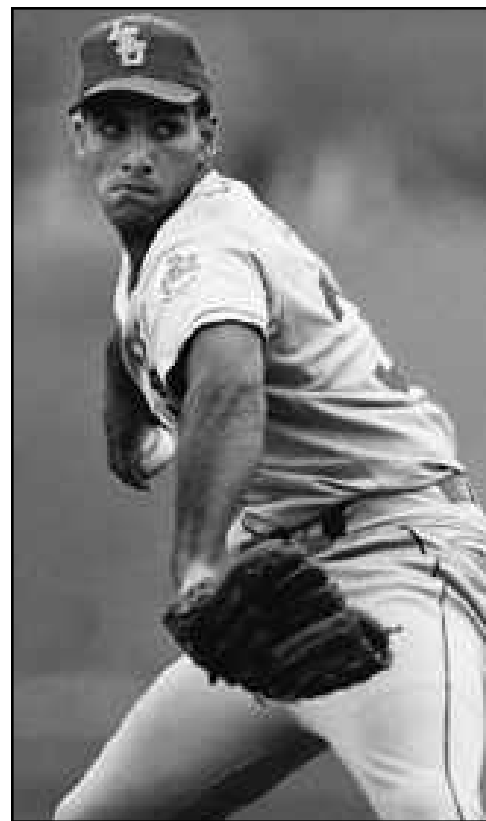
LSU equaled the College World Series mark for most home runs with nine, tying the record set by Arizona State in 1981. Catcher Gary Hymel blasted four homers, rightfielder Lyle Mouton belted three, designated hitter Pat Garrity contributed one and centerfielder Armando Rios launched a two-run shot in the championship game win over Wichita State.

The Tigers outscored their four Series opponents, 48-15, while recording a team batting average of .329, including five doubles, four triples and nine home runs.

Hymel was named the Most Outstanding



The June 9, 1991, headline of the Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate heralds LSU's CWS title.



All-American Chad Ogea pitched the Tigers to victory in the CWS final against Wichita State.



(LEFT) Pitcher Paul Byrd holds the championship trophy during the celebration at Alex Box Stadium.



(RIGHT) President George Bush saluted the Tigers in a Rose Garden ceremony which also honored baseball legends Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams. The Tigers gave the President an LSU jersey embroidered with the No. 2. Bush's jersey number as a college baseball player at Yale.

Player of the Series, as he batted .500 with four homers and 10 RBI. Hymel finished the season with a .310 batting average and a school-record 25 home runs to go along with 79 RBI. Hymel, Mouton, pitcher Chad Ogea and first baseman

Johnny Tellechea were named to the College World Series All-Tournament team.

Mouton batted .429 in the Series with three homers and 10 RBI; Ogea earned wins over Florida and Wichita State, compiling a 1.74 ERA in 10 1/3 innings; Tellechea hit .438 with two doubles, one RBI and five runs.

LSU culminated its championship year on July 9, 1991, with a trip to the White House. President George Bush recognized the Tigers in a special Rose Garden ceremony which also honored major league legends Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams. LSU became only the third collegiate baseball team to receive an invitation to the White House.



Former LSU Athletic Director Joe Dean congratulates first baseman Johnny Tellechea at the championship celebration in Alex Box Stadium.



**1991 College World Series Facts**

**CWS RECORDS SET BY LSU**

*Team Series*

Most Runs Per Game - 12 (48 runs in four games)  
 Highest Slugging Percentage - .603 (88 total bases/146 at-bats)  
 Highest Fielding Percentage - .993 (one error in 148 chances)

*Team Single Game*

Most Players Used (Both Teams) - 38, LSU vs. Florida (June 5)

*Team Championship Game*

Most Hit Batsmen - 3, LSU vs. Wichita State (June 8)

*Championship Game Attendance*

16,612 - LSU vs. Wichita State (June 8)

*Individual Series*

Highest Slugging Percentage - 1.357 (19 total bases/14 at-bats), Gary Hymel

**CWS RECORDS TIED BY LSU**

*Team Series*

Most Home Runs - 9 (four games)

*Team Championship Game*

Most Sacrifice Flies - 1, LSU vs. Wichita State (June 8)  
 Most Sacrifice Flies (Both Teams) - 2, LSU (1) vs. Wichita St. (1)  
 Most Hit Batters (Both Teams) - 3, LSU (0) vs. Wichita State (3)

*Individual Series*

Most Home Runs - 4, Gary Hymel (four games)  
 Most Hit by Pitch - 3, Gary Hymel (four games)

*Individual Championship Game*

Most Sacrifice Flies - 1, Rich Cordani, LSU vs. Wichita State

*Individual Career*

Most Home Runs - 4, Gary Hymel (1990-91)  
 4, Lyle Mouton (1990-91)

**1991 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**

- Catcher ..... Gary Hymel, LSU
- First Base ..... Johnny Tellechea, LSU
- Second Base ..... Mike McCafferty, Creighton
- Third Base ..... Jason Giambi, Long Beach State
- Shortstop ..... Kevin Polcovich, Florida
- Outfield ..... Lyle Mouton, LSU
- Outfield ..... Jim Audley, Wichita State
- Outfield ..... Steve Hinton, Creighton
- Designated Hitter ... Mario Linares, Florida
- Pitcher ..... Kennie Steenstra, Wichita State
- Pitcher ..... Chad Ogea, LSU

**Most Outstanding Player**  
 Gary Hymel, LSU

# 1993 National Champions

# 1993

## PLAYERS

- Kevin Ainsworth, OF
- Adrian Antonini, C
- Wade Bagley, C
- Scott Berardi, C
- Harry Berrios, OF
- Dustin Brandon, INF
- Matt Chamberlain, RHP
- Chad Cooley, OF
- Brian Daugherty, INF
- Jim Greely, OF
- Ryan Huffman, OF
- Will Hunt, LHP
- Kenny Jackson, 1B
- Russ Johnson, SS
- Tim Lanier, C
- Brett Laxton, RHP
- Antonio Leonardi-Cattolica, RHP
- Matt Malejko, RHP
- Bhrett McCabe, RHP
- Gregg Moock, RHP
- Warren Morris, INF
- Jeff Naquin, RHP
- Mike Neal, OF
- Ronnie Rantz, LHP
- Armando Rios, OF
- Trey Rutledge, RHP
- Henri Saunders, RHP
- Scott Schultz, RHP
- Tom Schwier, INF
- Mike Sirotko, LHP
- Mark Stocco, OF
- Sean Teague, RHP
- Todd Walker, 2B
- Kevin Ward, C
- Jason Williams, 3B
- Brad Wilson, INF
- Brian Winders, RHP

## COACHES

- Skip Bertman - Head Coach
- Smoke Laval - Assistant Coach
- Mike Bianco - Assistant Coach
- Beetle Bailey - Administrative Assistant
- Rick Smith - Volunteer Assistant Coach

## MANAGERS

- Dirck Decoteau
- Jason Decoteau

## TRAINERS

- Jim Mensch
- Stacy LeCompte



A century of baseball excellence was culminated in June, 1993, as LSU captured its second NCAA title in three years with an 8-0 victory over Wichita State in the College World Series final. In the 100th anniversary season of the Fighting Tiger program, head coach Skip Bertman and his players reinforced LSU's status as the nation's premier baseball power.

The Tigers began the 1993 campaign as the nation's No. 1 team in all three of the college baseball polls. The Tigers' pre-conference scheduled featured a 12-game winning streak which extended through the month of March as LSU prepared to defend its SEC title. The Tigers' drive to win their fourth straight league crown was spearheaded by Todd Walker, who established an SEC single-season record with

a 33-game hitting streak. The regular-season also featured a "Turn Back the Clock" game against Tulane in Alex Box Stadium, as players from both teams wore old-fashioned uniforms and used wooden bats. The Tigers defeated the Green Wave 6-3 in a game which commemorated LSU's 100-year baseball history.

LSU went on to become the first team in league annals to win four straight SEC championships and, after a 9-4 win over South Alabama in the NCAA South Regional final at Alex Box Stadium, the Tigers advanced to the College World Series for the sixth time in eight seasons.

The Tigers returned to Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium for another National Championship crusade. The fifth-seeded Tigers disposed of fourth-seeded Long Beach State to open the Series as left fielder Jim Greely launched two home runs and collected a personal-best five RBI. Left-hander Mike Sirotko handcuffed the 49ers with a three-hit, nine strikeout performance.

LSU posted a furious rally against top-seeded Texas A&M in the next round, over-



The June 13, 1993, headline of the Baton Rouge Advocate heralds LSU's second CWS title.



Team captain Mike Neal proclaims LSU No. 1 after the Tigers' 8-0 victory over Wichita St.



(ABOVE) The 1993 National Champions were honored with a celebration in Tiger Stadium the morning after the CWS triumph.

(BELOW) Todd Walker (left), Brett Laxton (center) and Skip Bertman met with CBS reporter Lesley Visser after the CWS title game.



coming a 7-2 deficit and grabbing a 9-8 lead on an eighth inning single by Armando Rios. Then, with the bases loaded, Todd Walker provided one of the series' most scintillating moments, unloading his third grand slam of the season to cap the 13-8 triumph.

The momentum generated by the win over the Aggies was vanquished three days later as Long Beach State rallied for an improbable 10-8 victory, striking for four runs in their final at-bat.

Now LSU faced a third meeting with

Long Beach, with the winner advancing to the World Series championship game. The Tigers, on the strength of a two-run double by Rios, tied the game 5-5 in the bottom of the ninth before Walker delivered the game-winning single for a thrilling 6-5 victory. LSU was one victory away from fulfilling a season-long dream.

LSU faced Wichita State in the national championship game for the second time in three years, and unlike the first meeting in 1991, this game offered little suspense. Todd Walker's two-run homer in the first inning began LSU's surge to another World Series title. LSU added three runs in the second inning as Armando Rios sandwiched a sacrifice fly between RBI singles by Walker and by Jason Williams.

While the Tigers bolted to the big lead, freshman right-hander Brett Laxton was in the process of making College World Series history. Relying primarily on an exploding fastball with an occasional paralyzing slider, Laxton set a CWS championship game record with 16 staggering strikeouts. Laxton limited Wichita State to a mere three hits while retiring 16 of the final 20 Shocker batters, including Wichita State's last hope, outfielder

Carl Hall, who flied weakly to Harry Berrios in right field to conclude the Tigers' 8-0 triumph. For the second time in three years, an unquenchable desire for victory was LSU's most prominent characteristic as it catapulted the Tigers to college baseball's summit.

Todd Walker was named the Most Outstanding Player of the

Series and was joined on the All-Tournament team by Mike Sirotko, Brett Laxton, Adrian Antonini, Jim Greely and Armando Rios. Walker, the 1993 SEC Player of the Year, recorded a conference-record 102 RBI on the season and surpassed Albert Belle as LSU's all-time RBI leader with 175.

Mike Sirotko ended a fantastic four-year career as LSU's career leader in innings pitched with 372. He tied Ben McDonald's school record with 10 complete games, including eight in his final nine starts. Laxton's dazzling performance in the national title game capped a phenomenal season as the National Freshman of the Year was 12-1 with an SEC-best 1.98 ERA.

The 1993 team was expertly guided by Skip Bertman, who for the third time in his 10-year career was named National Coach of the Year. The Tigers completed the year with a 53-17-1 record, marking LSU's fifth-straight 50-win season, a feat unmatched by any other school.



Mike Sirotko recorded two complete-game victories in the 1993 CWS.



**CWS RECORDS SET BY LSU**

**Individual Championship Game**

Most Strikeouts - 16, Brett Laxton, LSU vs. Wichita State  
Most Sacrifice Flies - 2, Armando Rios, LSU vs. Wichita State

**CWS RECORDS TIED BY LSU**

**Team Championship Game**

Most Sacrifice Flies - 2, LSU vs. Wichita State  
Most Strikeouts (Both Teams) - 22, LSU vs. Wichita State

**Individual Championship Game**

Fewest Hits Allowed - 3, Brett Laxton, LSU vs. Wichita State  
Most Putouts - 16, Adrian Antonini, LSU vs. Wichita State

# 1996 National Champions

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## PLAYERS

Jason Albritton, RHP  
 T.J. Arnett, RHP  
 Tom Bernhardt, OF  
 Eric Berthelot, LHP  
 John Blancher, INF  
 Justin Bowles, RF  
 Matt Colvin, LHP  
 Patrick Coogan, RHP  
 Chad Cooley, LF  
 Casey Cuntz, INF  
 Brian Daugherty, RHP  
 Chris Demouy, LHP  
 Nathan Dunn, 3B  
 Jake Esteves, RHP  
 Eddy Furniss, 1B  
 Dan Guillory, RHP  
 Jeff Harris, RHP  
 James Hemphill, OF  
 Conan Horton, C  
 Sonny Knoll, RHP  
 Mike Koerner, CF  
 Tim Lanier, C  
 Brett Laxton, RHP  
 Antonio Leonardi-Cattolica, RHP  
 Trey McClure, INF  
 Jeramie Moore, 1B  
 Warren Morris, 2B  
 Joey Painich, RHP  
 Keith Polozola, INF  
 Kevin Shipp, RHP  
 Jeremy Tyson, RHP  
 Kevin Ward, C  
 Jason Williams, SS  
 Brad Wilson, DH  
 Jeremy Witten, OF  
 Eddie Yarnall, LHP

## COACHES

Skip Bertman - Head Coach  
 Jim Schwanke - Assistant Coach  
 Mike Bianco - Assistant Coach  
 Dan Canevari - Administrative Assistant  
 Daniel Tomlin - Volunteer Assistant Coach

## MANAGERS

Mike Boniol  
 Jimmy Goins  
 Wes Penn

## TRAINERS

Jim Mensch  
 Lara McNeely



Second baseman Warren Morris launched a two-out, two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift LSU to a pulsating 9-8 victory over Miami (Fla.) in the 1996 College World Series final. The blast marked the first time in the 50-year history of the CWS that a team had won the national championship with a homer in the bottom of the ninth.

As the ball cleared the right-field fence and landed in the third row of the bleachers, Morris raised his arms into the air triumphantly as he rounded first base. Upon reaching home plate, he was mobbed by his jubilant teammates and cheered by 23,905 fans who had just witnessed the greatest finish in CWS annals.

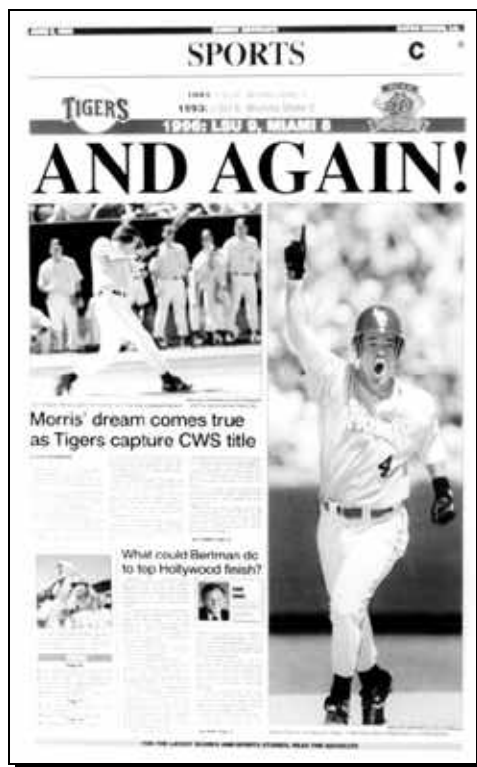
The LSU Tigers, for the third time in six

seasons, were the champions of collegiate baseball.

Fittingly, it was the only home run of the season for Morris, as the Alexandria, La., native had missed 39 games due to a broken hamate bone in his right hand. He returned to the LSU lineup for the NCAA South II Regional, and he led the Tigers to eight straight victories, with the final win giving his team the national title.

LSU became just the seventh school to win three or more CWS titles in the 50-year history of the event, and Skip Bertman became only the sixth coach to win three or more baseball national championships. LSU also became only the third school to win three national titles in one decade (1991, 1993, 1996).

The CWS championship capped a long



The June 9, 1996, headline of the Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate heralds LSU's CWS title.



All-American Eddie Yarnall earned CWS victories over Wichita State and Florida.

list of achievements for the 1996 Tigers, including establishing an SEC record with 131 home runs on the season. The Tigers posted a 52-15 record, marking LSU's sixth 50-win season in eight years and the seventh in school history. LSU recorded a 20-10 SEC mark, sharing the conference title with Florida and Alabama.

Shortstop Jason Williams became the SEC career leader in runs scored (270), and he became LSU's all-time hits leader with 327. First baseman Eddy Furniss, a first-team all-America selection, set the SEC single-season mark for RBI (103) and the LSU single-season home run record (26). Pitcher Eddie Yarnall was also a first-team all-America choice, as he posted an 11-1 record, including two victories in the College World Series.

Furniss and pitcher Chris Demouy were

Seniors Chad Cooley (left) and Tim Lanier display the gold jersey LSU wore during its national title drive. The jerseys were later auctioned by the Tiger Athletic Foundation, raising \$38,000 for LSU Baseball.



named Academic all-Americans; Furniss had a 3.7 gpa in pre-medicine and Demouy a 3.8 gpa in management. Seven Tigers earned Academic all-SEC recognition, including Furniss, Demouy, Morris (3.5 gpa in zoology), catcher Tim Lanier (3.6 in kinesiology), designated hitter

Daugherty (3.1 in kinesiology).

For the third time in six seasons, Bertman was named National Coach of the Year, an honor he received from *Collegiate Baseball*, *Baseball America* and the American Baseball Coaches Association.

LSU was No.1 in the grandstand as well, as the Tigers led the nation in attendance by drawing a school-record 226,805 fans to Alex Box Stadium.

It was a remarkable season, culminated by arguably the greatest moment in LSU athletic history, a decisive swing of the bat by Warren Morris, who magnificently added his name to the list of Tiger legends.



Warren Morris presents his CWS home run bat to LSU athletic director Joe Dean as head coach Skip Bertman looks on. The presentation was made in Alex Box Stadium prior to Team USA's summer tour game versus Australia on June 20, 1996.



**1996 College World Series Facts**

**CWS RECORDS SET BY LSU**

**Attendance**

Session -- 23,905, LSU vs. Miami (Fla.)

**Hits**

Both Teams, Championship Game -- 29, LSU vs. Miami (Fla.)

**Sacrifice Flies**

Both Teams, Championship Game -- 5, LSU vs. Miami (Fla.)

**Game Time**

Championship Game (9-inning game) -- 3:19, LSU vs. Miami (Fla.)

**CWS RECORDS TIED BY LSU**

**Saves**

Series -- 3, LSU

**Doubles**

Both Teams, Championship Game -- 6, LSU vs. Miami (Fla.)

**1996 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**

**Catcher** . . . . . Tim Lanier, LSU

First Base . . . . . Chris Moller, Alabama

Second Base . . . . . Rudy Gomez, Miami (Fla.)

Third Base . . . . . Pat Burrell, Miami (Fla.)

Shortstop . . . . . Alex Cora, Miami (Fla.)

**Outfield** . . . . . Justin Bowles, LSU

Outfield . . . . . Michael DeCelle, Miami (Fla.)

Outfield . . . . . Brad Wilkerson, Florida

Designated Hitter . . . . . Chuck Hazzard, Florida

Pitcher . . . . . J.D. Arteaga, Miami (Fla.)

**Pitcher** . . . . . Eddie Yarnall, LSU

**Most Outstanding Player**  
Pat Burrell, Miami (Fla.)

# 1997 National Champions

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## PLAYERS

Kurt Ainsworth, RHP  
 Jason Albritton, RHP  
 Blair Barbier, 2B  
 Bryon Bennett, OF  
 Tom Bernhardt, OF  
 Eric Berthelot, LHP  
 John Blancher, INF  
 Christian Bourgeois, 1B  
 Matt Colvin, LHP  
 Patrick Coogan, RHP  
 Brad Cresse, C  
 Casey Cuntz, 3B  
 Mike Daly, INF  
 Brian Daugherty, RHP  
 Wes Davis, OF  
 Chris Demouy, LHP  
 Clint Earnhart, C  
 Eddy Furniss, 1B  
 Jamin Garidel, C  
 Dan Guillory, RHP  
 Cedrick Harris, OF  
 Jeff Harris, RHP  
 Cody Hartshorn, RHP  
 Courtney Hernandez, C  
 Danny Higgins, INF  
 Conan Horton, C  
 David Hughes, LHP  
 Sonny Knoll, RHP  
 Mike Koerner, CF  
 Brandon Larson, SS  
 Antonio Leonardi-Cattolica, RHP  
 Jeff Lipari, 1B  
 Trey McClure, 3B  
 Joey Painich, RHP  
 Keith Polozola, INF  
 Kevin Shipp, RHP  
 Antoine Simon, OF  
 Johnnie Thibodeaux, INF  
 Doug Thompson, RHP  
 Drew Topham, INF  
 Jeremy Tyson, RHP  
 Jeremy Witten, OF

## COACHES

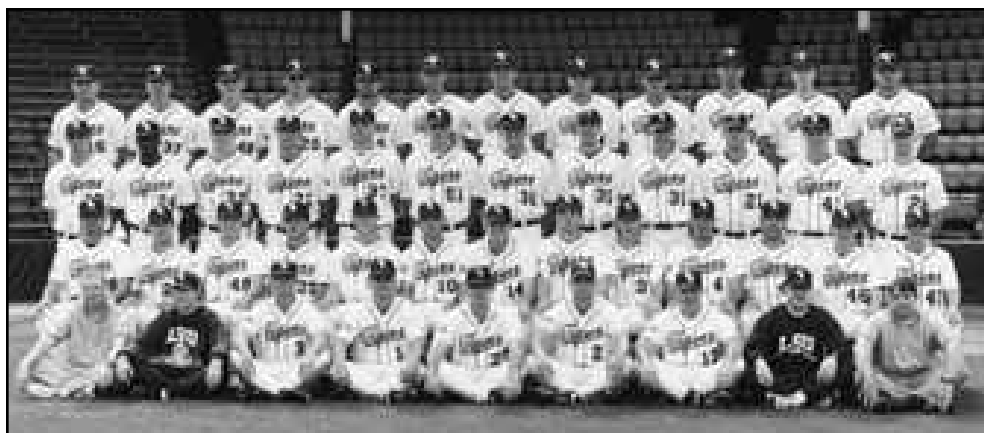
Skip Bertman - Head Coach  
 Jim Schwanke - Assistant Coach  
 Mike Bianco - Assistant Coach  
 Daniel Tomlin - Assistant Coach  
 Kurt Hester - Strength Coach  
 Dan Canevari - Administrative Assistant

## MANAGERS

Mike Boniol  
 Wes Penn

## TRAINERS

Shawn Eddy  
 Mike Eisen



**O**n June 7, 1997, the LSU Fighting Tigers justified the pre-season status bestowed upon them by *Baseball America* magazine as college baseball's "Team of the '90s" by defeating Southeastern Conference rival Alabama, 13-6, in the championship game of the College World Series. The game was witnessed by a record crowd of 24,401 in Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium.

LSU won its fourth NCAA championship of the 1990s (1991, 1993, 1996, 1997), and the Tigers became the first team to win back-to-back titles since Stanford accomplished the feat in 1987-88. Head coach Skip Bertman joined Rod Dedeaux of Southern California as the only coaches to win four College World Series championships. Bertman was named the 1997 National Coach of the Year, receiving that designation for the fifth time in his storied 14-year career.

Ironically, a month before the title match, the Crimson Tide humiliated the Tigers, 28-2, the worst loss in LSU's 104-year baseball history. But in the CWS championship contest, the Tigers exploded to a 9-0 lead after two innings and never looked back. LSU won its eighth straight CWS game over two seasons, and the Tigers improved their mark in NCAA (regional and CWS) tournament championship games to a phenomenal 16-0.

Prior to the win over Alabama, the Tigers posted CWS victories over Rice (5-4) and Stanford (10-5 and 13-9). LSU batted .328 (45-for-137) in the Series with seven doubles and 10 home runs. The Tigers averaged better than 10 runs per game in the CWS, outscoring their opponents, 41-24.

The championship game completed a 57-13 campaign for Skip Bertman and his club, as the Tigers established the



The June 13, 1997, headline of the Baton Rouge Advocate heralds LSU's fourth CWS title.



Junior right-hander Patrick Coogan was the ace of the '97 staff as he posted a 14-3 record and a 4.46 ERA with 144 strikeouts in 125 innings.



Senior pitcher Brian Daugherty lifts the 1997 NCAA championship trophy at a special ceremony in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center. Nearly 8,000 fans welcomed the Tigers home the day after their triumph in Omaha, Neb.



Senior rightfielder Tom Bernhardt led LSU with a .615 batting average in the CWS.

Southeastern Conference record for most victories in a season. LSU, which returned only two starting position players from its 1996 national championship club, also claimed the '97 SEC championship, the school's sixth conference crown of the 1990s.

LSU roared to a blistering 19-0 start, establishing the SEC mark for most consecutive victories. The Tigers, who began the season ranked No. 8 (*Collegiate Baseball*) and No. 13 (*Baseball America*) in the pre-season polls, ascended to No. 1 by March 10, holding that position for 10 consecutive weeks.

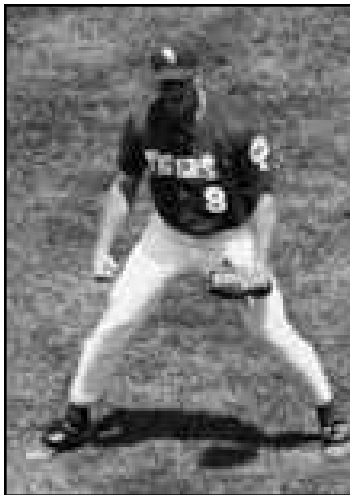
After claiming the SEC title, LSU played host to the NCAA South I Regional, where the Tigers, after suffering a third-round loss to South Alabama, battled back to claim their ninth CWS berth in 12 seasons. LSU posted a thrilling 14-7, 11-inning victory over Long Beach State in an elimination game to force a rematch with South Alabama in the regional championship round. Needing two victories over USA, the Tigers launched eight homers in a double-header sweep en route to the regional title. LSU hit .339 (82-for-242) in its six regional games, outscoring the opposition 76-29 while unloading 20 home runs. Third baseman Trey McClure was named the regional's Most Outstanding Player, as he hit .435 (10-for-23) with five doubles, two homers and 10 RBI.

LSU completed the year with an NCAA-record 188 home runs, breaking the previous mark of 161 homers set by Brigham Young in

1988. The Tigers homered at least once in all 70 of their games.

All-American junior shortstop Brandon Larson enjoyed a remarkable season, batting .381 on the year with 40 homers and 118 RBI. He established SEC single-season records for homers, RBI and total bases (250), and he became just the fourth player in NCAA history to collect 40 or more homers in a season.

Patrick Coogan (14-3, 4.63 ERA, 144 K), a junior right-hander, earned first-team all-America honors, while first baseman Eddy Furniss (.378, 17 HR, 77 RBI) was a third-team all-America selection. Second baseman Blair Barbier (.353, 15 HR, 57 RBI) earned Freshman all-America recognition.



Junior right-hander Doug Thompson was the winning pitcher in the 1997 national championship game, working the final 4.2 innings in the 13-6 win over Alabama.

Also enjoying outstanding campaigns were junior center fielder Mike Koerner (.353, 22 HR, 69 RBI), senior right fielder Tom Bernhardt (.322, 17 HR, 49 RBI) and Doug Thompson (12-3, 4.63 ERA, 158 K), a junior right-hander who earned the victory in the national championship game.

The '97 Tigers magnificently maintained LSU's reign as the

"Team of the '90s." Not since Southern California won five straight national titles in the 1970s was one school so dominant in the college baseball landscape.

**1997 College World Series Facts**

**CWS RECORDS SET BY LSU**

**Most At-Bats (9-inn. game)**

Both Teams, Championship Game -- 79, LSU vs. Alabama

**Most Runs**

Both Teams, Championship Game -- 19, LSU vs. Alabama

**Most RBI**

Both Teams, Championship Game -- 19, LSU vs. Alabama

**Most Strikeouts (9-inn. game)**

Both Teams, Championship Game -- 25, LSU vs. Alabama

**CWS RECORDS TIED BY LSU**

**Most Home Runs**

Team, Game -- 5, LSU vs. Stanford

**Most Pitchers Used**

Team, Game -- 7, LSU vs. Stanford

**Most Hit Batters**

Both Teams, Game -- 4, LSU vs. Stanford

**Most At-Bats (9-inn. game)**

Individual, Championship Game --

6, Brandon Larson, LSU vs. Alabama

6, Mike Koerner, LSU vs. Alabama

**Most Wild Pitches**

Individual, Game -- 3, Patrick Coogan, LSU vs. Alabama

Team, Game -- 4, LSU vs. Alabama

**Most Runs**

Team, Championship Game -- 13, LSU vs. Alabama

**Most RBIs**

Team, Championship Game -- 13, LSU vs. Alabama

**Most Doubles**

Both Teams, Championship Game -- 6, LSU vs. Alabama

**1997 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**

Catcher ..... Matt Frick, Alabama

First Base ..... Eddy Furniss, LSU

Second Base ..... Joe Caruso, Alabama

Third Base ..... Andy Phillips, Alabama

Shortstop ..... Brandon Larson, LSU

Outfield ..... Mike Koerner, LSU

Outfield ..... Tom Bernhardt, LSU

Outfield ..... G.W. Keller, Alabama

Designated Hitter ... Mark Peer, Alabama

Pitcher ..... Jeff Austin, Stanford

Pitcher ..... Jarrod Kingrey, Alabama

**Most Outstanding Player**  
Brandon Larson, LSU



# 2000 National Champions

# 2000

## PLAYERS

Jeremy Alford, OF  
 Blair Barbier, 3B  
 Christian Bourgeois, OF  
 Billy Brian, P  
 Victor Brumfield, INF  
 Brad Cresse, C  
 Mike Daly, INF  
 Brad David, P  
 Thomas Evans, INF  
 Mike Fontenot, 2B  
 Jamin Garidel, C  
 Hunter Gomez, P  
 Weylin Guidry, P  
 Cedrick Harris, OF  
 Brad Hawpe, 1B  
 Trey Hodges, P  
 Ryan Jorgensen, C  
 Jeff Lipari, 1B  
 Jeremy Loftice, P  
 Billy McBride, OF  
 Heath McMurray, P  
 Nathan Meiners, C  
 David Miller, P  
 Tommy Morel, OF  
 Tim Nugent, P  
 Bo Pettit, P  
 Wally Pontiff, OF  
 David Raymer, OF  
 Ryan Richard, P  
 Ben Saxon, P  
 Jason Scobie, P  
 David Shank, P  
 Antoine Simon, OF  
 Chucky Son, P  
 Brian Tallet, P  
 Sam Taulli, P  
 Ryan Theriot, SS  
 Johnnie Thibodeaux, OF  
 Chad Vaught, P  
 Jeremy Witten, OF  
 Ray Wright, OF  
 Shane Youman, P

## COACHES

Skip Bertman - Head Coach  
 Dan Canevari - Assistant Coach  
 Turtle Thomas - Assistant Coach  
 Bill Dailey - Assistant Coach  
 Curtis Tsuruda - Strength Coach  
 Bill Franques - Administrative Assistant

## MANAGERS

Jody Autery  
 Mike Boniol  
 Johnny Collins  
 Wes Penn  
 Joey Quilio

## TRAINERS

Shawn Eddy  
 Shaun Duhe



**T**railing Stanford 5-2 with one out in the bottom of the eighth inning of the 2000 national championship game, the LSU Tigers appeared to have little hope, especially with Cardinal ace Justin Wayne on the mound. Wayne had subdued LSU's bats, allowing no hits while recording seven strikeouts in 3.1 relief innings. In fact, Wayne and Stanford starter Jason Young had combined to hold the Tigers hitless since the second inning, when left field Jeremy Witten singled during a two-run LSU rally.

LSU's only highlight after the second inning had come on defense, when right fielder Ray Wright robbed Stanford's Edmund Muth of a third-inning, two-run homer by leaping above the wall to make a sensational catch.

Thus, when LSU team captain Blair Barbier stepped to the plate with one out in the eighth, everything pointed toward a Stanford victory celebration. After all, the Cardinal were just five outs away from a national championship with arguably the best pitcher in the country on the mound.

Barbier, undaunted, envisioned a much different scenario. Prior to the inning, he had gathered his teammates in the dugout, imploring them to remain focused, asking them, "DO YOU BELIEVE?" He hoped his words would spark a positive reaction, yet he knew they would be meaningless should he fail in this at-bat, likely the final at-bat of the senior third baseman's brilliant college career.

So, Barbier stood in against Wayne and



The June 18, 2000, headline of the Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate heralds LSU's CWS title.



Pitcher Trey Hodges was voted the Most Outstanding Player of the 2000 CWS.



Team Captain Blair Barbier displays the NCAA Championship trophy to the throng of fans which welcomed home the Tigers.

battled for his team's survival. He stubbornly fouled off several two-strike offerings, before finally ripping a line drive over the left field wall of Rosenblatt Stadium. Barbier's solo shot was his third homer of the College World Series, and the Tigers had life, now down by two runs.

Wally Pontiff then drew a walk from Wayne, but the Stanford right-hander retired center fielder Cedrick Harris on a fly ball to right field for the second out. Witten, who was hitting just .200 (3-for-15) in the CWS, would be Wayne's next challenge.

In his only other at-bat against Wayne, Witten, a fifth-year senior, fanned on just three pitches. And, in this at-bat, Witten again quickly fell behind in the count. Knowing that this was perhaps the final at-bat of his college career, indeed the final at-bat of his entire baseball career, Witten would not succumb to Wayne's darting slider. Instead, he launched a soaring liner into the left-center field seats, just out of the reach of Cardinal left fielder Andy Topham.

The Rosenblatt Stadium crowd of over 24,000 erupted as Witten triumphantly rounded the bases, celebrating just his seventh homer of the season. LSU 5, Stanford 5. . . and the drama was just beginning.

Wayne retired Wright on a liner to left to end the eighth inning, but Stanford could not recover its lost momentum. LSU right-hander Trey Hodges, who had kept the Tigers in the game with three scoreless relief innings, easily retired the Cardinal in the top of the ninth, setting the stage for the game's final act.

LSU shortstop Ryan Theriot grounded Wayne's first pitch of the ninth into left field to place the winning run on first base. Head coach Skip Bertman, electing not to bunt Theriot down to second base, allowed second baseman Mike Fontenot to swing away. Fontenot skillfully drew a full-count walk from Wayne, placing the Tigers' destiny in the potent bat of catcher Brad Cresse.

Cresse, like Barbier and Witten before him, was standing at the plate for the final time in an LSU uniform. The nation's leader in home runs (30) and RBI (105), the senior was just 1-for-12 in the College World Series. He had struck out in his two previous at-bats against Wayne, who desperately needed a double play to work his way out of the jam.

As he had in his first two

encounters with Cresse, Wayne opened with his devastating slider. Strike one. Wayne fired the slider again, but this time Cresse smashed it, sending the ball sharply into left field. Theriot raced around third base as Topham picked up the ball and heaved it toward home plate. But, the throw was up the line and Theriot slid safely across the plate as his teammates burst from the third-base dugout to embrace him. The wave of jubilant Tigers then moved to the infield, engulfing Cresse at first base.

LSU 6, Stanford 5. The Tigers had secured the school's fifth NCAA title since 1991 with a courageous effort, scoring four runs in their final two at-bats to erase a three-run deficit. Blair Barbier's eighth-inning challenge to his teammates was answered in resounding fashion. The 2000 LSU Tigers, without question, did believe.



The Tigers posted a 52-17 record, including a 13-0 post-season mark.

**2000 College World Series Facts**

**CWS RECORDS SET OR TIED BY LSU**

**Records Broken**

Hit Batters, Game, Both Teams - 6, Stanford (4) vs. LSU (2), June 17  
Balks, Series, Team - 3, LSU

**Records Tied**

Hit by Pitch, Series, Individual - 3, Blair Barbier, LSU  
Balks, Series, Individual - 2, Trey Hodges, LSU

**2000 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**

- Catcher . . . . . Beau Craig, Southern California
- First Base . . . . . Craig Thompson, Stanford
- Second Base . . . . . Mike Fontenot, LSU
- Third Base . . . . . Blair Barbier, LSU
- Shortstop . . . . . Ryan Theriot, LSU
- Outfield . . . . . Steven Feehan, Louisiana-Lafayette
- Outfield . . . . . Edmund Muth, Stanford
- Outfield . . . . . Joe Borchard, Stanford
- Designated Hitter . . Brad Hawpe, LSU
- Pitcher . . . . . Trey Hodges, LSU
- Pitcher . . . . . Jon McDonald, Florida State

**Most Outstanding Player**  
Trey Hodges, LSU









