



EXCELLENCE

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Smoke Laval led LSU to an NCAA Super Regional berth in 2002.

Head Coach



S M O K E Laval

#22 | Head Baseball Coach

CAREER RECORD
 285-181 (.612, eight seasons)

AT LSU
 44-22 (.667, one season)

Raymond "Smoke" Laval completed his inaugural season as LSU's head coach last June, directing the Tigers to a 44-22 overall mark, an appearance in the NCAA Super Regional and a No. 11 final national ranking. The first-year coach, 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, 47, 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 captured 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 established a reputation at LSU as one 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,



"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

Boston) and Russ Johnson (Houston, Tampa Bay, New York Mets).

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 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.



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

Head Coach

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During Smoke Laval's tenure as an LSU assistant coach from 1984-93, the Tigers won two national championships and five SEC titles.

"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 Dr. Mark Emmert

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.



THE SMOKE LAVAL FILE

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 Education . . . Jacksonville 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
 1994-2000 . . .Head 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 Participant
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 Participant
2000	41-22	UL-Monroe	SLC Champions; NCAA Regional Participant
2002	44-22	LSU	NCAA Regional Champions; NCAA Super Regional Participant

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



TURTLE Thomas

#17 | Assistant Coach



Former "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. 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.

Thomas' success has continued at LSU, 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 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 three in the nation for three consecutive years.

His 2000 and 2001 classes were rated No. 2, and his 2002 class earned the No. 3 ranking.

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.

More than 50 of Thomas' recruits have gone on to play professional baseball, including major leaguers like catcher Charles Johnson -- a four-time National League Gold Glove recipient -- pitcher Alex Fernandez and catcher Jorge Fabregas. Thomas also recruited third baseman Pat Burrell, the No. 1 selection in the 1998 major league draft by the Philadelphia Phillies.

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.

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 Kevin, Kristen and Keith

THE THOMAS FILE

PERSONAL DATA

Year at LSU: . . . Fourth
 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

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



BRADY

Wiederhold

#26 | Assistant Coach



Brady Wiederhold was promoted to pitching coach last summer after serving as the Tigers' administrative assistant in 2002. He replaces Dan Canevari, who is now the head coach at Southeastern Louisiana.

Wiederhold served as the LSU administrative assistant in 2002 after working 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, 32, 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 one-year-old son, Dalton.

THE WIEDERHOLD FILE

PERSONAL DATA

Year at LSU: ... Second
 Birthdate: ... November 21, 1970
 Hometown: ... Columbus, Ga.
 Wife: ... Aimee
 Child: ... Dalton
 Bachelors: ... Kennesaw (Ga.) State (1994)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

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



Brady, Aimee and Dalton Wiederhold



JODY
Autery

#20 | Assistant Coach

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

Autery, 28, coaches the LSU outfielders, and he serves as the Tigers' third-base coach. He also works as director of the Smoke Laval Baseball Camp.

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

COACHING EXPERIENCE

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



Jody and Beth Autery with triplets Faith, Beau and Gracie



TED
White

Administrative Assistant

Ted White, a former all-Southland Conference catcher/third baseman at Louisiana-Monroe, is in his first season on the LSU staff as administrative assistant. White, 23, 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: . . First
 Birthdate: . . . June 21, 1979
 Hometown: . . . Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Bachelors: . . . Louisiana-Monroe (2002)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2003- LSU (administrative asst.)

Support Staff



**SHAWN
Eddy**

Assistant Trainer

Shawn Eddy is in his seventh 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, 31, was married in July, 2002, to LSU softball assistant coach Ashlee Ducote, a former all-SEC player for the Tigers.



**WILL
Jones**

Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coordinator

Will Jones is in his first 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 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 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 second 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 second 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.



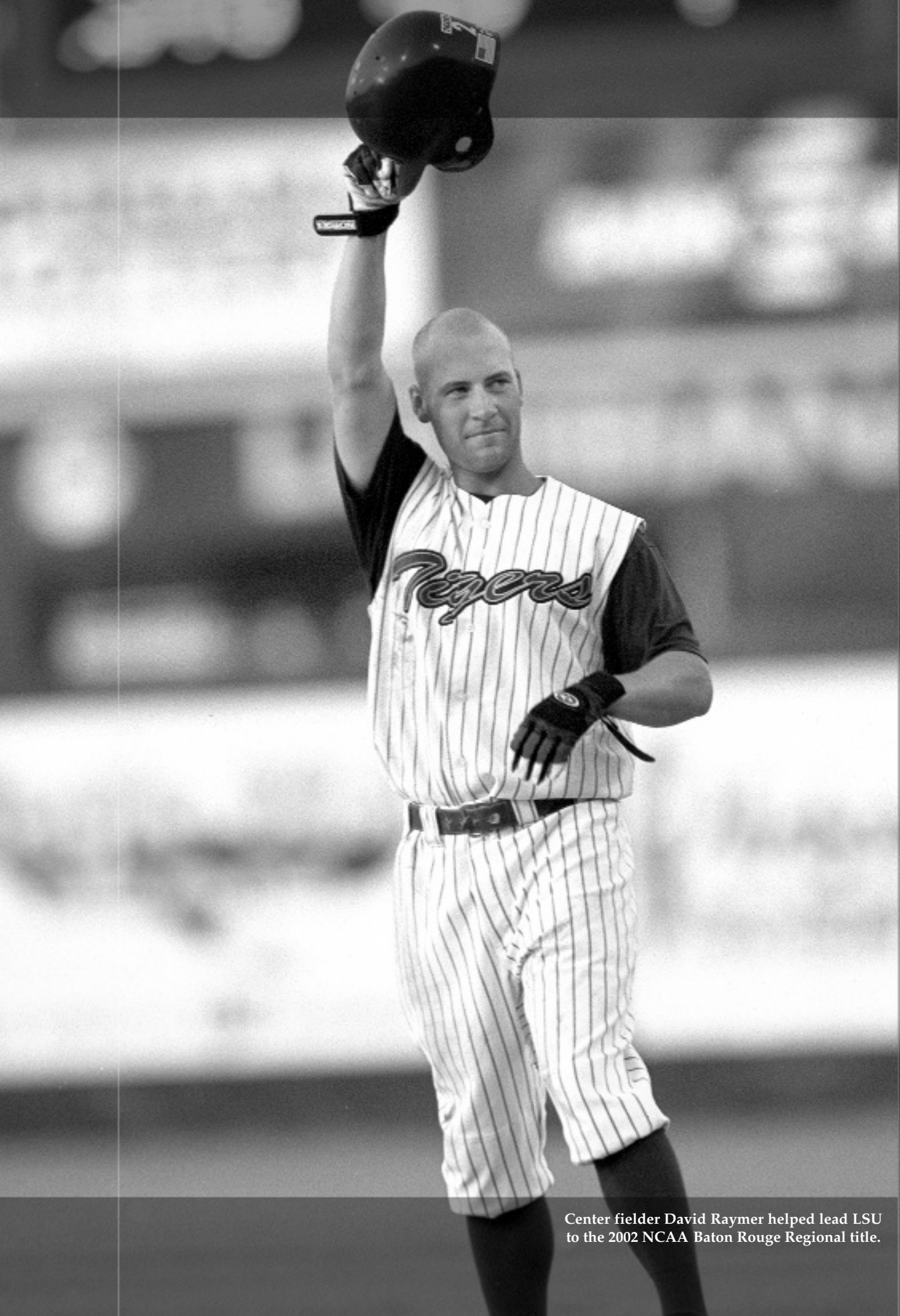
Bill Franques
Publicist/Stadium Announcer



Virginia Robertson
Secretary



Aaron Bachert
Student Trainer



Center fielder David Raymer helped lead LSU to the 2002 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional title.

2002 Season Notebook

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Final Record: 44-22

SEC Record: 19-10 (2nd in West Division, 4th overall)

SEC Tournament: 2-2 (tied for third)

NCAA Regional: 4-1 at Baton Rouge (champions)

NCAA Super Regional: 0-2 vs. Rice at Houston, Texas

General notes on the season:

For the second time in the last five years, LSU was the pitching king of the SEC. The Tigers finished the season with a 3.42 ERA, the Tigers' lowest mark since a 3.38 ERA in 1996. LSU lowered its ERA by 1.32 runs per game after posting a 4.74 mark in 2001.

The big reason behind the pitching success was the Tigers' starters. LSU posted 14 complete games, more than 10 of the 11 other teams in the SEC (Alabama had 11) and five shutouts after posting only two in 67 games in 2001. For the year, Tiger starting pitchers were 32-15 with a solid 3.19 ERA.

LSU also allowed the fewest extra base hits in the SEC, giving up just 145 (105 doubles, 7 triples, 33 home runs) in 589.2 innings. In 2001, the Tigers yielded 51 home runs and 170 extra base hits in 595.2 innings.

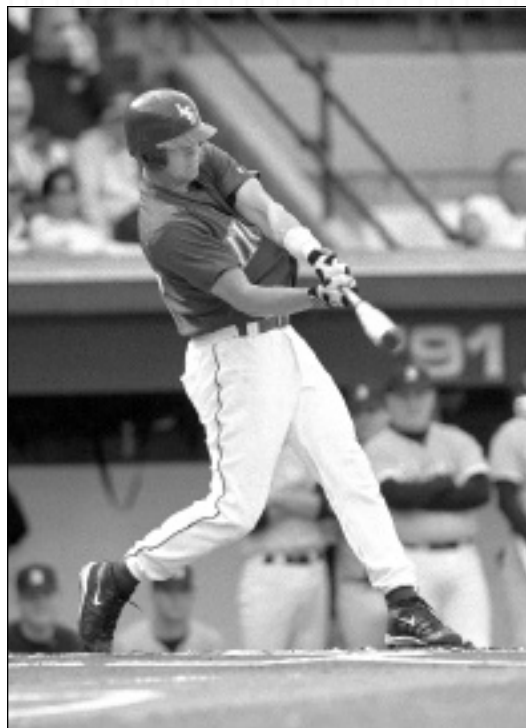
The turning point of the season came in a 15-4 loss to Mississippi State on March 29, which dropped LSU to 16-12. After that point, LSU went 28-10, batting 33 points higher (.316 to .283) and lowering its ERA by nearly a run and a half per game (2.81 to 4.22).

LSU can look back on a season

that saw it win 40 games for the 14th consecutive year, a streak that is only eclipsed by Florida State's 25-year string of 40-win seasons. No other team in the SEC has won 40 or more games in four consecutive seasons at any time, and the Tigers are the only SEC team to reach the NCAA Tournament in every year since 1996.

LSU was the only one of the 16 super regional participants from 2002 to have to go through the loser's bracket to win its regional. Ten of the 16 super regional participants went 3-0 to reach the round of 16, while five others won one of two games on the final day to advance.

LSU is the only team under the current format to win two regionals after going into the loser's bracket. The Tigers defeated East Carolina twice in the 1999 Baton Rouge regional after losing to the Pirates in the second game of the tournament.



Outfielder Sean Barker led the 2002 Tigers in batting average (.382), RBI (62) and stolen bases (24).

LSU is now 94-34 all-time in NCAA Tournament play, as its .734 winning percentage keeps it atop the heap in all-time win percentage in the post-season.

The Tigers' regional victory was their seventh in a row, the second longest active streak of regional victories behind Miami's nine in a row.

LSU coach Smoke Laval became the first rookie coach to lead his team to the super regional since the format began in 1999. Laval is also the second winningest coach among rookie mentors in the SEC, trailing only the 46-19 mark posted by Pat McMahon at Florida in 2002 (although McMahon coached for four years prior to that at Mississippi State).

The Tigers continued their legacy of excellence by winning 18 league games for the 14th time in the last 15 years, missing only with a 17-12 mark in 1995. LSU is also the only SEC team to have a winning record in the conference in every year since 1999, and the Tigers have had a winning record within the SEC West in 10 of the 11 years since the league returned to division play in 1992.

LSU was 2-6 in 2002 against College World Series teams, going 2-



The 2002 Tigers posted a 44-22 overall mark and advanced to the NCAA Super Regional round.

4 vs. South Carolina and 0-2 vs. Rice. None of those games were played in Baton Rouge, with three games against the Gamecocks coming in the SEC Tournament in Birmingham.

LSU played it close in 2002, as 20 of 66 games were decided by one run, with the Tigers going 12-8 in those contests. LSU played a total of 19 one-run games in 2000 (7) and 2001 (12) combined.

LSU set a single-season per-game attendance record at Alex Box Stadium, as 271,159 people went through the turnstiles for 36 home dates, an average of 7,532 per game, an NCAA record for per-game attendance.

LSU defeated Tulane, 9-5, on April 10 in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans before an NCAA-record crowd of 27,673 (paid). The actual attendance of 25,101 also broke the former NCAA attendance mark of 24,859, which was set for a 1999 College World Series session that featured games between Miami



LSU defeated Tulane on April 10 before an NCAA-record crowd of 27,673 in the Louisiana Superdome.

and Alabama and Rice and Oklahoma State.

A total of 18 different position players started at least one game for the Tigers in 2002, including 10 who did not wear an LSU uniform in 2001. Ten different pitchers started at least once, with four of those starting

only one game each. Five of the 10 starting pitchers had not seen action for LSU prior to 2002.

Five Tigers were selected in the 2002 major league draft: outfielder Sean Barker (sixth round, Colorado); pitcher Bo Pettit (13th round, Minnesota); pitcher Brad David (17th round, Atlanta); third baseman Wally Pontiff (21st round, Oakland); and pitcher Jake Tompkins (28th round, Texas).

Notes on Tiger position players:

Senior RF Sean Barker made the most of his chance to be a full-time starter, leading the Tigers in batting average (.382), RBI (62) and stolen bases (24). Barker never saw his season average fall below .333, and he had 13 games of three hits or more and 33 multi-

hit games for the season.

Barker finished the season with 102 hits, making him the eighth different LSU player and 11th Tiger overall to record 100 hits in a single season. The 102 hits are seventh most in a single season in LSU baseball history.

Barker finished his career with a .372 batting average (129-for-347), the second highest career average behind former three-time All-American Todd Walker, who batted .396 from 1992-94.

Barker was named the SEC Player of the Week on February 11 after going 9-for-15 in the Tigers' season opening series vs. Birmingham-Southern. He also batted .400 to earn all-tournament team honors at the Baton Rouge regional.

The biggest surprise of the season was senior catcher Chris Phillips, who was used sparingly as a junior after transferring from Northwestern State. Phillips rose from third string in the pre-season to win the starting job full-time in early March, keeping it by batting .344 on the season and driving in 44 runs.

Phillips was at his best when it counted most, batting a team high .378 in the post-season and hitting .455 on the year with runners in scoring position.

Junior 3B Wally Pontiff earned second team All-SEC honors and batted .339 on the season and led the Tigers with a .443 on-base percentage.

Pontiff completed his LSU career in seventh place in doubles (49),



Outfielder Matt Heath led LSU in homers with 10, and he was named to the SEC all-Tournament team.



The Tigers celebrated with the LSU fans after defeating Louisiana-Lafayette to win the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional in Alex Box Stadium.

ninth in career hits (253), and 10th in batting average (.344). Pontiff had hitting streaks of 19 and 12 games during the season.

The Tigers found a rising star in freshman 2B J.C. Holt, who finished second on the team with a .349 batting average and batted a team high .407 in the NCAA tournament.

Holt platooned much of the season at second but won the job full-time in mid-May, batting .411 over the second half of the season.



First-year head coach Smoke Laval became the first rookie coach to lead his team to an NCAA Super Regional.

Holt hit safely in the Tigers' last 16 regular season games, the second longest streak behind Pontiff's 19-game streak for LSU.

Matt Heath was LSU's team leader in home runs with 10. The senior left fielder, a converted catcher, was named to the all-tournament team at the SEC Tournament for batting .455, his second straight all-tourney team selection.

The 10 home runs were the fewest for an LSU team leader since Tim Schneider led the 1984 Tigers with 10 home runs. The last Tiger to lead the team with single-figure home runs was eight by Ken Mulshenock in 1982.

Notes on Tiger pitchers:

It was another sensational season for Lane Mestepey. Mestepey earned first team All-SEC honors for the second straight year, making him only the second player in LSU history, along with Todd Walker, to earn first team All-SEC honors as a freshman and a sophomore.

Mestepey also earned third team All-America honors from *Collegiate Baseball* for the second straight year.

Mestepey finished the year 11-5 with a 2.59 ERA, as he is the only LSU hurler to win 10 or more games as a freshman and a sophomore. The ERA figure is the lowest posted by an LSU starting pitcher since Eddie Yarnall's 2.38 ERA in 1996.

Mestepey also walked just 17 batters in 143.1 innings this year, or an

average of a meager 1.07 per nine innings. For his career, Mestepey has walked just 54 batters in 281.2 innings, or 1.73 per nine.

Mestepey also led the SEC with eight complete games and pitched two shutouts (April 26 vs. Arkansas, May 18 vs. Alabama), as he now has 12 complete games heading into his junior season.

Mestepey did his work without much support from the Tiger hitters. In the 18 games he started, LSU hit just .287 and scored 95 runs, an average of 5.3 per game. In the four starts Mestepey lost, LSU scored a grand total of three runs, including two shutouts.

Another major reason for LSU's success was junior RHP Jake Tompkins. The transfer from Sacramento City College started the year in the rotation, but his move to the bullpen sparked LSU to a 28-10 finish in the final two-plus months of the year.

Tompkins finished the year 7-1 with a 2.68 ERA in a team high 25 appearances, and out of the bullpen, he was 3-1 with four saves and a 2.50 ERA.

Tompkins proved to be best with the most pressure on the line, as he left 18 of 20 inherited runners stranded on base, and he gave up a .200 batting average with runners in scoring position and allowed just one hit in 13 bases-loaded situations.

Tompkins, who was a second team All-SEC choice and the Most Outstanding Player of the Baton Rouge regional, also proved he could start when needed, as he gave up no earned runs in 6.1 innings on June 2 to keep LSU alive against UL-Lafayette in the regional.

Junior RHP Bo Pettit missed his turn to start in the super regional when a blister prevented him from taking the mound in Game 2, but it was a spectacular season for the Houston native. The fourth-year junior went a career best 9-7 with a solid 3.35 ERA for the year, and he was 7-3 with a 2.64 ERA from April 2 until the end of the year.

Pettit led the Tigers with 121 strikeouts in exactly 121 innings, and he struck out 10 or more batters four times in a game, setting a career high of 12 on February 15 vs. Mercer, then

tying it in a four-hit shutout of Vanderbilt on March 15.

Pettit's best week came mid-April, when he beat Tulane and Georgia in a span of five days to earn SEC Pitcher of the Week honors.

For sophomore RHP Brian Wilson, it was a tale of two seasons. As a reliever, Wilson struggled, as he blew late inning leads to Houston, Vanderbilt and Ole Miss, posting just a 4-2 record with a 4.01 ERA. Once moved to the starting rotation on April 13, though, Wilson became a different pitcher, going 6-3 with a 3.37 ERA and two complete games to finish at 10-5 with a 3.54 ERA on the year.

Wilson's pitched a three-hit shutout on April 27 against Arkansas, but saved his best for when LSU needed it the most, pitching a complete game in the regional championship game vs. UL-Lafayette. In that game, Wilson threw 126 pitches just 48 hours after throwing 87 pitches in the regional opener vs. Southern.

Wilson combined with Mestepey to give LSU two 10-game winners for the first time since Patrick Coogan (14-3) and Doug Thompson (12-3) did so in 1997.

The Tigers found a future star in true freshman Clay Harris. Harris, a righthander, went 3-0 with a 4.15 ERA in 16 outings (5 starts), walking just five batters in 47.2 innings while allowing none of the nine inherited runners he had to score.

Notes on the super regional:

Despite the super regional loss to Rice, LSU maintained its streak of being one of only six teams to make every super regional since the round was instituted in 1999. The other five schools to reach every super regional are Clemson, Florida State, Miami, USC and Stanford.

For the third time since the current NCAA tournament format was instituted, LSU's season ended in a super regional away from Baton Rouge. Rice swept the Tigers to advance to the College World Series, dropping the Tigers to 1-6 all-time in super regional road games. In those seven road games, LSU has been outscored 54-20, with the only win being a 4-3, 13-inning victory over Tulane in game one of the 2001 series at Zephyr Field.

LSU's only super regional win remains its 2000 sweep of UCLA in Baton Rouge. The Tigers were swept at Alabama in 1999 and lost in three games to Tulane last year at Zephyr Field.

The consecutive shutouts suffered by the Tigers at Rice were the first since dropping 3-0 and 8-0 decisions to Ole Miss to close the 1982 season. Counting the regional loss to UL-Lafayette, LSU was shut out three times in six games for the first time since 1971. LSU suffered five shutouts in 2002, the most since being blanked six times in 1978.

The three hits by LSU against Rice's Stephen Herce in Game 1 were a season low for the Tigers,



Lane Mestepey earned first-team all-SEC honors of the second straight year, posting an 11-5 mark and a 2.59 ERA.

tying the three they recorded against Auburn on May 22 at the SEC Tournament. LSU has not been held to fewer than three hits since March 25, 2001, when Mississippi State limited the Tigers to a single hit.

The 10 strikeouts by Herce not only set his career high, but also were the most by any single pitcher against LSU in 2002, tying the 10 by Jeffrey Terrell of Tennessee in the second game of a May 4 doubleheader in Knoxville.

Five of Rice's six runs in game one were unearned, as LSU allowed 85 unearned runs during the year, six shy of the school record of 91 set in 1994.

The six runs scored by Rice in the third inning of game one tied the most scored by an opponent in a single inning against LSU in 2002. Ole Miss scored six in the eighth inning on March 24, while Auburn put up six in the sixth inning on April 6. The last time LSU gave up more than six runs in an inning was a nine-run ninth inning by Ole Miss on April 14, 2001.



The Tigers led the NCAA in attendance for the seventh consecutive season, drawing 271,159 fans to Alex Box Stadium.

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Date	Opposing team	Score	r-h-e	r-h-e	Inns	Overall	SEC	LSU Pitcher	Attend	Time
Feb. 8	BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN	W 10-9	10-12-3	9-8-2	9	1-0-0	0-0-0	Wilson (W 1-0)	7223	3:16
Feb. 9	BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN	W 6-5	6-10-4	5-11-3	(13)	2-0-0	0-0-0	Determann (W 1-0)	7168	4:23
Feb. 10	BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN	W 11-7	11-9-0	7-9-5	9	3-0-0	0-0-0	Tompkins (W 1-0)	7047	3:13
Feb. 12	SOUTHEASTERN LA.	3-4 L	3-7-3	4-8-2	9	3-1-0	0-0-0	David (L 0-1)	7624	2:48
Feb. 15	MERCER	W 7-4	7-8-1	4-10-4	9	4-1-0	0-0-0	Pettit (W 1-0)	7200	2:53
Feb. 16	MERCER	W 9-6	9-9-2	6-12-1	9	5-1-0	0-0-0	Harris (W 1-0)	7547	2:56
Feb. 17	MERCER	W 17-1	17-15-0	1-4-3	9	6-1-0	0-0-0	Tompkins (W 2-0)	7562	2:30
Feb. 20	at Centenary	W 7-6	7-10-2	6-8-1	9	7-1-0	0-0-0	Wilson (W 2-0)	3559	2:58
Feb. 22	at Houston	3-11 L	3-8-4	11-18-0	9	7-2-0	0-0-0	Pettit (L 1-1)	3335	3:22
Feb. 23	at Houston	W 8-4	8-16-1	4-11-3	9	8-2-0	0-0-0	Mestepey (W 1-0)	4098	2:53
Feb. 24	at Houston	11-12L	11-14-7	12-17-2	9	8-3-0	0-0-0	Wilson (L 2-1)	3788	3:21
Mar. 2	LONG BEACH ST.	3-8 L	3-8-2	8-12-1	9	8-4-0	0-0-0	Pettit (L 1-2)	7218	3:02
Mar. 2	LONG BEACH ST.	W 10-2	10-13-2	2-6-6	9	9-4-0	0-0-0	Mestepey (W 2-0)	7037	2:37
Mar. 3	LONG BEACH ST.	W 5-4	5-6-2	4-14-0	(11)	10-4-0	0-0-0	Wilson (W 3-1)	7019	3:26
Mar. 5	TULANE	5-6 L	5-12-3	6-13-0	9	10-5-0	0-0-0	Guidroz (L 0-1)	7854	2:53
Mar. 8	LOUISIANA-MONROE	W 4-3	4-8-0	3-8-1	9	11-5-0	0-0-0	David (W 1-1)	7529	2:50
Mar. 9	LOUISIANA-MONROE	W 7-1	7-15-0	1-7-1	9	12-5-0	0-0-0	Mestepey (W 3-0)	7414	2:12
Mar. 10	LOUISIANA-MONROE	W 8-7	8-11-2	7-14-4	9	13-5-0	0-0-0	David (W 2-1)	7288	3:09
Mar. 12	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	1-2 L	1-7-1	2-5-1	9	13-6-0	0-0-0	Mestepey (L 3-1)	7704	2:18
*Mar. 15	VANDERBILT	W 6-0	6-9-0	0-4-0	9	14-6-0	1-0-0	Pettit (W 2-2)	7375	2
*Mar. 16	VANDERBILT	2-9 L	2-6-1	9-14-1	9	14-7-0	1-1-0	Mestepey (L 3-2)	7341	2:36
*Mar. 17	VANDERBILT	7-8 L	7-8-4	8-9-0	9	14-8-0	1-2-0	Wilson (L 3-2)	7151	3:13
Mar. 19	at Louisiana-Lafayette	0-7 L	0-7-2	7-10-0	9	14-9-0	1-2-0	Vargas (L 0-1)	3476	2:
*Mar. 22	at Ole Miss	3-9 L	3-8-3	9-11-2	9	14-10-0	1-3-0	Pettit (L 2-3)	3071	2:57
*Mar. 23	at Ole Miss	W 6-5	6-12-1	5-10-1	9	15-10-0	2-3-0	Mestepey (W 4-2)	4195	3:09
*Mar. 24	at Ole Miss	7-10 L	7-8-2	10-11-4	9	15-11-0	2-4-0	Guidry (L 0-1)	3872	3:22
Mar. 26	at Southeastern La.	W 9-7	9-10-2	7-11-1	9	16-11-0	2-4-0	Vargas (W 1-1)	3334	2:50
*Mar. 29	MISSISSIPPI STATE	4-15 L	4-11-3	15-19-1	9	16-12-0	2-5-0	Pettit (L 2-4)	7726	3:02
*Mar. 30	MISSISSIPPI STATE	W 7-3	7-12-0	3-10-2	9	17-12-0	3-5-0	Mestepey (W 5-2)	7575	2:40
Apr. 2	NEW ORLEANS	W 8-1	8-11-1	1-5-0	9	18-12-0	3-5-0	Pettit (W 3-4)	7288	2:46
*Apr. 5	at Auburn	W 9-4	9-14-2	4-11-0	9	19-12-0	4-5-0	Mestepey (W 6-2)	4491	2:47
*Apr. 6	at Auburn	3-11 L	3-10-2	11-13-0	9	19-13-0	4-6-0	Pettit (L 3-5)	4715	2:56
*Apr. 7	at Auburn	W 9-5	9-15-0	5-13-1	9	20-13-0	5-6-0	Wilson (W 4-2)	4014	2:49
\$Apr. 10	vs Tulane	W 9-5	9-14-1	5-8-2	9	21-13-0	5-6-0	Pettit (W 4-5)	27673	2:49
*Apr. 12	GEORGIA	W 8-2	8-11-1	2-9-1	9	22-13-0	6-6-0	Mestepey (W 7-2)	7667	2:2
*Apr. 13	GEORGIA	W 14-4	14-16-3	4-10-1	9	23-13-0	7-6-0	Wilson (W 5-2)	7767	2:45
*Apr. 14	GEORGIA	W 13-4	13-14-1	4-7-2	9	24-13-0	8-6-0	Pettit (W 5-5)	7666	2:41
Apr. 16	SOUTHERN	W 13-2	13-9-1	2-5-2	9	25-13-0	8-6-0	Harris (W 2-0)	7613	2:35
*Apr. 19	at South Carolina	W 9-8	9-12-3	8-15-1	9	26-13-0	9-6-0	Mestepey (W 8-2)	4319	2:41
*Apr. 20	at South Carolina	2-4 L	2-6-2	4-10-0	9	26-14-0	9-7-0	Wilson (L 5-3)	4207	2:17
*Apr. 21	at South Carolina	3-4 L	3-9-1	4-7-1	9	26-15-0	9-8-0	Pettit (L 5-6)	4326	2:24
Apr. 23	at Louisiana-Monroe	W 10-3	10-16-0	3-9-1	9	27-15-0	9-8-0	Harris (W 3-0)	4401	2:53
*Apr. 26	ARKANSAS	W 3-0	3-7-1	0-4-1	9	28-15-0	10-8-0	Mestepey (W 9-2)	7711	1:51
*Apr. 27	ARKANSAS	W 8-0	8-10-0	0-3-2	9	29-15-0	11-8-0	Wilson (W 6-3)	8510	2:20
*Apr. 28	ARKANSAS	W 13-5	13-19-1	5-13-1	9	30-15-0	12-8-0	Tompkins (W 3-0)	7608	3:10
Apr. 30	at New Orleans	W 13-0	13-15-0	0-6-0	9	31-15-0	12-8-0	Tompkins (W 4-0)	4864	3:11
*May 4	at Tennessee	1-2 L	1-5-1	2-4-1	9	31-16-0	12-9-0	Mestepey (L 9-3)	1402	2:02
*May 4	at Tennessee	W 16-4	16-24-1	4-7-2	9	32-16-0	13-9-0	Wilson (W 7-3)	986	3:01
*May 5	at Tennessee	W 6-2	6-15-1	2-7-1	9	33-16-0	14-9-0	Pettit (W 6-6)	1570	2:36
*May 10	at Florida	W 5-4	5-13-3	4-9-4	(10)	34-16-0	15-9-0	Tompkins (W 5-0)	3470	2:56
*May 11	at Florida	3-6 L	3-5-0	6-11-1	9	34-17-0	15-10-0	Wilson (L 7-4)	3486	2:37
*May 12	at Florida	W 8-5	8-13-1	5-7-2	9	35-17-0	16-10-0	Pettit (W 7-6)	2233	3:08
*May 18	ALABAMA	W 3-0	3-8-1	0-5-1	9	36-17-0	17-10-0	Mestepey (W 10-3)	8210	1:57
*May 18	ALABAMA	W 6-5	6-6-3	5-11-0	9	37-17-0	18-10-0	Wilson (W 8-4)	7841	2:46
*May 19	ALABAMA	W 5-1	5-12-0	1-5-1	9	38-17-0	19-10-0	Pettit (W 8-6)	8440	2:35
#May 22	vs Auburn	W 2-1	2-3-2	1-6-0	9	39-17-0	19-10-0	Mestepey (W 11-3)	8501	1:49
#May 23	vs South Carolina	W 8-3	8-11-0	3-12-1	9	40-17-0	19-10-0	Wilson (W 9-4)	10263	2:40
#May 25	vs South Carolina	8-10 L	8-13-2	10-11-1	9	40-18-0	19-10-0	Tompkins (L 5-1)	4688	3:07
#May 25	vs South Carolina	4-5 L	4-9-2	5-8-1	9	40-19-0	19-10-0	Pettit (L 8-7)	8610	2:38
%May 31	SOUTHERN	W 5-4	5-15-0	4-13-1	9	41-19-0	19-10-0	Tompkins (W 6-1)	7407	2:53
%June 1	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	0-5 L	0-7-2	5-9-0	9	41-20-0	19-10-0	Mestepey (L 11-4)	7503	2:18
%June 1	TULANE	W 4-2	4-11-1	2-7-0	9	42-20-0	19-10-0	Pettit (W 9-7)	7248	2:31
%June 2	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	W 12-2	12-13-0	2-9-0	9	43-20-0	19-10-0	Tompkins (W 7-1)	7500	3:08
%June 2	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	W 12-2	12-17-1	2-8-2	9	44-20-0	19-10-0	Wilson (W 10-4)	7578	2:43
&June 7	at Rice	0-6 L	0-3-2	6-9-0	9	44-21-0	19-10-0	Mestepey (L 11-5)	4615	2:02
&June 8	at Rice	0-3 L	0-5-0	3-11-1	9	44-22-0	19-10-0	Wilson (L 10-5)	4615	2:24

* = SEC Game
 \$ = Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
 # = SEC Tournament, Birmingham
 % = NCAA Regional, Baton Rouge
 & = NCAA Super Regional, Houston
 () extra inning game

2002 Final Statistics in SEC Games

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BATTING

Player	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT
36 Sean Barker	.381	29-29	118	20	45	8	0	3	25	62	.525	7	2	16	2	.415	3	0	7-9
1 J.C. Holt	.381	22-18	84	22	32	3	4	2	12	49	.583	5	1	12	0	.422	0	0	4-5
5 Aaron Hill	.373	29-29	118	27	44	10	2	5	21	73	.619	9	4	11	4	.425	3	1	5-6
6 Matt Heath	.333	29-28	99	26	33	6	2	6	26	61	.616	18	0	23	1	.432	1	2	5-6
3 Blake Gill	.333	21-16	66	9	22	5	1	1	18	32	.485	7	0	7	3	.397	0	0	0-0
8 Chris Phillips	.320	28-28	100	15	32	3	0	4	21	47	.470	4	0	9	5	.336	3	1	0-0
31 Wally Pontiff	.308	29-29	107	19	33	10	0	2	18	49	.458	20	1	6	4	.412	3	1	3-5
2 David Kaymer	.268	27-19	71	17	19	3	0	1	9	25	.352	8	6	12	0	.384	1	2	2-4
---Fewer than 60 at-bats---																			
4 Rocky Scelfo	.306	19-11	49	10	15	1	0	2	3	22	.449	3	1	8	2	.358	0	0	0-0
16 Jon Zeringue	.293	14-13	41	2	12	3	0	1	4	18	.439	0	0	10	0	.293	0	0	0-0
47 Eric Wiethorn	.262	15-11	42	7	11	4	0	2	5	21	.500	3	0	6	0	.311	0	0	0-0
7 Dustin Hahn	.244	17-11	45	8	11	3	1	1	6	19	.422	4	0	12	0	.306	0	0	0-0
39 Jason Columbus	.143	11-9	28	4	4	2	0	1	7	9	.321	2	1	9	0	.226	0	0	0-0
21 Clay Harris	.135	12-8	37	3	5	1	0	0	1	6	.162	1	1	14	2	.179	0	0	0-0
14 Darren Welch	.000	10-1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	2	0	1	1	.182	0	0	0-0
25 Jason Vargas	.000	2-1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000	2	0	0	1	.400	1	0	0-0
9 Dustin Weaver	.000	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0
32 Rhett Buteau	.000	3-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0
Totals	.313	29-29	1016	189	318	62	10	31	177	493	.485	95	17	156	25	.376	15	7	26-35
Opponents	.273	29-29	986	139	269	42	3	16	124	365	.370	107	16	193	30	.350	11	17	22-30

LOB - Team (208),Opp (234).DPs turned - Team (35),Opp (30).CI - Team (1),Phillips 1.IBB - Team (4),Heath 2, Pontiff 1, Gill 1,Opp (1).Picked off - Gill 1,Holt 1,Hill,A.1,Heath 1.

PITCHING

Player	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SH/CB	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	BAA	WP	HBP	BK	SFA	SHA
46 Lane Mestepey	2.63	7-2	10	10	5	2/0	0	78.2	81	30	23	12	36	11	0	6	303	.267	0	5	0	3	4
12 Jake Tompkins	3.41	2-0	13	2	0	0/0	4	37.0	33	19	14	24	37	3	1	3	131	.252	3	1	1	2	4
34 Bo Pettit	3.48	5-4	10	10	2	1/0	0	62.0	57	32	24	40	57	8	0	2	236	.242	2	2	0	1	4
38 Brian Wilson	4.01	5-3	10	6	1	1/0	0	51.2	56	28	23	19	47	12	1	4	204	.275	2	2	4	0	2
----Fewer than 30 innings pitched---																							
30 Brad David	1.59	0-0	5	0	0	0/0	0	5.2	5	4	1	2	3	3	0	0	20	.250	1	2	0	0	1
25 Jason Vargas	4.50	0-0	7	1	0	0/0	0	6.0	12	4	3	2	4	1	0	0	31	.387	2	0	1	0	1
10 Lukas Guidroz	8.44	0-0	4	0	0	0/0	0	5.1	8	5	5	3	4	0	0	0	23	.348	0	2	0	1	0
21 Clay Harris	13.50	0-0	2	0	0	0/0	0	3.1	6	5	5	2	1	0	0	1	14	.429	0	0	0	1	1
44 Weylin Guidry	14.40	0-1	4	0	0	0/0	0	5.0	8	9	8	3	3	3	1	0	20	.400	1	2	0	3	0
28 David Shank	54.00	0-0	1	0	0	0/0	0	0.1	3	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	4	.750	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	3.67	19-10	29	29	8	4/0	4	255.0	269	139	104	107	193	42	3	16	986	.273	11	16	6	11	17
Opponents	6.24	10-19	29	29	4	0/0	7	251.0	318	189	174	95	156	62	10	31	1016	.313	19	17	7	15	7

PB - Team (4),Phillips 4,Opp (6).Pickoffs - Team (3),Phillips 2, Welch 1,Opp (4).SBA/ATT - Phillips (19-24), Pettit (11-13),Mestepey (4-7), Wilson (2-4), Tompkins (1-2),Guidroz (2-2), Welch (2-2),Harris (2-2).



Jake Tompkins



Aaron Hill

