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THE BIBLE OF LSU

JULY 2025

VOLUME

TIGER

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

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COVER 2, PAGE 3

Tiger of the Month

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LSU pitcher **Kade Anderson** was 2-0 with an 0.56 ERA and 17 strikeouts in 16 innings at the CWS. Photo by Jonathan Mailhes

KADE ANDERSON: CWS MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER AND MORE

After 61 days and 26 straight wins, Coastal Carolina's streak ended in Game 1 of the Men's College World Series finals. LSU's Kade Anderson, 20, threw a 1-0 complete-game shutout, only his second in college and the third in 22 years of MCWS finals. Anderson struck out 10, walked five, hit two batters, and kept Coastal off the board despite their 0-for-9 with runners in scoring position. LSU scored its lone run in the first inning, maintaining a 4-0 record in Omaha and a seven-game postseason unbeaten streak.

"Even with his struggles, he said, 'Don't worry, I got this,'" shared LSU coach Jay Johnson, expecting Anderson to be an early MLB draft pick. Anderson, who dreamed of this moment, reminded all that one win doesn't clinch a title.

LSU turned to Anthony Eyanson and Chase Shores to beat Coastal Carolina, 5-3, in Game 2 of the CWS Finals and win its 8th National Title.

Anderson said afterward LSU "will probably win its ninth one next year." But Anderson will be watching that one, probably from some city in the MLB. 

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ON THE COVER:

"Act like you've been there before," they say. And that's how LSU coach Jay Johnson appears on the cover, because he has. Johnson won his second national championship with his Tigers in three years. And there promises to be more to come.

Photo by:
Jonathan Mailhes



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Photo from the Empire State Building LiveCam
June 23, 2025



GLENN GUILBEAU
Tiger Rag Editor

As soon as the man with the five rings walked into the LSU coaches locker room unannounced, Jay Johnson knew the odds were with him as far as not having to play the “if necessary” game against Coastal Carolina in the national championship series.

That’s how he felt Sunday before his Tigers beat Coastal, 5-3, to win his second LSU national championship in three years.

“He came into the coaches’ locker room today,” Johnson said on June 22. “I knew he was coming, but it still caught me off guard for a second. And I was like, ‘Oh, we’re winning today. The man with the magic is in the house.’”

That man is 87-year-old Skip Bertman, who rallies back from health issues and hip replacements the way his LSU teams and Johnson’s do in ninth innings. The baseball coach who won LSU’s first five national championships from 1991-2000 wanted to bless this coach - and his team - on his to his second.

“Then he started talking about like what we were going to do for the celebration,” Johnson said.

Remember, Bertman did make his first Miami Beach High state championship team in the 1960s practice carrying him off the field before they won it all.

“You have to see it,” he always said.

“I was like, ‘Coach, this is a that hadn’t lost in two months (until playing LSU) that we have to figure out how to beat,’” Johnson said he told Bertman. “But he’s the best, and I think it’s so awesome that he’s here, and that he got to share in this championship game.”

Bertman arrived on game day. No need for preliminaries. He just came for the title and brought his 5-0 record in national championship games with him.

“I knew there wasn’t going to be the if-necessary game,” he said on the field during the national championship celebration.

Johnson has been mentioning Bertman in press conferences at least once a week since he took the job, so it was about time Bertman show in person just before the next title.

JAY JOHNSON KNEW HE HAD A GREAT CHANCE OF WINNING GAME 2 AS SOON AS ELVIS ENTERED THE BUILDING

That’s eight, for those scoring at home, with Bertman hire Paul Mainieri winning one in 2009 and now two for Bertman’s Grasshopper Johnson, who calls Bertman mentor.

“Literally, the best part of me being the LSU coach has been the relationship I have with Coach Bertman,” Johnson said. “I would say the two national championships are tied for first with that, and I think he’d be okay with that.”

Also in the coaching locker room enjoying Bertman’s surprise visit on Championship Sunday was LSU pitching coach Nate Yeskie, who is considered the best pitching coach in college baseball today, or close to it. He is another Grasshopper to the Master Bertman. (For young readers, these are references to the “Kung Fu” television show in the 1970s.)

Before Bertman became Omaha’s Mr. Magic with cinematic walk-offs that won national championships in 1996 (Warren Morris homer) and 2000 (Brad Cresse single), he was THE pitching coach of college baseball at Miami and remained pitching coach as LSU’s head coach.

So, how can Johnson lose? He has the real Bertman as mentor and the young Bertman – Miami version – as pitching coach.

Glenn Guilbeau is the editor of Tiger Rag and a columnist. A member of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, he previously was a national columnist at OutKick.com/FOX News and covered LSU for Gannett and the Baton Rouge Advocate. Reach him at glenn@tigerrag.com.



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MAILBAG

NOT EVERYONE HAPPY WITH MARDI GRAS MIKE THE TIGER FLOAT STALKING OMAHA

A 13.5-foot high, 31-foot long monster tiger float called “Mardi Gras Mike,” built by float specialists Kern Studios in New Orleans, traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to the College World Series with the LSU Nation last month.

It was all over town, circling Charles Schwab Field and stalking the LSU team at practices and games with LSU’s fight song blaring to cheers.

But not everyone was pleased.

“As a native of Baton Rouge and a two-time graduate of LSU, I deeply resent your brazen purloining of the LSU mascot and re-naming it ‘Mardi Gras Mike’ to promote

your business,” wrote Bill Huey to Kern Studios CEO Barry Kern on as the Tigers and Tiger arrived in Omaha.

“I see you are a graduate of Tulane,” Huey said to Kern. “Figures. No respect for the brand or traditions of LSU. Mike the Tiger has nothing to do with Mardi Gras. I will ask the LSU Athletic Department to make inquiries into this brand infringement and take decisive action so that this monstrosity never makes another appearance at an LSU event. Did you sanction this promotion? Does it not infringe on the LSU brand?”

Bill Huey
LSU Graduate, 1969 and ‘73

EDITOR’S NOTE: No animals were harmed in the writing of this. And, while there is a reference to a “Mike” on that float, that’s not necessarily referring to “Mike the Tiger.” And there is no reference to LSU on the float.

As LSU athletic department communications director Zach Greenwell told Tiger Rag, Kern Studios was in communication with LSU Sports Properties and did not need permission for the float “as it didn’t utilize any protected marks or logos.”



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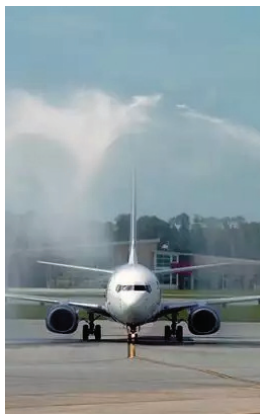
Dick Vitale
@DickyV

Winning a national championship is ALWAYS special—congrats @LSUbaseball as the Tigers have now won 2 of the last 3 @NCAABaseball titles

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#LSU Baseball plane receives Water Cannon Salute before departing Omaha's airport



Jay Johnson
@LSUcoachJ

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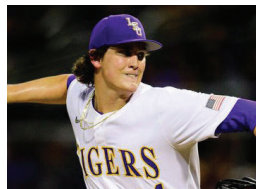
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LSU coach Jay Johnson walks outside Charles Schwab Field as fans cheer him on.
Photo by: Jonathan Mailhes



JAY JOHNSON HAS REBOOTED LSU DYNASTY

By TODD HORNE, Tiger Rag Executive Editor / Vice President

There was never a guarantee Jay Johnson would do it again.

Not in this era. Not with the volatility of the transfer portal, the arms race of NIL, and the pressure of following a national championship at LSU.

But there was always a feeling. A quiet understanding inside the clubhouse, across the SEC, and around the country that Johnson was building something sturdi-

er than hype, like his mentor and “best friend,” LSU’s legendary Skip Bertman.

CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

On a hot Omaha Sunday afternoon on June 22, that belief became fact. LSU beat Coastal Carolina 5-3 to win the 2025 national championship, the second of Johnson’s four-year LSU tenure and the one that removes all doubt.

He is no longer chasing history. He is part of it.

Johnson became just the sixth head coach in the Super Regional Era to win multiple national titles, joining a pantheon that includes:

- Jim Morris
- Augie Garrido
- Pat Casey
- Ray Tanner
- Tim Corbin

He is the only coach in the transfer portal era (since 2018) to win more than one. And he did it at a program with expectations so high that anything short of greatness can feel like failure.

A DIFFERENT TITLE

That, more than anything, is what made this title different. It wasn't a breakthrough. It was a confirmation.

"Something that I learned early on was to study the people that are the best at what they do," Johnson said before the championship series.

He studied them. Now he sits among them.

TEAM RESILIENCE

This LSU team didn't run from the pressure of 2023. It bore it, rebuilt from it, and made a second act out of what would have been a full reset if Johnson were a typical head coach and LSU were a typical program.

Paul Skenes and Dylan Crews left as national champions and the top two picks in that year's draft. What followed could have been a valley—the typical post-title rebuild, at least a few years to exhale.

Instead, LSU reloaded with intention. It sprinted forward at full speed.

The Tigers found their next ace in Kade Anderson, a lefthander whose complete-game shutout in Game 1 of the finals—130 pitches, 10 strikeouts, and just three hits allowed—etched his name into Omaha lore and quite possibly into the first pick of the MLB draft, just like Skenes.

They developed cornerstone stars:

- Derek Curiel
- Casan Evans

Both are still freshmen, tracking as first-round talents in 2026 and 2027, respectively. They leaned into the maturity and emotional steadiness of veterans like Jared Jones, whose fingerprints were on every turning point in the postseason—even if they didn't always show up in the box score.

This wasn't just a team that could win. It was one that knew how and was always determined to do so.

JOHNSON'S COACHING STYLE

That, more than anything, has become Johnson's fingerprint. His teams do not flinch. They do not fracture. They play with tempo and discipline, toughness, and belief. He described his ideal group as something between a Navy SEAL team and casual ping-pong players—tight enough to execute, loose enough to breathe.

This team was that and more.

LSU did not overpower the tournament; it overwhelmed it with intentionality. Every game felt like a move they'd rehearsed, a story they already knew the ending to. That is the product of repetition, culture, and coaching. [cont. next page](#)

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LSU won its eighth national championship since 1991 this season - the most of any program over that span.
Photo by: Jonathan Mailhes



In four years, Johnson has won two national championships and coached two players who could go first overall in the MLB Draft. He has turned LSU into the developmental hub of college baseball—not just in tools, but in toughness. He's built teams through every imaginable means:

- Transfers
- High school recruiting
- Junior college players
- Internal development

The method changes. The identity doesn't.

And that's what separates him. Not just that he wins. But that he adapts and sustains.

THE PURSUIT OF GREATNESS

There are louder coaches in the game. Flashier recruiters. More boisterous personalities. But no one in college baseball right now is more complete than Johnson. No one has proven they can match excellence with endurance in quite the same way.

He has become the coach others are trying to copy—and often failing to.

"Jay Johnson is the best coach in our sport," one active Division I head coach told Baseball America before the start of the national championship series. "Period."

That's the thing about greatness. It isn't just measured by results. It's defined by replication.

Every coach in the country is chasing the formula Johnson seems to live inside

of. They study his roster construction, his staff hires, his pitching model, and his recruiting tactics. They emulate. They tweak. But none have recreated the machine he's now built.

LSU's sweep in this CWS Finals gave the program its eighth national championship and moved Johnson into the rarest air a college coach can breathe. This was not a one-off. Not a lucky run. It was the continuation of a dynasty rebooted and programmed by design.

It will not stop here.

Anderson will be gone. Jones too. Others will follow the path to professional baseball. But the Tigers won't vanish. Not under Johnson. Not with Curiel and Evans waiting in the wings. Not with a coach who has now shown, multiple times, that winning it all is not the ceiling—it's his baseline.

Jay Johnson studied greatness.

Then he reached it.

And now he bears it.

THROUGH THE EYES OF NATE YESKIE

Coach Nate Yeskie felt proud when LSU's pitching staff finished the season with the most strikeouts in the nation for the second year in a row. They showed incredible power on college baseball's biggest stage.

Yeskie said each trip to Omaha feels unique, like having multiple kids in your family. This season's group battled adversity and rose to every challenge.

Sophomore left-hander Kade Anderson's development from a freshman was remarkable. A year ago, his ERA was over 25. All this season, he was LSU's ace. Yeskie credits physical maturity, mental focus, and aggressive coaching adjustments.

In the College World Series finals, Anderson matched a feat achieved only once before in LSU CWS Finals history - a complete-game shutout. Yeskie was confident in his ace's abilities.

The Game 2 CWS Finals clincher arrived in dramatic fashion, with Yeskie hoping for a double-play to wrap it up but also aware that he didn't want the season to end. When the 4-6-3 double-play manifested to clinch LSU's eighth national title, Yeskie said he grabbed Bill Franques in a bear hug to celebrate.

Yeskie admitted the moment was bittersweet, missing his father who had passed away earlier this year. But he found comfort in sharing this year's Omaha experience with his wife and daughter.

LSU's pitching staff never wavered, using just three hurlers through the weekend. Yeskie credited the fan base for lifting the team.

As for the moment he sensed the team's special chemistry, Yeskie pointed to an early highlight: Bear's home run against Tennessee.

Now, with a new recruiting cycle under way, Yeskie has little time to rest. But for one day in Omaha, the coach and his pitchers stood atop college baseball together.



Photo by: Jonathan Mailhes

OKAY, SO NOW IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON

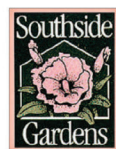
With The Greatest Show On Dirt completed, The Southeastern Conference (SEC) is ready to show off its top programs in the 2025 college football season. After the Big Ten won the last two national titles, the SEC wants to reclaim its crown.

Here's how Athlon's predicts SEC teams will stand when the dust settles in December:

1. **Texas Longhorns** - Texas is set for a breakout season under head coach Steve Sarkisian, with Arch Manning leading the team, Athlon's says.
2. **Georgia Bulldogs** - Georgia remains a top contender for the College Football Playoff, despite predictions of a loss in the SEC Championship.
3. **LSU Tigers** - LSU should make the playoff with a strong season, silencing doubts about head coach Brian Kelly. (Remember, though, BK's taking receipts for the national championship game.)
4. **Alabama Crimson Tide** - New head coach Kalen DeBoer aims to restore glory after a 9-4 finish last year.
5. **Florida Gators** - DJ Lagway leads Florida's hopes to rise in the SEC rankings.
6. **South Carolina Gamecocks** - The Gamecocks aim to build on last season's strong finish.
7. **Ole Miss Rebels** - Ole Miss enters the fall with optimism despite losing a record-setting quarterback.
8. **Texas A&M Aggies** - Quarterback Marcel Reed may be on the verge of a breakout year.
9. **Oklahoma Sooners** - Oklahoma ended with a disappointing 2-6 record against conference foes and hopes to improve.
10. **Tennessee Volunteers** - Who leads Tennessee this season, bringing high hopes?
11. **Auburn Tigers** - Auburn brought in a new quarterback and faces a tough schedule.
12. **Missouri Tigers** - Missouri may decline in 2025 after losing its quarterback.
13. **Arkansas Razorbacks** - Sam Pittman seeks redemption after a 30-31 record.
14. **Vanderbilt Commodores** - Vanderbilt has optimism around quarterback Diego Pavia but faces skepticism.
15. **Kentucky Wildcats** - Mark Stoops' Wildcats try to rebound after a disappointing season.
16. **Mississippi State Bulldogs** - Mississippi State faces tough predictions again but hopes to improve with experience. **TR**

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CALENDAR JULY 2025



7/5

HAPPY 22ND BIRTHDAY TO
FORMER LSU PITCHER

CHRISTIAN LITTLE



7/6

HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY
TO LSU PITCHER

KADE ANDERSON



7/7

HAPPY 25TH BIRTHDAY
TO LSU RUNNING BACK

JOHN EMERY JR.



7/10

HAPPY 63RD BIRTHDAY
TO FORMER LSU TIGHT END

MALCOLM SCOTT



7/12

HAPPY 23RD BIRTHDAY
TO FORMER LSU GYMNAST

CHASE BROCK



7/16

HAPPY 23RD BIRTHDAY TO
FORMER LSU FIRST BASEMAN

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Living in South Louisiana has its perks - good food, friendly people, and beautiful outdoor spaces. But it also comes with its fair share of bugs. From mosquitoes and fire ants to spiders, wasps, and even stinging caterpillars, bites and stings are a part of life down here, especially during the warmer months.

While most bug bites are harmless and go away on their own, some can cause reactions that are painful, itchy, or even serious. And in this heat and humidity, even a small bite can quickly become irritated or infected if not properly treated.

Common Symptoms of Bug Bites and Rashes

Most minor bites will cause:

- Itching or minor swelling
- Redness or a small raised bump
- Localized discomfort

These symptoms can often be managed at home with antihistamines, hydrocortisone cream, or cold compresses. However, sometimes things can take a turn, and that's when urgent care can help.

When to Visit Urgent Care

It's a good idea to seek medical attention if:

- The bite or rash is rapidly spreading or looks infected (think: pus, red streaks, increased swelling or pain)

- You're experiencing symptoms beyond the bite area, like fever, headache, body aches, or swollen lymph nodes
- The bite is near the eyes, mouth, or other sensitive areas
- A tick bit you, and you're concerned about a possible tick-borne illness
- You're having signs of an allergic reaction - like hives, facial swelling, difficulty breathing, or dizziness

Stay Safe Outdoors

To help prevent bites and rashes:

- Use insect repellent when outside
- Wear long sleeves and pants when hiking or working in the yard
- Check for ticks after spending time in wooded or grassy areas
- Avoid scratching bites, which can increase the risk of infection

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Ace **Kade Anderson** got LSU off to a rocking start at the CWS by three-hitting Arkansas in a 4-1 win on June 14. Photo by: Jonathan Mailhes

KADE ANDERSON ASCENDS FROM 2ND TIER PITCHER IN 2024 TO TOP OF 1ST ROUND IN 2025 MLB DRAFT

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

When the 2024 LSU Baseball season ended, the name Kade Anderson was not mentioned next to “future ace” or “first round draft pick,” and definitely not “top three” pick of the entire 2025 Major League Baseball Draft.

But that is what is expected to happen on July 13 to Anderson, a sophomore left-hander from Madisonville and St. Paul’s High who qualifies for the draft with an early 21st birthday on July 6.

“Has completely redefined himself as a starter in 2025 while pushing up draft boards,” Baseball America wrote of Anderson as the Tigers were entering NCAA postseason play in June.

"He may be the top college pitcher in the draft class," wrote Carolos Collazo of Baseball America.

BA's Jonathan Mayo had Anderson as the No. 3 pick of the draft right behind high school shortstop/third baseman and Oklahoma State commitment Ethan Holliday of Stillwater, Oklahoma, and prep right-handed pitcher/Vanderbilt commitment Seth Hernandez of Corona, California.

And that was before Anderson put on a show on the opening weekend of the College World Series against Arkansas. The quiet, unassuming, slight-of-build Greg Maddux-like powder keg held one of the top batting average teams in the nation to one run on a mere three hits over seven innings for a 4-1 victory on June 14 in front of 25,464 at Charles Schwab Field in Omaha, Nebraska.

He struck out seven with two walks on 100 pitches. Other than the home run, he allowed no one to second base in getting the win to improve to 11-1 at the time. Anderson also took over the national lead in strikeouts with 170.

"He didn't give us anything," Arkansas coach Dave Van Horn lamented "He's 11-1 because he's really good. That's all I've got."

And just the previous season, Anderson was 4-2 with a 3.99 ERA and 0-1 through five SEC appearances with a 27.00 ERA with 10 runs, 10 hits and a .600 average allowed

But pitching coach Nate Yeskie and head coach Jay Johnson developed him.

"It's like anything else. You don't see a return on the investment in a stock until it's further down the road," Yeskie said. "His personality, his characteristics, his habits, are all where you want them. It was just allowing those things to take shape and to take time."

And he is extremely coachable.

"He's the type of kid where sometimes you don't even have to tell him once," Yeskie said. "He's constantly looking for ways to get better, so he is no surprise. He's really checked off almost every box you would hope a player would year one to two."

And Anderson is not the only LSU pitcher developing. Junior transfer Anthony Eyanson (11-2, 2.74 ERA) has a chance to go in the top 50 of the draft. Baseball America lists him at No. 66 with 142 strikeouts.

"There's no better place for a pitcher in the entire country to come right now and develop to be a Major Leaguer than LSU," Johnson said.

Redshirt sophomore Chase Shores finished strong and was listed as the No. 85 draft prospect.

Other LSU players projected by Baseball America to be drafted are junior second baseman Daniel Dickinson as the No. 72 prospect and junior first baseman Jared Jones at No. 99. Junior DH Ethan Frey was at No. 130, but if he stays at LSU and plays in the outfield next season, he'll raise his draft stock.

Another junior who could go in the first several rounds is center fielder Chris Stanfield.

Among other LSU juniors expected to go in later rounds are pitchers Zac Cowan, Conner Ware, Jacob Mayers and Connor Bengel. **TR**



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Greg Sankey.
Photo courtesy of
SEC Media Days



GREG SANKEY NEEDS TO REMEMBER IT'S ABOUT WINNING, NOT AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

There was an undercurrent under the salty waters crashing on the sugary beaches here at the annual Southeastern Conference Spring Meetings last May and June.

The football coaches and athletic directors from the 16 schools discussed increasing the new 12-team College

Football Playoff from 14 or 16 teams for 2026. They discussed a nine-game SEC schedule instead of eight – again.

A lot of talk, but little actually happened.

In addition, SEC commissioner Greg Sankey begged to see the Strength of Schedule quotient calculated with more clarity by the CFP committee.

“We should be able to contextualize that better,” he said.

Sankey is brilliant, a quick study and well read. He talks a good game when discussing college football. But the pervasive feeling emanating from him and his league and too many who cover it is primal.

The bottom line is Sankey and company are still pissed that only Georgia, Tennessee and Texas made the CFP from the SEC last season. And they're trying to make damn sure that doesn't happen again. Sankey has even expressed a desire for automatic bids for four SEC teams into the playoffs, which goes against the soul of competition itself.

"It's clear that not losing becomes in many ways more important than winning," Sankey said. You're just now realizing that, Greg!

"Georgia lost to two teams (Alabama and Ole Miss) that were left out of the playoffs, and nobody had that kind of quality win. That's the depth of thinking we need to go into."

That was Sankey saying that Alabama and Ole Miss – which each beat Georgia but lost to other average and bad teams - should have reached the playoffs. And that SMU and Indiana with lighter schedules should not have. But his depth of thinking needs to drastically improve.

And try as he might, he should not be able to legislate more SEC teams into the playoffs via four automatics.

Alabama and Ole Miss each had impressive wins over Georgia. But Alabama and Ole Miss did not take care of business after those wins. Great teams value the games against the elite opponents and the games against the not so elite. You can't just win the big ones.

Alabama lost the very next week to an average Vanderbilt that finished 7-6 and 3-5. In the end, Alabama finished the regular season at 9-3 and 5-3 with an inexcusable, 24-3 loss to a below average Oklahoma that finished 6-7 and 2-6. And that was Alabama's last regular season game – a time of year when playoff teams start playing like playoff teams. And you want that team in the playoffs, Greg? No.

Ole Miss finished the regular season 9-3 and 5-3 with an inexcusable loss to Kentucky, which finished 4-8 and 1-7. The Rebels also lost, 24-17, to an average Florida team late in the season that finished 8-5 and 4-4 and to an average LSU that finished 9-4 and 5-3.

You are correct, Mr. Sankey, "not losing" can at times be more important

than winning, particularly if you lose to teams like Vanderbilt and Oklahoma or Kentucky and Florida.

The SEC had an off year in 2024. It doesn't get a pass into the playoffs because of previous glories.

While propping up Alabama and Ole Miss, Sankey took shots at SMU and Indiana for making the CFP with 11 wins via lighter schedules. Their schedules were lighter. But they also won the games they were supposed to.

Sankey must realize that Alabama and Ole Miss didn't. And SMU and Indiana each would've beaten Kentucky, Vanderbilt and Oklahoma and maybe Florida and LSU.

What will Sankey try next? Since a record 11 of his record 13 NCAA Regional SEC baseball teams choked before the World Series, will he lobby for four automatic qualifiers a year to Omaha? **TR**

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Editor's Note:
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July 2023 issue of Tiger Rag.
Photo by: LSU Athletics

LSU'S TWO BIGGEST PLAYS IN OMAHA 2023 KEPT HOPE ALIVE

By TODD HORNE, Tiger Rag Executive Editor / Vice President

I'm not trying to take anything at all away from LSU, Jay Johnson or any of the Tigers who last month claimed the Natty in Omaha at the College World Series – a CWS that many old timers and newcomers alike are saying was the best series in history.

It had everything. But . . . even though LSU won . . .

Wake Forest may have been better than LSU.

Florida may have been better than LSU.

The fact that LSU beat both the Demon Deacons and the Gators twice during its 2023 run to the CWS National Championship makes most people think otherwise, of course. And it should.

The big thing is that five, 10, 20, 30 and even 50 years from now everybody will remember LSU was the best college baseball team in the country in 2023 and will not have even a scant memory of Wake Forest or Florida.

Doesn't seem completely fair. But that's how these things work.

One thing everybody knows, and will always remember, including Wake Forest and Florida, the best team does not always win but the team playing the best usually does.

No one will argue LSU played the best during the 2023 CWS.

Talk to Tennessee. Talk to Wake Forest. Talk to Florida.

They will all tell you that title – the team that played the best – belongs to LSU.

The two biggest plays of the College World Series made by LSU did not belong to Paul Skenes, or Tommy White, Dylan Crews, Cade Beloso or Brayden Jobert – all of whom made major contributions and made unbelievable pitches, crushed big hits, and even made great catches.

I think Crews' back-to-back catches in game three of the championship against Florida when he ran down a deep fly, timed it perfectly, crashed into the wall, held on to the ball, and then bounced back up just in time to shake out the cob webs before he had to sprint 150 feet in the opposite direction to chase down another fly for a put out on the very next pitch are both amazing plays even for Crews who, I agree, is the best field position player LSU baseball has ever had.

Sorry, Alex Bregman. It is what it is. Crews' greatness doesn't diminish yours it just relegates it a tad.

But the two best plays LSU made in the entire series were the two plays the Tigers made that if they wouldn't have made them right when they made them, we would all be talking about how either Wake Forest or Florida played the best in the 2023 CWS because LSU would have lost and not been able to claim it's seventh Natty.

Josh Pearson's catch in left field of Wyatt Langford's blistering shot against

Florida in Game one of the Championship Series is one of those must-have plays. Florida had two men on base. Langford's hit would have scored both runners easily. Florida would have won. Pearson's leaping catch prevented it. Then, in extra innings, Cade Beloso homered, LSU went up, 4-3, and hung on to win.

Tre' Morgan's charging the bunt against Wake Forest in the greatest college baseball game I have ever seen, fielding it and shovel passing it all in one motion to Alex

Milazzo, who then made a blind tag to get Justin Johnson out at home and preserve a scoreless tie in the top of the eighth inning – the same scoreless tie Tommy White walked off with a two-run home run in the bottom of the 11th inning about an hour later.

Those are the two plays that kept LSU alive and paved the way to the Tigers winning it all.

Hopefully, those two plays will never be forgotten. **TR**



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THE SITDOWN

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BRIAN KELLY CUTS LOOSE WITH RECE DAVIS AND PETE THAMEL ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS

Brian Kelly. Photo by Jonathan Mailhes

Just three days after the historic House of Representatives vs. the NCAA settlement on Friday, June 6, that allows schools to now directly pay athletes amid NIL, LSU football coach Brian Kelly happened to join the College GameDay Podcast that following Monday.

ESPN's Rece Davis and Pete Thamel interviewed Kelly on a variety of subjects, including the House settlement, opening at Clemson, Garrett Nussmeier, Arch Manning, and why Kelly says food in Louisiana reminds him of home in the Boston area.

RECE DAVIS: What's your initial reaction to the House settlement?

BRIAN KELLY: In just a few words, I would say progress over perfection. There's going to be a lot of things that are going to have to be tweaked. But this is progress for college athletics, and in particular football and basketball. We needed some guardrails. We needed clear communication as to what the expectations are. I think we got a little bit of that.

PETE THAMEL: Where were you when you found this out at 8:10 central on Friday night, and did the settlement change anything you did tangibly the last 72 hours?

KELLY: Well, there was a bit of relief, because as you know we're getting to that July 1 deadline, where we were going to be enacting the revenue share – real revenue share. I was at a recruiting dinner when we got the news. That was my first reaction. College is different. The NFL salary cap this year is \$270 million. We're looking at somewhere near \$13.5 million. There's a big difference with \$270 million and 56 (players) and \$13.5 million with 85 or 105.

DAVIS: How would you describe your level of confidence the guardrails that now athletics finally have will be effective?

KELLY: The biggest issues, quite frankly, are the enforcement arms. And are people going to be held accountable for being in that gray area? More than anything, if you ask any coaches about this settlement, it would start and end with, 'What is the enforcement going to be like, if you don't

play by the rules?' That's where we're at. Now that we've got a settlement, now that everybody is putting the pieces together within their institutions in terms of revenue sharing and such, what's this sports commission going to look like? Is there going to be a commissioner that will have the authority to make those tough decisions? If somebody doesn't do it the right way, the ramifications need to be like the NFL model, where you had the (bounty scandal), and New Orleans

got hit pretty hard. We would need a similar kind of sanctions. Now, this is not to throw the NCAA under the bus, but that has been a problem. It's been slow. It's been inconsistent. If we have something that is universal, and swift, and real, I think we're going to be in a good space."

THAMEL: Brian, let's switch to the field. How does playing at Clemson in the opener (Aug. 30) energize your program through these months? [cont. next page](#)

LOCKDOWN DEFENDER

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"We need to win the opener because we're 0-3." ... LSU coach Brian Kelly.
Photo by Jonathan Mailhes



KELLY: Let me put in the caveat – I did not schedule these games (Florida State twice, USC and Clemson).

THAMEL: I'm shocked.

KELLY (who is 0-3 in openers at LSU): I just wanted to be clear, but the fact of the matter is they are exciting openers. Unfortunately, we have not done well in those openers. Clemson will be a great challenge. We finally have got the roster in a position where I believe these are the kind of games you want to play. And you need to win 'em. And I'm not going to make any other statements other than we need to win the opener, because we're 0-3. We've circled the game. I've never done that before for openers. It's all over our weight room. It's all over our workouts. We're wearing shirts. We need to beat Clemson.

DAVIS AND THAMEL: Texas quarterback Arch Manning or LSU's Garrett Nussmeier?

KELLY: Garrett Nussmeier more than anything else is experienced, and in this league, you need to see the bullets flying. Nussmeier's seen it. He knows what he's going to get. There's a confidence that he'll bring to each game that will allow him to be, I believe, the best quarterback. Now, Manning is extremely talented, but he's got to go do it. And there's going to be a couple of days where it doesn't come out the way it's supposed to. He's an outstanding player, but I'll take the guy that's been in the SEC and seen what it looks like."

THAMEL: Walk us through some of the cuisine around Baton Rouge?

KELLY: I'm originally from Massachusetts. I grew up on seafood. And when you go to the Midwest, you don't want to see much of that food. Because it's on a truck. It's not fresh. To come down here and have shellfish and fresh fish, to me that's been awesome. And I love the ethnicity. I grew up in Chelsea, Massachusetts, where it was a melting pot of ethnicity. To come back

to that feels authentic to me, whether it's Cajun food or any kind of Louisiana spice. So, the food scene has been amazing. We're having a pretty good time. Now, we just need to win some more football games.

DAVIS: Scott Woodward (LSU athletic director) took me to Jeno's – spectacular.

KELLY: You know, Jeno's just does it authentic. I will tell you one quick story. It was my first weekend in Baton Rouge, and my wife (Paqui) and I went to Jeno's. Not one person came up and said, 'I hate to bother you, but can you take a picture?' Of course, I'm halfway in my meal. I would get that all the time in South Bend. Nobody came up to us (at Jeno's). But when we were done, it was a free-for-all. What it just told me was, they're going to let you eat the food, because they know the food's good. 'But when you're done, we own you.' So, it was a great first foray into what to expect here in Louisiana. It's been fun." **TR**

DIVING INTO THE NUMBERS

PRESENTED BY



LSU BASEBALL WORLD SERIES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BY COACH



Paul Mainieri - 1
Skip Bertman - 5
Jay Johnson - 2



EIGHT IS GREAT

THE LSU BASEBALL DYNASTY SEQUEL HAS BEEN RELEASED,
AND IT'S ANOTHER SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

Part Two of the LSU Baseball Dynasty has officially premiered.

The Tigers swept Coastal Carolina, formerly known as the 26-0 team, by two games to zero with a 5-3 win on June 22, in the best-of-three national championship series at the College World Series before 24,734 at Charles Schwab Field for LSU's eighth national championship.

LSU won the opener, 1-0, the previous night – its first 1-0 victory in its illustrious NCAA postseason history that began in 1975.

The Tigers' eight national titles trail only USC's 12. Texas is next with six. No program has more than LSU since 1991 when the Tigers started their run.

(continued page 26)



It is also LSU's second national title in three years under fourth-year coach Jay Johnson, marking the first time the Tigers have won multiple crowns so close together since taking back-to-back titles in 1996 and '97 under coach Skip Bertman, who was at the game. Johnson became the first LSU baseball coach other than Bertman to win multiple titles.

Johnson also became the quickest coach in college baseball history to win two national championships ... in just his fourth season. Miami's Jim Morris previously held that record with his second in his eighth season in 2001.

LSU won only one national championship between Bertman's fifth in 10 years in 2000 and Johnson's first in 2023. That was the lone title by coach Paul Mainieri in the 2009 season.

"There were already seven of them here," LSU center fielder Chris Stanfield said of his recruitment by Johnson out of the Transfer Portal to LSU from Auburn last year. "So, why not get another one?"

At age 48, Johnson is in position to tie Bertman and former Cal State Fullerton and Texas coach Augie Garrido with five national championships while he will be in his 50s. Bertman won his first national title in 1991 at age 53 and his fifth at 62 in 2000. The late Garrido won his first at age 40 in 1979 for Cal State Fullerton and his fifth at 66 at Texas in 2005.

The only other baseball coach with more national titles than Bertman and Garrido is the late USC coach Rod Dedeaux, a New Orleans native who won 11 from 1948-78 at USC. He won his first at age 34 and his last at 64.

Considering his work ethic, recruiting prowess and ability to negotiate the NCAA Transfer Portal as well as any coach or program, who knows how many Johnson can win?

Particularly if he keeps bringing in the elite talent he couldn't stop thanking.

"Unbelievable," he said as he looked to his left at the podium at winning pitcher Anthony Eyanson, reliever Chase Shores and Stanfield. "I'm so proud right now. It's not to be taken

for granted being here two years ago. That was special. Greatest night of my life. This is equal and maybe even tops in some ways."

Eyanson struck out nine while allowing three runs in six and a third innings for the win to go to 12-2. Stanfield's bases-loaded single put LSU up 3-1 in the fourth before two more made it 5-1 in that inning. Shores struck out four and allowed one hit over the final two and two-thirds to earn his second save this week.

**"IT'S NOT TO BE TAKEN
FOR GRANTED BEING
HERE TWO YEARS
AGO... THIS IS EQUAL
AND MAYBE EVEN TOPS
IN SOME WAYS."
- COACH JAY JOHNSON**

"This is appropriate to have these three here," Johnson said. "They are exactly what this team was, which was our motto - tough and together."

That's two titles down, and who knows how many to go for Johnson?

Coastal Carolina, which had won 26 in a row before losing to LSU on Saturday, had the momentum after its coach, Kevin Schnall, and assistant Matt Schilling were ejected in the first for arguing balls and strikes.

Then Dean Milhos hit a solo home run off Eyanson for a 1-0 lead in the second. But it didn't last, and Coastal lost two straight game for the first time since March 23.

LSU tied it 1-1 in the top of the third with a manufactured run. Daniel Dickinson singled to lead off against Coastal ace Jacob Morrison. Michael Braswell III sacrifice bunted him to second. After Derek Curiel flew out to left, Ethan Frey came through with an RBI double.

And the Tigers put the game away against the light-hitting Chanticleers (56-13) in the fourth with a four-run rally. Morrison, who had said there was "not a whole lot" to like about LSU, looked nothing like the ace he was all season. He lost his first decision to fall to 12-1 with five runs on six hits in three and two-thirds.

Morrison walked Jake Brown to start the fourth, then gave up a single to Jared Jones and hit Luis Hernandez to load the bases. Stanfield singled in two runs for the 3-1 lead.

"I knew if I could come through, it would put us on top," Stanfield said. "Down 1-0 was really nothing for us. We've got the best team."

Curiel hit a two-run double in the inning for a 5-1 lead to end Morrison's afternoon.

Coastal drew within 5-3 in the seventh on a two-run homer by Wells Sykes off Eyanson, but could get no closer. Shores relieved Eyanson and retired the next two to end the threat.

Fittingly, LSU, which finished 10th in the nation in fielding percentage at .981, ended the season with a perfect 4-6-3 double play.

Eyanson, a transfer from UC-San Diego last year, said it best on the field after the national championship trophy presentation.

"This is the place to be," he said. "What I came here for."

And Johnson didn't want to leave the podium.

"We have time for one more question," the moderator said before a question as if it was late or he had somewhere to go when it was five in the afternoon.

"We can do a couple more. It's okay," Johnson interjected. "We just won the national championship. We can stay here all night." **TR**

2025 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES FINALS



Top row: PC Anthony Eyanson, C Luis Hernandez, RF Jake Brown. Second row: SS Steven Milam, P Kade Anderson, 2B Daniel Dickinson. Third row: P Chase Shores, 3B Michael Braswell III, LF Derek Curiel. Bottom row: 1B Jared Jones, DH Ethan Frey, CF Chris Stanfield.
Photos by: Jonathan Mailles and Michael Bacigalupi

A photograph of three men in purple LSU baseball uniforms. Two men in the foreground are facing each other, huddled together, with their hands raised in a celebratory gesture. A third man stands behind them, also in a purple uniform. They are on a dirt field under bright sunlight.

The Dynamic Duo: Pitching coach extraordinaire
Nate Yeskie and super coach Jay Johnson huddle.
Photo by Jonathan Mailhes

...AND THEY'RE ONLY GETTING BETTER

LSU BASEBALL'S FUTURE IS SO BRIGHT,
JAY JOHNSON NEEDS TO WEAR SHADES

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

It was sunglass weather most of the last week here in Omaha, which has basically been LSU's beach since 1986.

The Tigers have reached the College World Series here 20 times since that first summer, winning their eighth national championship on a hot, bright Sunday on June 22, 5-3, over Coastal Carolina in front of 24,734 at Charles Schwab Field.

No program has been more dominant on this beach, kicking sand in everyone's face, over those four decades than LSU.

That September of 1986, a band called Timbuk 3 released one of the coolest songs ever – "The Future's So Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades."

And LSU coach Jay Johnson needs a dark pair quick.

The LSU Baseball Train owns this historic Union Pacific Railroad national hub like no one else, and its conductor Johnson is not letting go or going anywhere. As the song says:

Things are goin' great

And they're only gettin' better

Sure, LSU will lose ace pitcher and draft-age sophomore Kade Anderson (12-1, 3.18 ERA) to the Major League Baseball Draft, possibly as the No. 1 overall pick on July 13. He needs a pair of shades, too.

Junior pitcher Anthony Eyanson (12-2, 3.00 ERA, 2 saves) will also enter the draft and could go in the second round. He finished third in the nation in strikeouts with 152 as LSU led the country in that category for the second straight year – 760 this season and 733 in 2024.

The Tigers will also lose junior first baseman Jared Jones, who walked off Arkansas to put LSU in the finals, second baseman Daniel Dickinson, who broke the hamate bone in his left wrist in the Regional opener but kept playing and hitting, and three seniors – catcher Luis Hernandez, outfielder Josh Pearson and third baseman Michael Braswell.

Redshirt sophomore pitcher Chase Shores will also likely enter the draft after just beginning to scratch his Anderson-like potential. In four CWS

relief appearances over seven innings, he saved two games while striking out eight with zero walks.

If he decides to stay for 2026, he would be in the weekend rotation along with a pair of sophomores-to-be in Casan Evans (5-1, 2.05 ERA, 7 saves) and – if he finds his control – William Schmidt. Lefty Cooper Williams could also make the rotation as a sophomore.

**"WE CAN'T PROMISE
THAT WE'RE GOING TO
WIN TWO TITLES IN
THREE YEARS AGAIN,
AND YOU'RE GOING TO
GET TO OMAHA. BUT I
DO PROMISE THEY WILL
BE BETTER PLAYERS. "**

- COACH JAY JOHNSON

Zac Cowan (3-3, 2.94 ERA, 6 saves) and Jaden Noot may return for their senior seasons. A promising freshman in 2025 who could explode next year is Mavrick Rizey. Gavin Guidry, who was LSU's top reliever in 2023-24 before a back injury ended 2025, is expected back as a senior. Another injured pitcher, Deven Sheerin, could be a key member of the 2026 staff as a junior.

Returning on offense will be some of the Tigers' best hitters in 2025 (with their grade classifications for next season) – sophomore left fielder Derek Curiel (.345, 55 RBIs, 7 HRs), junior shortstop Steven Milam (.295, 57 RBIs, 11 HRs) and junior right fielder Jake Brown (.320, 48 RBIs, 8 HRs).

And LSU has a chance to return outfielders Ethan Frey (.331, 50 RBIs, 13 HRs) and Chris Stanfield (.298, 31 RBIs, 1 HR) for their senior seasons. Catcher Cade Arrambide was a jewel of Johnson's 2025 freshmen class who had to wait behind Hernandez. Tanner Reaves could move to third or second next season as a senior. And look for Ashton Larson to return to a more featured role in the outfield in 2026. He started in 2024 before a reserve role in 2025.

Joining the Tigers' offense from the portal are a couple of power hitters in Kansas State first baseman Seth Dardar (.326, 45 RBIs, 13 home runs) and High Point third/first baseman Brayden Simpson (.389, 78 RBIs, 22 HRs) from High Point. Both will be seniors.

Another top recruiting class will also join the fold.

"We can't promise that we're going to win two titles in three years again, and you're going to get to Omaha," Johnson said. "But I do promise they will be better players. In 2023, we had 13 drafted – an SEC record. Last year, we had eight pitchers drafted – another SEC record. Maybe that's why I'm so proud. This is a completely different team."

Johnson is the complete package – dugout coach, preparation master, premium recruiter, motivator. And he can flip a roster as well as anyone in this portal age. He is the fastest coach to two national championships (2023, '25) in the history of the game – in four years. And he's only 48.

While heaping praise on pitching coach Nate Yeskie and pitching development director Jamie Tutko, Johnson said, "If you're a pitcher, and you don't want to come here, you're out to lunch. We've got it all."

He was talking pitching, but he could have been discussing himself and the program.

Johnson has it all. He wouldn't say this either, so we'll let Timbuk 3:

Well, I'm heavenly blessed

And worldly wise

So, as far as LSU Baseball's future:

Things are goin' great

And they're only gettin' better **TR**



Jared Jones delivered LSU's sixth walk-off hit in the CWS since 1993 with a single to beat Arkansas, 6-5, and put LSU in title series.
Photo by: LSU Athletics

HOW LSU WON ITS CWS BRACKET

LSU BASEBALL IS A CHARMED WALK-OFF WONDERLAND IN OMAHA

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

In Cajun Latin, Omaha must mean “Magic.”

Just ask Arkansas.

LSU blew a 2-1 lead in the top of the eighth to Arkansas and fell behind by 5-3 in the top of the ninth in the College World Series semifinals on Wednesday, June 18.

But you know what happened next.

The Tigers scored three runs after two outs in the bottom of the ninth to win it, 6-5, and advanced to the championship round against Coastal Carolina at the College World Series in front of 25,740 at Charles Schwab Field.

And yes, it happened with another walk-off – not quite Warren Morris’ in 1996, but you’ll remember this one for some time, too.

First, Luis Hernandez – batting with runners on first and second and two outs – drove a screaming and sinking

line drive to left field that Charles Davalan was about to dive for. But he slipped at the last second. Imagine that? And the ball bounced off his shoulder to the left field corner, allowing both runs to score for a 5-5 tie as Hernandez got to second with a double.

“Whenever he didn’t grab it, I started running,” Hernandez said.

Then Jared Jones delivered the walk-off single just off second baseman Cam Kozeal’s glove. Imagine that? And it was over.

“I thought he had caught it,” Jones said. “But once I saw the ball hit the grass, I just blacked out. Super grateful.”

So was LSU coach Jay Johnson.

“What a game,” he said with emotion still draining. “That was like ESPN Classic. Is that still on? They should play that game on a loop for a week.”

Put it next to these five as the Tigers have won six CWS games in the bottom of the ninth or later on walk-offs:

... **2023** – Tommy White hits a two-run home run in the 11th to beat No. 1 overall seed Wake Forest, 2-0, and put LSU in the national championship series, and LSU beat Florida two of three to win their seventh national title.

... **2008** – Blake Dean hits a walk-off, three-run RBI double in the ninth to beat Rice, 6-5, in an elimination game to snap a five-game Omaha losing streak and set up the 2009 championship.

... **2000** – Brad Cresse’s walk-off RBI single in the ninth scores Ryan Theriot from second for a 6-5 win over Stanford for coach Skip Bertman’s final national championship and fifth in 10 seasons a year before he retires.

... **1996** – Warren Morris’ two-out, two-run home run in the ninth beats Miami, 9-8, in one of the greatest moments in all of sports history.

... **1993** – Todd Walker’s RBI single gives LSU a 6-5 win over Long Beach State in an elimination game to put it in the championship game, where it beats Wichita State, 8-0, the next day for Bertman’s second national title.

Jones made up for a critical, two-run error in the top of the eighth inning that had allowed Arkansas to take a 3-2 lead with a two-out, solo home run 410 feet to right-center to tie, 3-3, in the eighth.

The Hogs then took a 5-3 lead in the top of the ninth that didn’t last.

“On the walk-off homer by Tommy White two years ago, I felt something in my body I never felt before,” Johnson said. “Greatest moment in my life. It now has been tied with Jared Jones’ line drive over the second baseman’s head. And Luis Hernandez hustling around second. I didn’t know you could run like that.”

Call it LSU’s Omaha Magic.

“I would coach this team forever,” Johnson said.

That would take some more magic.

LSU 9, UCLA 5 ... June 16 And 17

UCLA made the mistake of getting into its first rain delay of the season, and probably many [cont. next page](#)



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LSU catcher **Luis Hernandez**, coach **Jay Johnson** and shortstop **Steven Milam** celebrate the Tigers' wild, comeback, 6-5, walk-off victory over Arkansas that put LSU in the championship series vs. Coastal Carolina. Photo by: LSU Athletics

seasons, on Monday night with LSU, which drew its 20th. The Tigers led 5-3 after three innings when the 6 p.m. game was delayed by weather at 7:20 p.m. until 10:13 p.m. when NCAA officials decided to push it to 10:03 a.m. the next day.

"We don't deal with weather much in L.A.," UCLA coach John Savage said.

LSU led UCLA, 19-1, in 2025 weather delays going into Tuesday, and the Tigers won going away, 9-5, on 12 hits under blue skies. Casan Evans started the re-start, relieving starter Anthony Eyanson, and picked up the win.

"They're just a little bit higher level," Savage said. "I don't want to call them the Yankees, right? They're good."

LSU 4, ARKANSAS 1 ... June 14

LSU ace Kade Anderson held Arkansas to one run on three hits in seven innings, and the Tigers made the most of six hits in their CWS opener.

"Offensively, we did just enough," Johnson said. "And that's OK. We're built to win in a lot of different ways." **TR**

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When LSU beat West Virginia to sweep the Super Regional in Alex Box Stadium, it was a party. In fact, LSU coach Jay Johnson was late for the postgame press conference.

Photo by: Jonathan Mailhes



OH, WHAT A NIGHT AT ALEX BOX STADIUM

TIGERS WENT OFF TO OMAHA IN STYLE AFTER SWEEPING WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE BATON ROUGE SUPER REGIONAL

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

“It’s A Great Day To Be Alive” by Travis Tritt blared from the Alex Box Stadium speakers as the LSU baseball team, their friends, their loved ones, their families, and general fandom held an impromptu Jazz Fest at central diamond on Sunday, June 8, at Alex Box Stadium.

I know the sun’s still shining when I close my eyes

I’m just doing all right

Never mind that it was minutes from after midnight, and the LSU Nation was lettin’ it all hang down as “Celebration” by Kool & The Gang soon broke out after Tritt’s classic.

The Tigers had just beat West Virginia, 12-5, in front of 12,301 at the Party Box to sweep the best-of-three Super Regional and reach Omaha, Nebraska, for the College World Series – coach Jay Johnson’s second visit there in three years after winning the national title in 2023.

"Sorry for being a little late," Johnson said as he spent extra innings on the field – aka dance floor – with his wife Maureen and his players and their parents and anyone else around.

"It's a special night out there," he said. "I just really wanted these guys to achieve this. I feel like they've earned it."

LSU won the opener over WVU in similar fashion, 16-9, the day before.

"I'm super proud of them because the rewards of tough and together were out there on the field tonight," Johnson said. "They're worthy."

But first, there was the traditional victory lap around Alex Box Stadium after a win to reach Omaha. That's 18 since 1986 and the 20th overall as the Tigers advanced only twice from the road – 1987 out of New Orleans and 1989 out of Texas A&M.

Once again, Alex Box was the connecting flight.

"This is the best place in the world," Johnson said.

"It's a dream come true," sophomore shortstop Steven Milam said.

Milam and sophomore right fielder Jake Brown led the charge as each went 2-for-4 with four RBIs and two runs scored. Milam hit a three-run double, and Brown launched a two-run home run to pace the Tigers' 10-hit attack.

"Coming from Las Cruces in New Mexico, you couldn't imagine it," Milam said. "I'm standing here from all the hard work, and coach Johnson giving me a chance. It's amazing."

"It's been an unbelievable ride for us the last nine or 10 months," said junior first baseman Jared Jones, who went 3-for-4 with an RBI. "We went out there and competed and had a lot of fun doing it. I'm super excited about what lies ahead of us."

Junior starting pitcher Anthony Eyanson limited the Mountaineers to four runs on five hits in five innings with seven strikeouts.

"Just really grateful to be a Tiger," said Eyanson, who transferred in from UC-San Diego after last season and is enjoying his first NCAA postseason.

"When I throw them down in the zone, and they swing and miss, I get happy," he said.

Relievers Cooper Williams and Chase Shores shut the door over the final four innings with Shores striking out three, including the last two to start the party at the Happy Box.

"Dream come true, honestly," Shores said two days later. "That was a great feeling, just to see my teammates run up and start hugging me. That was an amazing feeling. I'll never forget that in my life."

Sophomore outfielder Jake Brown of Sulphur felt the same way.

"I've always dreamed of going to Omaha and playing and being able to do that for my home state and my home team," said Brown, who homered against WVU. "It's something really special."

LSU pitching coach Nate Yeskie just stood there, gathering it all in.

"I think I'm doing pretty good," he said amid the throngs celebrating on Skip Bertman Field.

And Skip was there, too.

"I'm very proud," Skip Bertman told reporters as the party developed around him.

Fittingly, he wore a new hat with "CHAMPS" emblazoned on it. He won five of those with NATIONAL before it from 1991-2000 as head coach. So, what's one more hat?

"Jay is terrific. His staff is terrific," Bertman said. "But tonight, the crowd was terrific, they made a difference."

Bertman particularly liked the standing ovation Josh Pearson drew after striking out. It wasn't the result. It was the moment. Pearson is the Tigers' only four-year senior with all four years at LSU.

"That can't happen anywhere else but here," said Bertman, who made Alex Box the "here" of the college baseball world steadily from his first season in 1984 through his last in 2001.

It was that kind of night.

"Alex Box was packed. It was awesome. There's nothing more I could say than I'm just super grateful, and what a wonderful day it's been," Jones said.

"This is the only place in the world for me," Johnson said.

Well, Alex Box, and Omaha, that is.

As the song says:

I'm just doing all right

But why can't every day be just this good? **TR**

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Luis Hernandez, LSU's catcher, hoists the National Championship trophy in Omaha.
Photo by: Jonathan Mailhes





TIGER RAG'S TOP

25

LSU SPORTS STORIES OF THE YEAR

By TIGER RAG STAFF

In a season blending fairy tale and Greek tragedy, LSU's teams experienced highs and lows. In Omaha, Coach Jay Johnson led the Tigers to their eighth national baseball championship, rebooting a dynasty started by Skip Bertman. Meanwhile, on the football field, Brian Kelly's Tigers suffered three straight losses but finished 8-4, using a revamped Transfer Portal strategy to rekindle hope for a national title in 2025. The team faced challenges, including the tragic suicide of star receiver Kyren Lacy and various legal issues.

On the basketball court, Kim Mulkey's Lady Tigers fell to South Carolina and exited in the Elite Eight but reloaded with top transfers. The men's team struggled but invested in new talent. Across all sports, from football to softball, LSU relied on recruiting and determination. With record NFL and MLB draft picks and notable achievements by former athletes, the 2024-25 LSU Sports Year in Review captures a year of resilience, toughness, tragedy and triumph.

Chase Shores, Luis Hernandez. Photo by: Jonathan Mailhes

1
LSU Baseball wins eighth national championship.
June 22, 2025

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THE BIBLE OF LSU SPORTS
By Jason Kuo



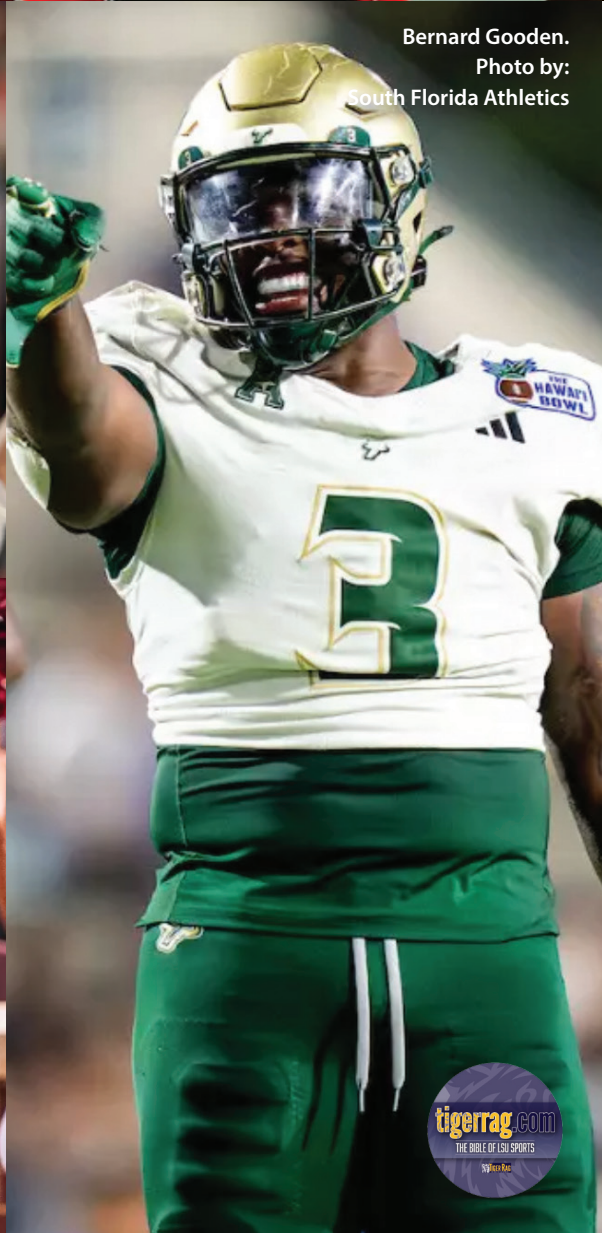
Patrick Payton. Photo by: Florida State Athletics



Tamarcus Cooley. Photo by: NC State Athletics



AJ Haulcy. Photo by: University of Houston Athletics



Bernard Gooden.
Photo by:
South Florida Athletics



Nic Anderson. Photo by: Oklahoma Athletics

**LSU football coach Brian Kelly signs
nation's No. 1 Transfer Portal class.
February, 2025**





Photo by: LSU Athletics

3

LSU Football performs dramatic
Transfer Portal philo\$ophy flip
December 2025

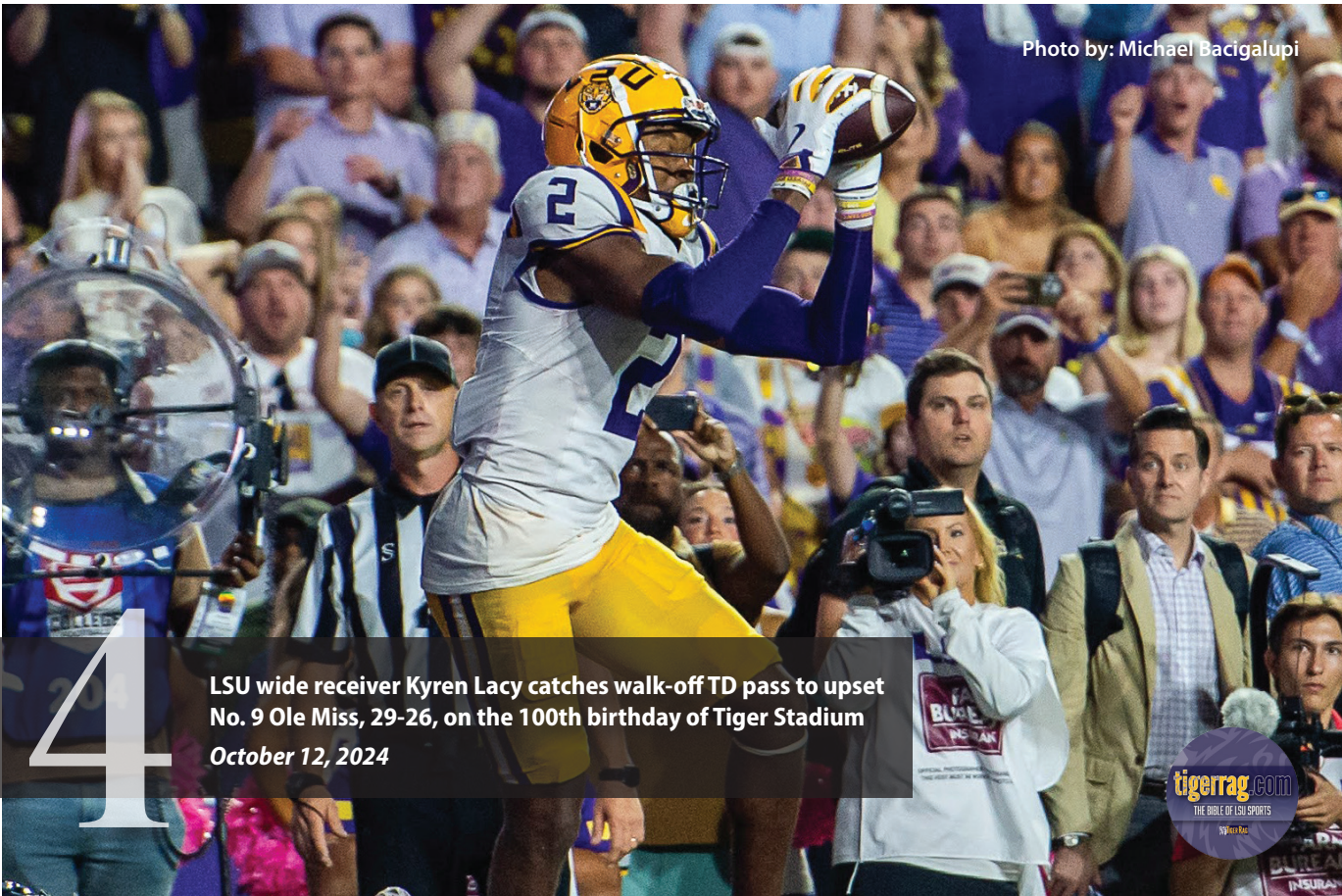


Photo by: Michael Bacigalupi

4

LSU wide receiver Kyren Lacy catches walk-off TD pass to upset
No. 9 Ole Miss, 29-26, on the 100th birthday of Tiger Stadium
October 12, 2024



Photo by: Jonathan Mailhes

5

LSU wide receiver Kyren Lacy found dead of apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound after car chase in Houston
April 13, 2025.



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Photo by: LSU Athletics

6

Former LSU star safety Greg Brooks Jr. sues LSU and Our Lady of the Lake Hospital for gross medical negligence after alleged misdiagnosis of cancerous brain tumor .
October 11, 2024



Photo by: LSU Athletics

7

LSU coach Brian Kelly falls, 27-20, to USC (which would finish 7-6, 4-5 in the Big Ten) in Las Vegas, losing his third straight season opener as the Tigers' coach
September 1, 2024



Photo by: LSU Athletics



In a battle of undefeated SEC teams, No. 8 LSU (6-1, 3-0 SEC) blows a 17-7 lead midway in the third quarter at No. 14 Texas A&M (6-1, 4-0 SEC) and loses 38-23 Oct. 26, 2024

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Photo by: LSU Athletics

9

LSU coach Brian Kelly moves off the hot seat - for now - by snapping a three-game losing streak and winning two straight to finish the regular season at 8-4, then promises to make the national championship game in the 2025 season
November 30, 2024

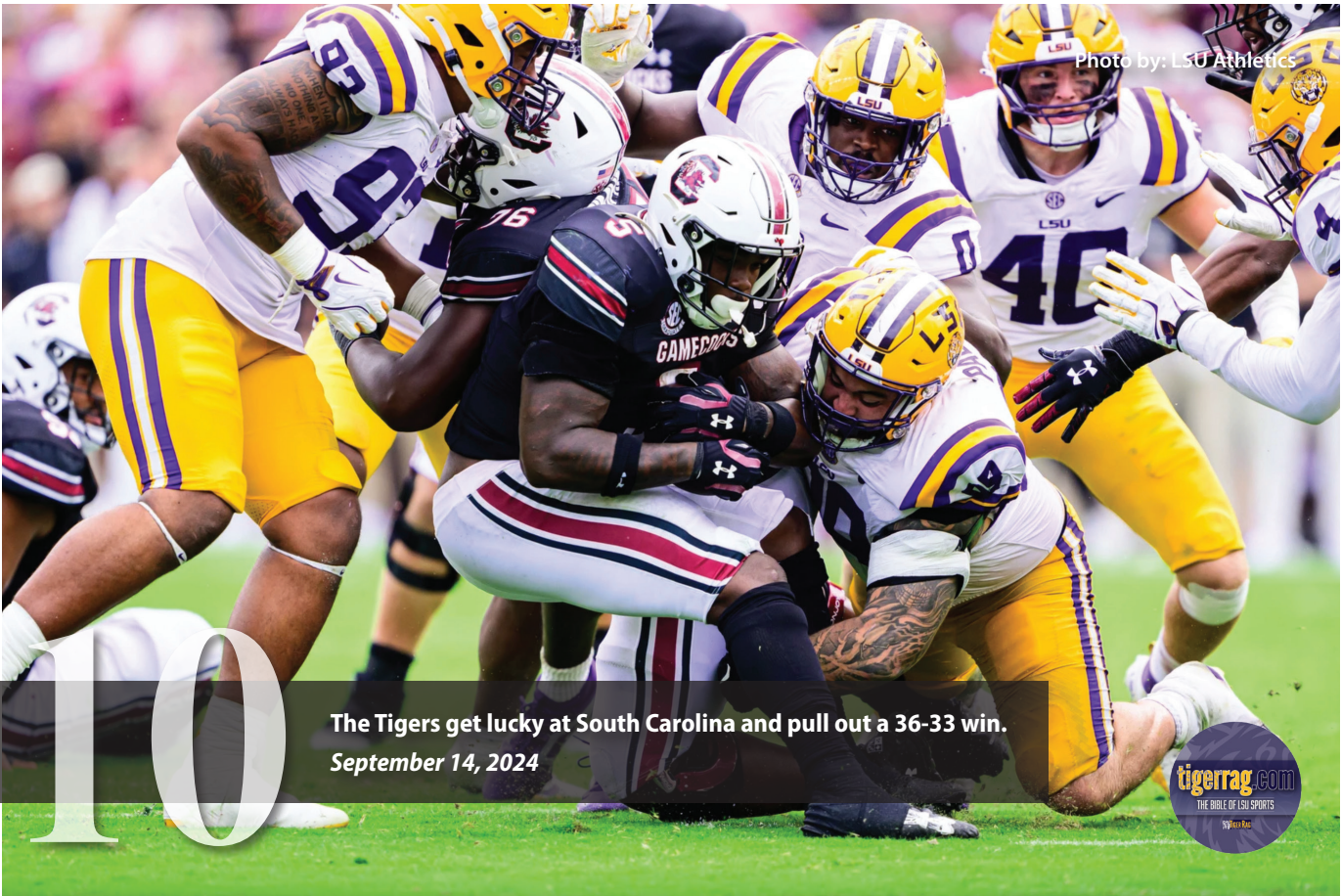


Photo by: LSU Athletics

10

The Tigers get lucky at South Carolina and pull out a 36-33 win.
September 14, 2024



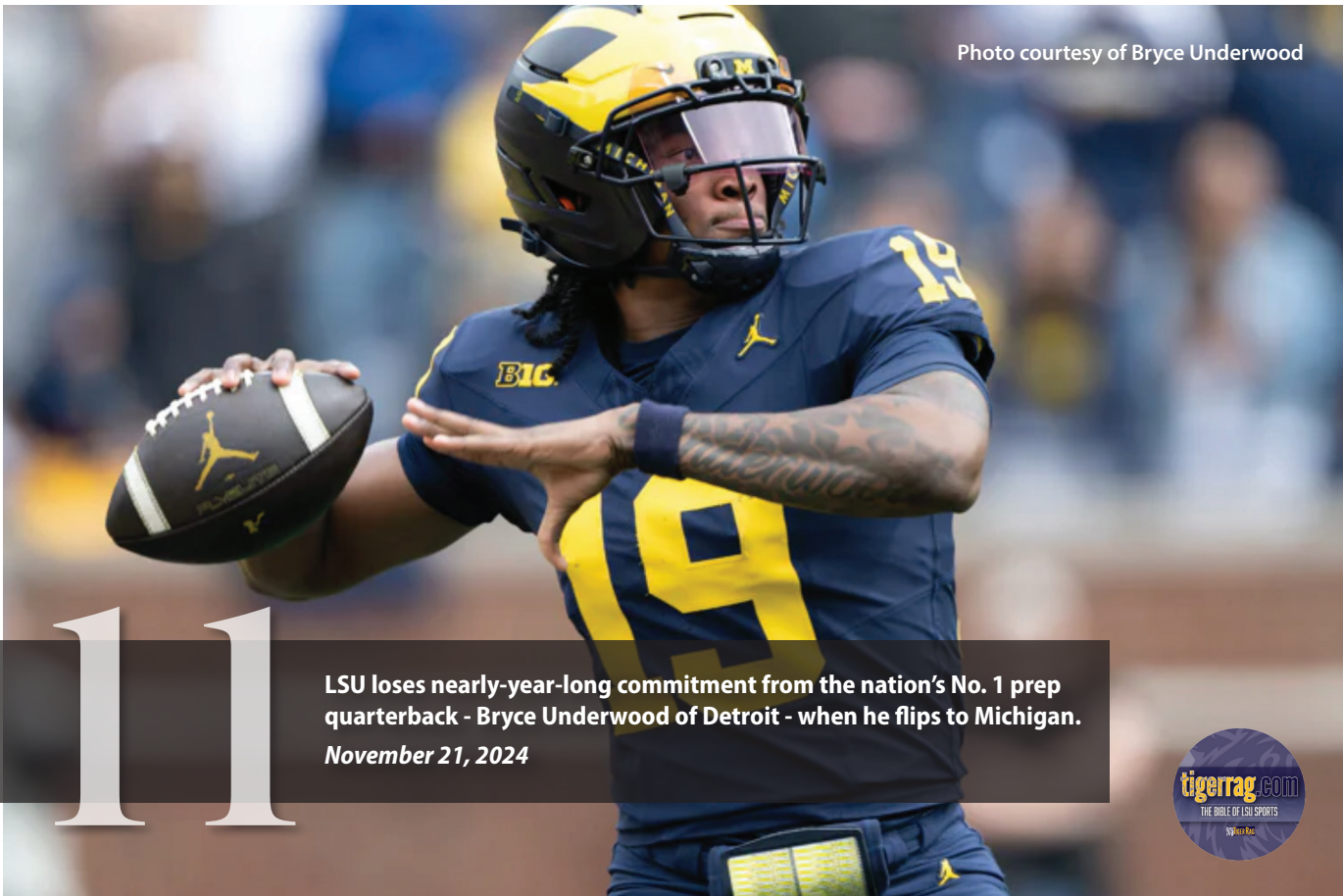


Photo courtesy of Bryce Underwood

11

LSU loses nearly-year-long commitment from the nation's No. 1 prep quarterback - Bryce Underwood of Detroit - when he flips to Michigan.
November 21, 2024



Photo by: LSU Athletics

12

LSU wide receiver Kyren Lacy is arrested and jailed on felony charges of hit-and-run and negligent homicide from a Dec. 17, 2024, accident near his Thibodaux hometown that killed former U.S. Marine Herman Hall of Thibodaux
January 12, 2025



Photo by: Michael Bacigalupi

13

LSU backup quarterback Colin Hurley found unresponsive and drifting in and out of consciousness after wrecking his car into a tree near the LSU campus at approximately 3 a.m. on a Thursday
January 16, 2025



Photo by: LSU Athletics

14

LSU baseball team earns No. 6 national seed for right to host NCAA Regional and Super Regional in Alex Box Stadium for the first time since the 2023 national championship season.
May 26, 2025





The No. 10 seed LSU women's basketball team loses, 72-65, to No. 1 seed UCLA in Spokane, Washington, to finish in the Elite Eight for the second straight year after winning the 2023 national title
March 30, 2025.





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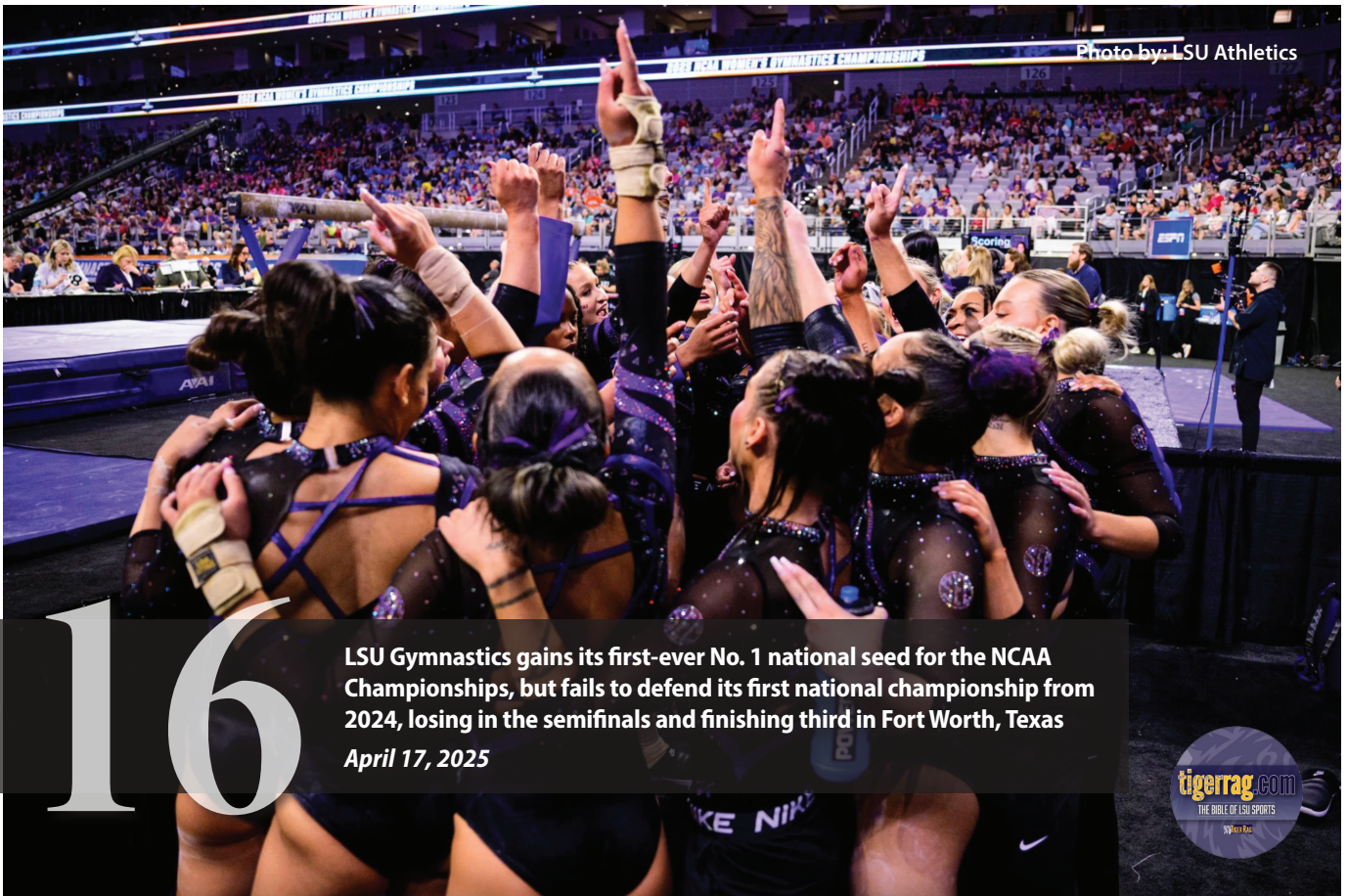


Photo by: LSU Athletics

16

LSU Gymnastics gains its first-ever No. 1 national seed for the NCAA Championships, but fails to defend its first national championship from 2024, losing in the semifinals and finishing third in Fort Worth, Texas
April 17, 2025



Photo by: University of Texas Athletics

17

The No. 2 LSU baseball team wins, 8-2, at No. 5 Texas in the first game between the two border schools with the Longhorns as a member of the SEC. The Tigers win their 17th straight game to improve to 22-1 overall and 4-0 in the SEC.
March 21, 2025



18

The No. 2 and defending national champion South Carolina women's basketball team beats No. 5 LSU, 66-56, in Columbia, S.C., for its 17th straight win over LSU, including a 5-0 run against LSU coach Kim Mulkey. The Tigers lost for the first time this season after coming in at 20-0 overall and 5-0 in the SEC, and South Carolina improved to 19-1 (7-0 SEC)

January 24, 2025.

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Photo by: LSU Athletics

Trailing No. 5 Tennessee, 3-0, entering the bottom of the ninth inning, No. 4 LSU scores three runs to tie, then Jared Jones hits a walk-off, three-run home run for the 6-3 win at 1:17 a.m. after a weather delay

April 26, 2025

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BY THE RAG

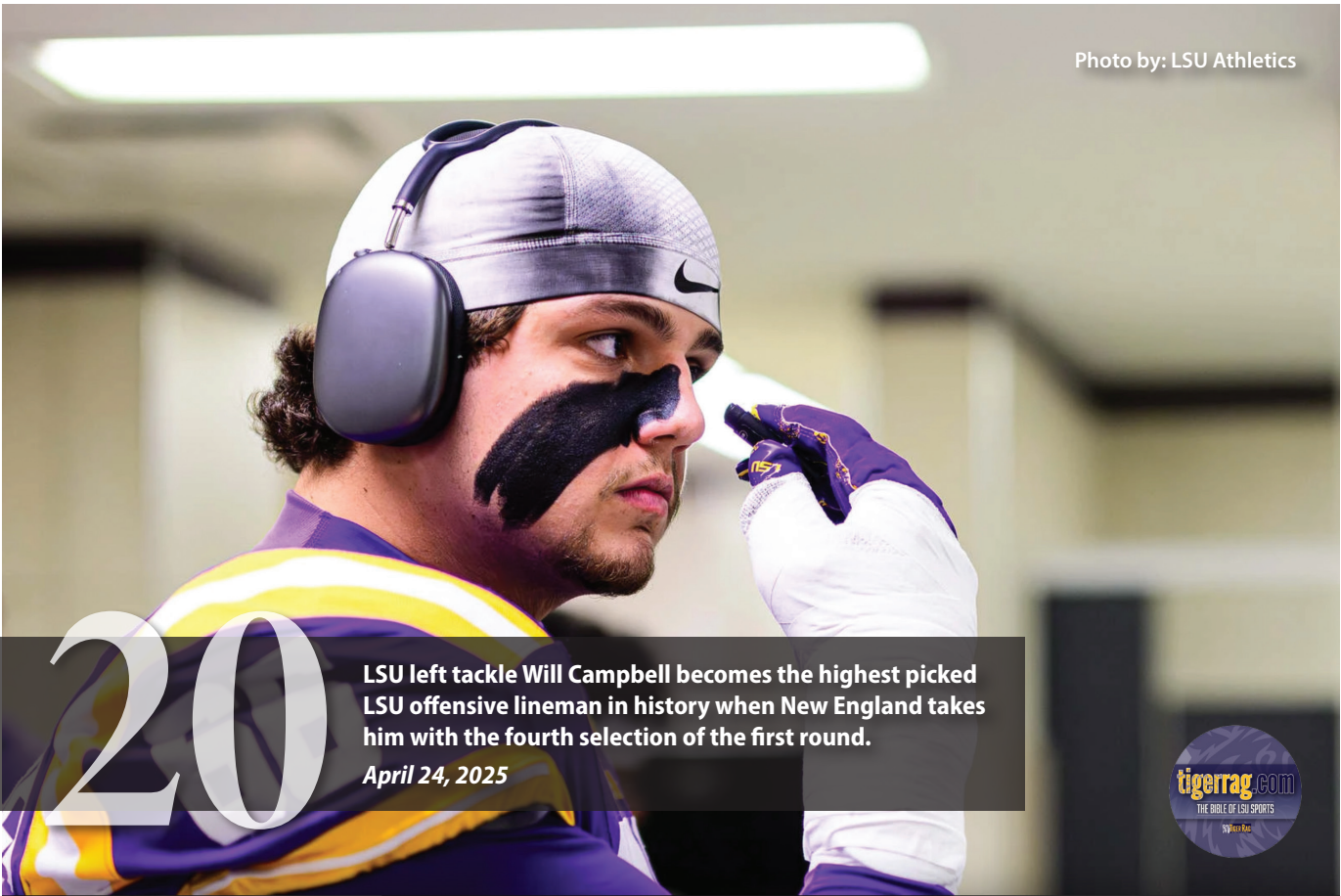


Photo by: LSU Athletics

LSU left tackle Will Campbell becomes the highest picked LSU offensive lineman in history when New England takes him with the fourth selection of the first round.

April 24, 2025

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BY THE RAG

21

LSU men's basketball has its second dreadful season in the three years of coach Matt McMahon as the Tigers finish 14-18 overall and 3-15 in the SEC for 15th place out of 16 teams. The Tigers were 14-19 and 2-16 in McMahon's first year. But McMahon is not fired, and LSU makes a new financial commitment to the Transfer Portal. McMahon responds by signing the No. 15 portal class in the country with seven additions *January 24, 2025.*



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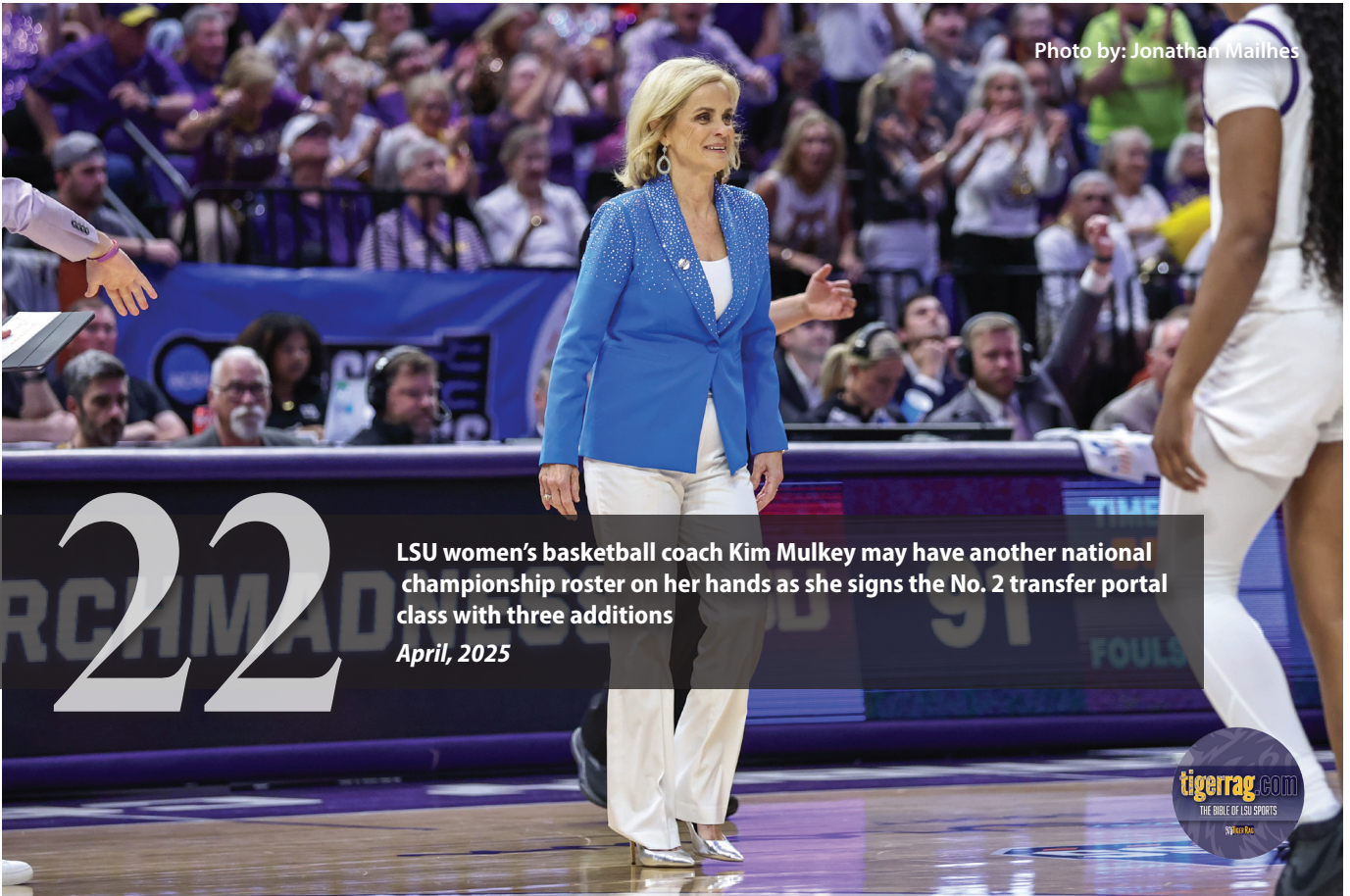


Photo by: Jonathan Mailhes

22

LSU women's basketball coach Kim Mulkey may have another national championship roster on her hands as she signs the No. 2 transfer portal class with three additions
April, 2025



Photo by: LSU Athletics

23

LSU softball coach Beth Torina has another so-so season, finishing .500 in the SEC for the second straight year and not reaching the World Series for the seventh straight time after going four times in her first five seasons. But she retains her job.
May, 2025



Photo by: Washington Nationals

Photo by: Pittsburgh Pirates

24

Former LSU baseball stars Paul Skenes and Dylan Crews, the first No. 1 and 2 picks of a Major League Baseball Draft from the same school in history just after winning the national title in 2023, meet as MLB players for the first time. Skenes, a pitcher for Pittsburgh, beat Crews and Washington, 10-3, at PNC Park in Pittsburgh

April 15, 2025

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Photo courtesy of Sports Illustrated



25

Former LSU gymnast Olivia Dunne graces her first iconic national magazine cover - the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit edition. Dunne also dates Paul Skenes.

May 15, 2025



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**TODD HORNE***Vice President / Executive Editor*

O maha had already witnessed Kade Anderson's rise to prominence with that seven-inning, three-hit, one-run, seven-strikeout gem against No. 3 Arkansas in LSU's opener. But when Game 1 of the College World Series Finals arrived, Anderson delivered an even rarer brand of brilliance. He toed the rubber for a full nine innings, surrendered just three hits, issued five walks, fanned 10 batters and bore down on 130 pitches to preserve a 1-0 victory. LSU's lone run came in the top of the first—and then the offense went silent. Yet none of it mattered, because Anderson's final heater froze Coastal Carolina's lineup and cemented one of the all-time great CWS performances.

Dig deeper into the box score and the mastery becomes clearer. Protected by that solitary first-inning tally, Anderson wrung his hands over two stranded runners in the opening frame, silenced traffic in the second, and cut down an at-

IN OMAHA, LSU SHOWED WHY IT WAS THE BEST TEAM IN COLLEGE BASEBALL

tempted steal to end the third. A leadoff double in the fourth was the only blemish before he struck out the side, and he dispatched hitters in order through the fifth, seventh, eighth and ninth. In an era when big-league managers routinely lift starters past the 100-pitch mark—even amid no-hit bids—Anderson not only stayed, he thrived, walking off eight innings later with his 10th punch-out and LSU faithful roaring in approval.

Then Game 2 of the CWS Finals, by contrast, veered into uncharted territory off the field. Home-plate umpire Angel Campos ignited a firestorm in the first inning by ejecting Coastal Carolina's skipper, Kevin Schnall, for flashing three fingers—an unambiguous, if common, sign of disagreement over ball-strike calls. First-base coach Matt Schilling joined him moments later, tossed in the ensuing dust-up. The spectacle overshadowed the ballgame itself, but LSU responded with poise: four runs in the fourth, ignited by Chris Stanfield's two-RBI single and capped by Derek Curiel's two-run knock. Despite a late jolt from Wells Sykes's seventh-inning homer, the Tigers held on for a 5-3 win to claim their eighth national crown since 1986.

Yet it was LSU's depth on the bump that truly underscored the program's

championship DNA. Anthony Eyanson set a firm tone in Game 2, and the tandem of Anderson and Eyanson combined for 15½ innings, three earned runs and 19 strikeouts across both finals contests. Coastal Carolina scratched in two runs in the seventh, but the Tigers' cushion, built by timely singles and doubles rather than the long ball, proved unassailable. Curiel's performance was particularly telling—his two-run single in Game 2 punctuated a season that has made him one of college baseball's most intriguing pro prospects heading into next season.

In the end, Jay Johnson's LSU Tigers captured their second national title in three years on the fundamentals: elite pitching, situational hitting and unbreakable resolve. The 2025 Finals will live on in memory for Anderson's masterclass in Game 1, Angel Campos's unprecedented mid-inning meltdown in Game 2, and above all, the Tigers' unshakable grit that runs deeper than any home-run porch in Omaha.

Todd Horne is the vice president and executive editor of *Tiger Rag* and started covering LSU sports in 1986. He is a graduate of LSU's Journalism School. Reach Todd at todd@tigerrag.com

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DALE BROWN

Tiger Rag Featured Columnist

Dear Coach Brown,

Congratulations on your induction to the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. I am sorry that I cannot be there with you tonight in person.

You are the only college coach I ever had, and the only one I ever wanted. When we met in Wildeflichen, Germany when I was 14, I heard you speaking about the game of basketball with such passion, I knew then that it was either you or the pros. I chose LSU because you were there, and I have never regretted that decision.

You have taught me a lot. Especially how to deal with and care about people. You are one of the only coaches I've played for that stresses the importance of philanthropy and giving back. You are one of my heroes, one of my idols, one of my good friends.

Your understanding of the game of basketball is legendary. You gave me knowledge I

A LETTER FROM SHAQUILLE O'NEAL

still use today. The award being presented to you tonight, however much it honors you, cannot begin to recognize your many gifts. God bless you and your family on this wonderful evening.

With love and respect,

Shaquille O'Neal

June 24, 1999

Shaquille O'Neal's Speech to Coach Dale Brown's 1995 Summer Basketball Camp at LSU

"I just wanted to say follow your dreams, because I can remember a time

when I was 13... 6-7... couldn't dunk. I had one pair of shoes and couldn't play ball. People always used to tell me, 'You're not going to be anything.' I never gave up.

"I listened to my mom. I listened to my dad. I stayed out of trouble, I went to school and did my homework. I cut grass. I washed dishes. I did whatever I had to do. I obeyed the rules. I followed my dreams and now I'm here.

"If you work hard, stay out of trouble and follow your dreams, you can be anything you want. I promise you."

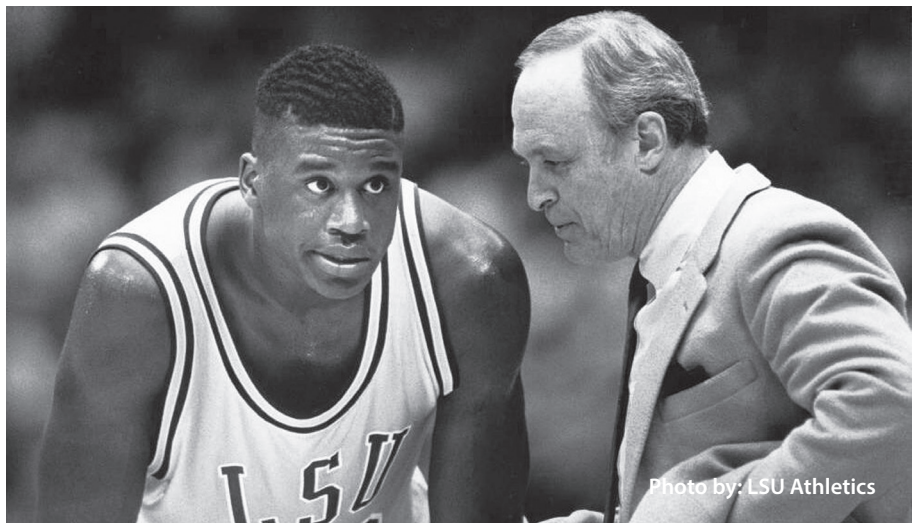


Photo by: LSU Athletics

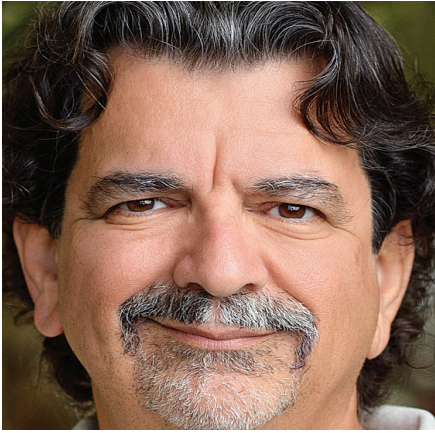


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JIM KLEINPETER

Tiger Rag Featured Columnist

LSU made its 20th appearance in the College World Series last month. Its purple and gold colors have long been associated with Omaha and what is no longer an underrated event.

Skip Bertman and LSU fans have played major roles in the evolution of the CWS and LSU dominance since 1986, the Tigers' first appearance. The 20 appearances in that 40-year span is unmatched.

Bertman's genius in building and maintaining a winner combined with the passion of a football-oriented fanbase helped grow the event and make the school identifiable to the point many LSU fans travel to the event even when the Tigers aren't playing.

Other fan bases have caught on as college baseball's popularity has grown, but no group does Omaha like Tiger Nation.

And there was no single bigger contribution, no more momentous moment, than Warren Morris' game-winning, two-run homer to walk off the 1996 title against Miami. It was a touchstone moment in LSU sports history and perhaps an even bigger one for college baseball, which ultimately outgrew Rosenblatt Stadium and the tournament format.

I remember, without researching, what I wrote that day as I sat momentarily stunned by the suddenness of not only a victory but a national championship. The term "walk-off" had not yet become fashionable which I'm glad of. The story behind Morris' ascension to the moment was a story book tale.

NO OTHER FAN GROUP DOES OMAHA LIKE TIGER NATION

Paraphrasing, I wrote "what Skip Bertman called the saddest of stories turned into the happiest of endings." Indeed, the "All-American kid" Morris entered that season clearly as LSU's best position player but early on suffered a fractured hamate bone, a piece of human anatomy forgotten by evolution.

Located near the base of the pinkie finger, it serves no real purpose, so it made more sense to remove the small bone surgically than to wait for it to heal. It happened in the first month of the season. Morris didn't return until the beginning of the NCAA Regional, missing more games (39) than he played in (28).

Normally the leadoff hitter type, Morris batted in the 9-hole when he returned, another tip toward destiny. He might not have even gotten to the plate but for a questionable call. Brad Wilson led off the fateful inning by hustling to second for a double, but it looked like he was thrown out in the days before replay challenges.

Two outs later, Morris stepped to the plate, loose and aggressive, but without a home run in 75 at bats. He jumped on the first pitch from the nation's premier reliever, Robbie Morrison, and smoothly stroked the ball a few rows into the right field stands.

Baseball, being a game of failure with such successes like chocolate chips in a cookie, embraced a moment that went as viral as it could pre-internet. It was the first two-out, ninth-inning, come-from-behind, walk-off homer in college or pro baseball. Replays are probably into the millions or some other astronomical number.

If humility, patience and desire are worthy qualities, no one was more deserving of the moment than Morris, who became an instant celebrity. A deeply spiritual person, he returned home to a successful career as a banker after five years in pro baseball.

Morris says talking about it never gets old because it always ends well, but in some ways it never really ends.

The hit allowed Morris to lead Tiger regulars for the season with a .400 batting average. The only other teammate with a higher average was Keith Polozola (.421, 19 at bats), who had the foresight to try and capture the magic of the moment for future use.

As the on-field celebration raged, Polozola scooped some of the dirt from the left side of the batter's box into an empty energy drink bottle. He sprinkled it in the batters box the following season as the Tigers repeated as CWS champions. LSU would go on to win another title in 2000, giving it five championships in the decade.

Here's hoping LSU can return in 2026 to sync up with the 30th anniversary. There is no better defining moment to be celebrated.

Jim Kleinpeter is a graduate of the LSU School of Journalism. He has been a sportswriter for 37 years, including 33 at the Times-Picayune. Reach him at jkleinpeter@gmail.com.

**JIM ENGSTER***President, Tiger Rag Magazine*

The first-hand experience of this observer of LSU sports began in my freshman year of 1977. LSU football was still king despite a six-year drought against Bear Bryant and Alabama. The most exciting back since Billy Cannon was on campus in Charles Alexander, and he ran for 1,883 yards that season in just 12 games as the Tigers went 8-4 and would wait another nine years before capturing the 1986 SEC title, their first conference football crown since 1970.

LSU basketball was ascending in the sixth year of Dale Duward Brown. The motor-mouthed maestro featured an electric array of stars in the fall of 1977. Rudy Macklin, DeWayne Scales, Kenny Higgs, Ethan Martin, Willie Sims, Lionel Green and Jordy Hultberg lifted LSU to a second-place finish in the SEC. Brown's bunch went 12-6 in the league but was not invited to a post-season tournament despite being one of two teams to defeat SEC and national champ Kentucky. The Bengals were one season away from their first SEC hoops title in 25 years.

The LSU women's basketball team was still called the Ben-Gals and was coming off a runner-up finish in the 1977 college tournament as Coach Jinks Coleman featured an awesome pair of Aussie standouts in Julie Gross and Marie Jackson. It would take 46 years for the Lady Tigers of Kim Mulkey to eclipse the finish of the '77 Ben-Gals.

Baseball was moribund in the spring of 1978. Fewer than 100 fans sometimes gathered at the original Alex Box Stadium to watch Jim Smith's final team post a woeful 12-34 record. Jack Lamabe was hired as Smith's successor and was a good coach with few resources. His best team was his first as the Tigers won 22 straight and posted 34 victories. Lamabe lasted six seasons when he looked in the local newspaper one morning

JAY JOHNSON IS BEST COACH ON CAMPUS

and saw his job advertised. Athletic Bob Brodhead had not informed the former major league hurler that he was toast.

Brodhead redeemed himself by luring Skip Bertman to Baton Rouge where Bertman spoiled LSU fans with 18 magical seasons, seven SEC titles and five College World Series triumphs. LSU captured its eighth CWS Championship in grand style this June. In 25 years since Bertman left, the Tigers have won five SEC titles and three national titles.

Jay Johnson is another championship away from a street naming, but he remains three titles short of reaching Skip's pinnacle. The 48-year-old leader is the top coach on campus. In four seasons, he has won it all twice with his teams performing much better in the clutch than in the regular season. LSU is 68-51 in the SEC under Johnson, but his Tigers are invincible in two trips to Omaha.

LSU lost its greatest coach ever in track and field legend Pat Henry. In 2004, Henry was miffed that he was earning fewer dollars than the women's basketball coach. It is the strategy of Athletic Director Scott Woodward to reward superlative performance. Presently, Johnson is earning almost \$2 million dollars annually less than Kim Mulkey with double the national championships at LSU and a program that does not swim in a reservoir of red ink.

LSU did not capture national honors in any sport in the span from 1959-86. Joe Dean gave up selling shoes at Converse in 1987 and immediately, the charismatic AD produced a bevy of NCAA titles. There were 27 national championships during the tenure of Dean, who benefited from Skip Bertman winning five CWS trophies. Woodward has enhanced stature and increased income with Johnson delivering \$1 million in bonuses for his boss.

Johnson is poised to preside over a dynasty if he stays. Woodward should rework the LSU coach's deal and pay him a base salary of at least \$4 million. Based on revenue, popularity and championships, Johnson is leading the second most popular program on campus. He is young enough for one more stop if LSU does not pay him at a higher level than it does Mulkey.

Johnson hails from the California town of Oroville, 70 miles north of Sacramento. His hometown is called "The City of Gold." He has discovered treasure on the bayou, and if he left, it would be by a heist similar to Henry being lured from LSU at 53 for a job at Texas A&M. Johnson was a second baseman for Point Loma Nazarene when Bertman won his final CWS crown in 2000, and the he shows every indication of being as smart a hire by Woodward as Bertman was by Brodhead 38 years earlier.

LSU Snubs Maravich Again

LSU saluted Pete Maravich June 22nd on the 78th anniversary of the birth of the Pistol in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. In January, 38 years will have passed since Pete died in Pasadena. He collapsed while shooting hoops at 40, and nobody before or since has played with the same flair and produced as many oohs, ahhs and points on a college court.

Maravich's numbers are well documented, but his 44.2 per game average over three seasons and his 3,667 points remain NCAA records 55 years since Pete departed the Cow Palace. Those numbers are even more impressive when they are weighed by no shot clock and no three-point play being in existence when Maravich was dazzling the masses at every arena he visited.

Last month, six new inductees were chosen for the 2025 LSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

All are worthy members, but one name is conspicuously missing: Pete Maravich.

John Brady, Perry Cole, Rheagan Courville, Ronald Dupree, Cornelia Gayden and Temeka Johnson brought credit to LSU, but not as much together as Maravich did by himself.

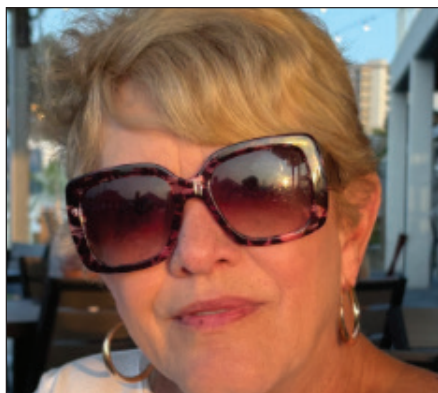
The reason usually given for this petty snub is that Pete did not graduate from LSU or another university. That rule has been waived at least four times, and LSU currently has a prominent board member with no college degree.

The HOF selection committee meets without media present and reviews nominations without a recorded vote. A unanimous vote is needed, and one longtime member of the panel reportedly says, "Pete was not a winner."

ENGSTER COLUMN cont. page 60

WHAT THEY READ

presented by



Donna Smith

What I'm reading -
Think Twice
by Harlan Coben

A man presumed dead is suddenly wanted for murder in this thriller of secrets, lies, and dangerous conspiracies that threaten to cover up the truth. One of my favorites!



Kim Hall

What I'm reading -
None Left to Tell
by Noelle Ihli

Three women, connected by one of the most brutal mass slayings in US history.

ENGSTER COLUMN cont. from page 59

Maravich made bad teams good. His father coached LSU basketball for six years, and Press Maravich was 27-51 overall without his son on the roster and 49-35 with him. LSU was 17-37 in the SEC under Press without Pete and 28-26 in the league with Press and Pete. His senior season Pete led LSU to a 13-5 SEC record for a second-place finish to Kentucky in the 1970 SEC standings.

With players having the ability to leave school early, many NFL, NBA and MLB stars from LSU lack degrees. Soon that requirement for HOF admission will go out the window, and hopefully Pete Maravich will receive appropriate acclamation. It is a travesty that petty political ploys block Pistol Pete from the LSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Talk Louisiana with Jim Engster is streamed statewide weekdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and is aired on WRKF Talk 89.3 FM in Baton Rouge as the flagship station. Jim is a graduate of the LSU School of Journalism. Reach him at: jim@louisianaradionetwork.com.



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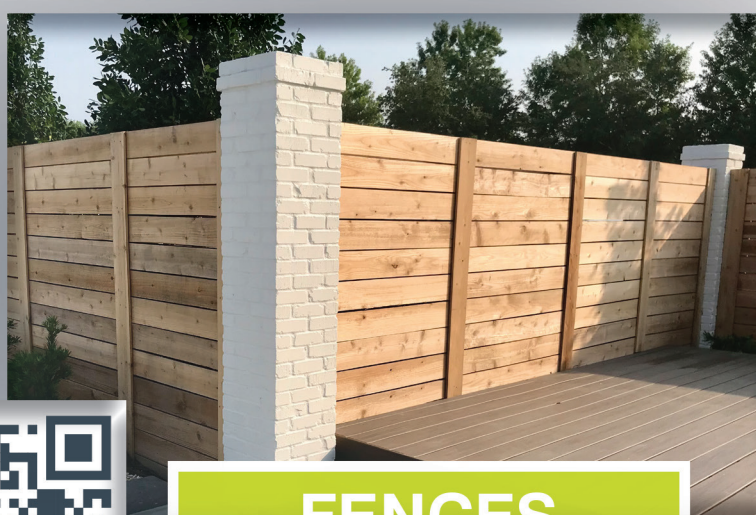
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