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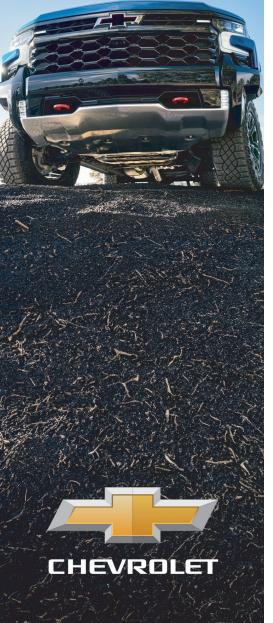
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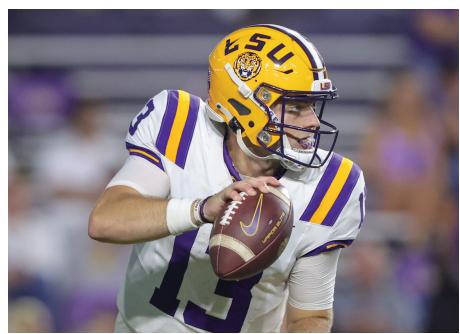


COVER 2, PAGE 3

Tiger of the Month

presented by

SUPER CHEVY DEALERS OF LOUISIANA



Garrett Nussmeier. Photo by Jonathan Mailhes

GARRETT NUSSMEIER: CARVING HIS LEGACY IN BATON ROUGE

Garrett Nussmeier wants to make his own mark in Baton Rouge. Unlike LSU's two recent Heisman winners, he's different.

In an era of short commitments, Nussmeier stands out in today's rapid transit college football world as he enters his fifth season as a Tiger and his second leading the LSU offensive attack.

Brian Kelly describes Nussmeier's journey as "patience, development, setbacks." He's got the potential for a national championship, but his risk-taking led to mistakes last season.

Nussmeier brings back experience and flashes of brilliance from 2024. He's learned from his mistakes and says he will avoid meltdowns in 2025.

He's got a strong arm, but he needs to work with the running game and avoid turnovers. If he can do that, 2025 could be a special year for both Nussmeier and for LSU.

Nussmeier is determined to carve out his own legacy at LSU, improving his game, leading the Tigers to a national championship and etching his own unique legacy.



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presented by







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Quarterback Garrett Nussmeier will be a second-year starter for LSU. And second time was the Heisman charm for both Joe Burrow in 2019 and Jayden Daniels in 2023.

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FROM THE EDITOR THE NO B.S. ZONE



GLENN GUILBEAU Tiger Rag Editor

It's year four under coach Brian Kelly, who is 29-11 at LSU and 17-7 in the Southeastern Conference. That's a .725 winning percentage and .708 in the league as he went 10-4 and 6-2, 10-3 and 6-2 and 9-4 and 5-3.

Not bad. In fact, pretty, pretty good, as Larry David would say. But the LSU Nation's enthusiasm has been curbed, because there have been no College Football Playoff appearances, even with the new 12-team format last season.

This is the year. It must be, right?

LSU has another senior quarterback with legitimate Heisman hopes in Garrett Nussmeier. He has a bevy of top-flight receivers and running backs, though there are questions about a rebuilt offensive line. But he does have a capable offensive coordinator in Joe Sloan, who should improve significantly in his second season.

The defense under second-year coordinator Blake Baker was decent last year and should be better. The defensive roster may be the best Kelly has had. The overall roster may be his best, too, as he has said.

So, on to the game-by-game predictions:

AUG. 30, AT CLEMSON (6:30 p.m., ABC) – Kelly has lost all three of his openers, and LSU has lost five in a row overall.

"I'm not going to make any other statements other than we need to win the opener," Kelly said over the summer. "We've circled the game. I've never done that before for openers. We need to beat Clemson."

But they won't. Clemson returns a strong team from a 10-4 season, particularly on defense. LSU's line will struggle to protect Nussmeier and provide a running game as Clemson never trails in a 27-13 win.

The natives revolt, but they always do. The national media will call for Kelly's head, but they've been doing that since he tried that Louisiana accent in 2021 right out of "The Big Easy." Tigerdroppings.com begs LSU to hire Billy Napier.

LSU WILL LOSE ANOTHER SEASON OPENER, BUT IT WON'T MATTER

SEPT. 6, LOUISIANA TECH (6:30 p.m., SEC Network+, ESPN+) – Nussmeier throws for 315 and four touchdowns in a 41-10 win, and there is hope on the bayou.

SEPT. 13, FLORIDA (6:30 p.m., ABC) – The Gators are 2-0 for the first time under Napier, but that's over Long Island University and South Florida. LSU finds an impressive run game as Caden Durham gains 126 yards and scores two touchdowns in 31-14 win.

SEPT. 20, SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA (6:45 p.m., SEC Network) – Nussmeier throws for 310 yards by the third quarter and exits. Backup Michael Van Buren rushes for 73 yards and throws a 37-yard touchdown in a 51-10 win.

SEPT. 27, AT OLE MISS – The Tigers pull out their first win in Oxford since 2019 as Nussmeier moves LSU 80 yards in the final moments and hits Aaron Anderson on a 17-yard touchdown with 12 seconds left for a 28-27 victory.

OCT. 11, SOUTH CAROLINA – LSU goes to 5-1 and 3-0 and reaches No. 9 in the Associated Press poll as Durham shreds the Gamecocks for 173 yard and three touchdowns in a 31-17 win.

OCT. 18, AT VANDERBILT – Nussmeier is ready for Broadway as he completes 23 of 26 for 325 yards and four TDs in a 34-7 rout.

GUILBEAU COLUMN cont. page 11

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.





LSU FANS FORGOT WHERE JAY JOHNSON WAS PRE-LSU

mid the rush of stories last June A about baseball coach Jay Johnson's second national title in three years, one LSU fan retweeted a headline from a column I wrote in 2021 for USA TODAY Louisiana about the hiring of Johnson:

"Here's why LSU's new baseball coach Jay Johnson is not a home run hire."

The column pointed out – AT THE TIME - that Johnson, 44, was not as qualified as other candidates. Those included early targets of LSU athletic director Scott Woodward - Florida's Kevin O'Sullivan (1 national championship), Vanderbilt's Tim Corbin (2 national championships), retired Oregon State coach Pat Casey (3 national championships), TCU's Jim Schlossnagle and Louisville's Dan McDonnell (five World Series each), and Ole Miss' Mike Bianco (one CWS).

Johnson took Arizona to the CWS twice, including the title series in 2016, but after inheriting a talented team at a program that just won the 2012 title. Bianco, who won it all in 2022, Schlossnagle and McDonnell had rejuvenated programs much more down than Arizona.

"Johnson is a solid hire and well respected," the column said. "But this hire is more of a single or a double than a home run AT THE MOMENT." The "single" without the rest of the sentence went viral as many said the piece did not age well. It didn't, but at the time it correctly compared the lack of accomplishments Johnson had compared to others considered.

The column also pointed out that Johnson was much younger than the coaches who had more skins on the wall.

As one fan said, "I saw that all over Facebook, but I didn't realize until now, you wrote it in 2021. That makes a difference."

In the end, Johnson was a "single or a double" who became a home run hire.

- Glenn Guilbeau



TIGER TWEETS



MLB Network @MLBNetwork

"To be able to share the field with them is an awesome experience, great to be back."

Dave Roberts and Paul Skenes talk about the Pirates pitcher being named NL starter for the #AllStarGame for the second consecutive year.





LSU Tigers @LSUSports



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Longtime LSU public address announcer Dan Borné will retire as the public address announcer for LSU football and men's basketball



Brian Kelly @CoachBrianKelly

Our guys represented LSU well at SEC Media Day! I'm proud of the work they did this summer to get ready.





Glen West @glenwest21

Garrett Nussmeier is the No. 1 quarterback in the SEC according to @CBSSportsCFB

"Patience. Development. Setbacks...He went through all three of those levels of his game last season."

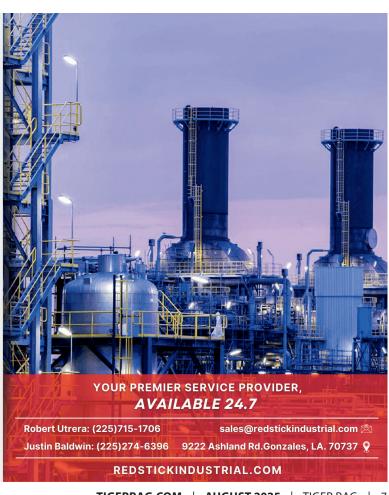




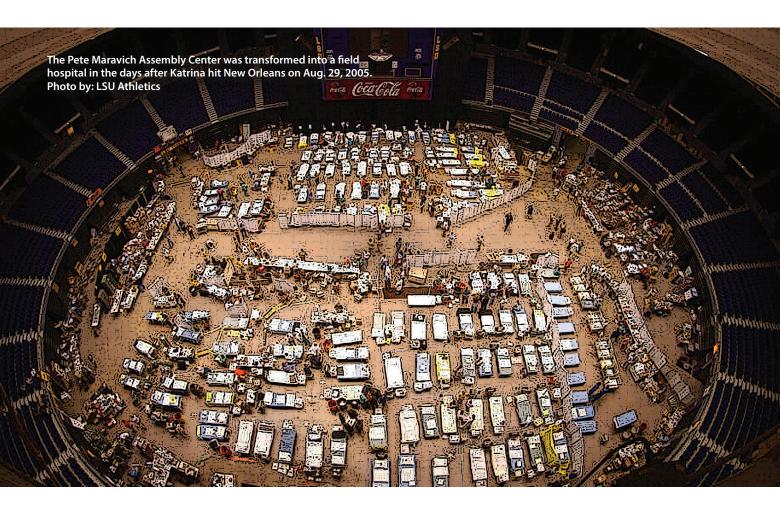
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KATRINA: 20 YEARS LATER

10 QUOTES THAT CANNOT BE EVACUATED FROM THE AUGUST 29, 2005, STORM

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

n the night of Friday, Aug. 26, 2005, I smoked a postgame cigar in the Smith & Wollensky restaurant bar across Poydras Street from the Louisiana Superdome. I needed a pickme-up after watching the New Orleans Saints lose in depressing fashion, 21-6, to the Baltimore Ravens, foreshadowing many more midnights weary and dreary for months and years to come in the City That Care Forgot.

The bartender was talking about taking her kids to the Blue Bayou water park in Baton Rouge the next day.

But a message on the Superdome scoreboard late in the fourth quarter had just warned of an approaching Hurricane Katrina. But it didn't seem to register to most. One writer in the press box even asked, "What's that hurricane's name?"

By 6:10 a.m. on Aug. 29 when the storm made landfall at Buras and soon after, most everyone knew Katrina as New Orleans became a water park of the worst kind with a final fatality count of 1,392 and \$125 billion in damages. The following 10 Katrina quotes cannot be evacuated:

1. "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job."

... President George W. Bush shortly after Katrina to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) director Michael Brown, who clearly was not doing his job and previously was the director of the International Arabian Horses Association. Thank goodness, no Arabian horses were harmed by Katrina.

Brown became the whipping boy of the Bush presidency's slow-motion reaction to the storm, which took nearly a week for the White House to do anything of significance. But it was Bush who ridiculously appointed the hopelessly under-qualified Brown to a very important job instead of making him ambassador to Rhode Island. Michael Chertoff, who was Bush's Secretary of Homeland Security, also did a poor job before, during and after Katrina. So did top government officials in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, but those with bigger jobs should get more blame.

2. "Anyone who makes a living as a professional musician owes a debt to New Orleans. The roots of jazz, blues and rock 'n' roll can all be traced to this region."

... U2 guitarist David Howell Evans, aka The Edge, to CNN after the storm. Evans came to New Orleans to help and could be seen playing little-known clubs like Banks Street Bar in the weeks after Katrina, sometimes in front of just 20 or 30 folks. He went on to raise money for relief efforts.

3. "We finished the night hauling boxes of body bags, and more were on the way. As we left, a man was rolled in on a stretcher and, scarily enough, had suffered gunshot wounds. The paramedic said he was shot several times because a looter needed his boat, and he wouldn't give it to him. He was unconscious and later pronounced dead. A man with him said it was 'an uncivilized society in New Orleans no better than Iraq right now.' I left as they were rolling a 3-year-old kid in on a stretcher. I couldn't take it anymore."

... LSU Sports Information Department student assistant Bill Martin after volunteering at LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center, which was converted into a MASH unit post Katrina with a morgue.

4. "All the bridesmaid dresses are gone. We may have to postpone the wedding."

... Michelle Millhollon, who was scheduled to become Mrs. Glenn Guilbeau on Jan. 14, 2006, unless we didn't get some new dresses. They were ruined by flood waters at a Metairie dress shop. We found the dress shop owner in hiding because of ruined dresses for other weddings. My mother Carmen (LeBleu) Guilbeau and sister-in-law Kathy (Moran) Guilbeau turned gumshoe detectives, located the incognito dress shop owner and retrieved Michelle's beautiful bridal gown, which the owner had spared. New bridesmaid dresses were purchased elsewhere, and the wedding went on in Thibodaux. Groom and groomsmen wore Black and Gold, Fleur-De-Lis ties. The after party and honeymoon happened at the Marriott on Canal Street in New Orleans amid military vehicles outside and the National Guard inside. cont. next page



5. "Is there still water in New Orleans?"

... An out-of-state wedding invitee months post-Katrina obviously suffering from too much storm coverage.

6. "This is for everybody in this city. This stadium used to have holes in it and used to be wet. It's not wet anymore. This is for the City of New Orleans."

... Sean Payton after his Saints beat Minnesota, 31-28, in overtime on Jan. 24, 2010, to win the NFC championship and reach the city's first Super Bowl.

7. "You're with us in San Antonio or you're not with us."

... Saints' owner Tom Benson in a memo to all employees after the Saints "temporarily" relocated post-Katrina to San Antonio, where Benson held many business interests for decades and wanted to move the franchise permanently. Benson fired Saints vice-president Arnold Fielkow for saying at a press conference that he wanted the Saints to stay in New Orleans. Benson was considering a move to San Antonio well before Katrina and tried to take advantage of the storm as his exit launch before NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue blocked his butt like a good levee.

8. "Four nights and five days."

... LSU tailback Leonard Fournette repeated when asked how long he and his family lived on the Interstate 10-Claiborne Avenue Overpass in New Orleans after Katrina when he was 10. It took Bush that long to get the cavalry to New Orleans.

9. "I saw some sights I never thought I'd see in an American city. The criminal ineptitude makes you furious."

... Bruce Springsteen at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival on April 30, 2006, as he set up his next song after having visited the still-ravaged 9th Ward the day before. He sang, "How Can a Poor Man Stand Such Times and Live," and dedicated it to "President Bystander."

10. "I should have recognized the deficiencies sooner and intervened faster. The problem was not that I made the wrong decisions. It was that I took too long to decide. When the pictures were released (of Bush viewing New Orleans' devastation from Air Force One I instead of visiting the city immediately as President Lyndon Johnson did after Hurricane Betsy in 1965), I realized I had made a serious mistake. Just as Katrina was more than a hurricane, its impact was more than physical destruction. It eroded citizens' trust in their government. It exacerbated divisions in our society and politics. And it cast a cloud over my second term."

... Former President George W. Bush in his 2010 memoir, "Decision Points."

DAN BORNE' RETIRES

The sun has set on the public address announcing career of LSU fan favorite Dan Borne'.

Borne', 79, has decided to retire, according to an LSU release last month, after 36 years as the Voice Of Tiger Stadium for LSU football home games.

"The sun has found its home in the western sky," Borne' would announce during Tiger Stadium games as sunsets began. "It is now Saturday night in Death Valley!"

And the crowd roared.

Borne' also liked to say in his openings before kickoffs, "Chance of rain ... NEVER," whether rain was in the forecasts or not, and often it rained.

"I would like to thank LSU and our fans for so many seasons of fond memories," Borne' said in LSU's release. "It's been a great honor, and I deeply appreciate it. It's time to retire and return the microphone. I'll be spending more time with our family and we'll always bleed purple and gold!"

In 1985, Borne' replaced a previous beloved PA legend - Sid Crocker, who was the Voice of Tiger Stadium from 1955 through 1984. Borne' was also the voice of the Pete Maravich Assembly Center for men's basketball games the last 36 years.

While not in Tiger Stadium on Saturday nights, Borne was a spokesman for and former president of the Louisiana Chemical Association.

"Dan's legacy and his booming voice in Tiger Stadium will never be forgotten," LSU athletic director Scott Woodward said. "Each Saturday night during the fall for 38 years, Dan's voice was a big part of helping create the best atmosphere in college football. We are truly appreciative for Dan's passion, his love of LSU football, and helping create countless memories through the years for fans of all ages in Tiger Stadium."



Borne' will be honored at one of LSU's home games this season.

"A search for the next LSU football and men's basketball PA announcer will begin immediately," the LSU release stated.

LSU should strongly consider LSU baseball sports information director Bill Franques for the Tiger Stadium PA announcer position. Franques replaced Borne' last season when Borne' took a leave of absence because of an illness. Franques has been the Voice of Alex Box Stadium for decades.

THE GOAT IS BACK

Yes, Haleigh Bryant has been named the newest assistant coach for the LSU gymnastics team, according to LSU Athletics, effective immediately. She replaces Ashleigh Gnat, who recently stepped down from the position. Bryant, a decorated LSU gymnast, will join head coach Jay Clark and co-associate head coaches Garrett and Courtney Griffeth on the 2026 coaching staff.

Bryant's coaching appointment comes after a highly successful collegiate gymnastics career at LSU. She is a two-time NCAA champion, including the 2024 individual all-around title, and led LSU to their first NCAA team championship that same year. She is also a 33-time All-American, a program record, and holds the school record for most perfect 10s with 18. Bryant was also the 2024 Honda Award winner for gymnastics.

Bryant expressed her honor at being named assistant coach, stating that the program means a lot to her. She will be working with the balance beam and floor exercise lineups.

GUILBEAU COLUMN cont. from page 5

OCT. 25, TEXAS A&M - LSU's defense makes a major statement by shutting out the Aggies in the fourth to erase the memory of last year's debacle in a 24-13 win.

NOV. 8, AT ALABAMA – In prime time, No. 5 LSU (7-1, 5-0 SEC) plays at No. 2 Alabama (8-0, 5-0 SEC) in a classic. Nussmeier finds Barion Brown for an 80-yard touchdown to tie it 24-24 with 1:22 left. But Alabama wins it with a field goal at the gun.

NOV. 15, ARKANSAS - No. 1 LSU stumbles around but manages a 17-14 win with stout defense and Brown's 66-yard punt return for a TD.

NOV. 22, WESTERN KENTUCKY - Nussmeier looks like the Heisman winner as he throws for 401 in a 44-17 win.

NOV. 29, AT OKLAHOMA – LSU caps off a 10-2 and 7-1 season with a 31-21 win in its first game in Norman to clinch its first playoff since the 2019 national championship and Nussmeier's Heisman.

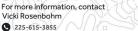
Kelly distributes receipts to all LSU media members a year after saying, "We're taking receipts, and we'll see you at the national championship."

This year, he exits stage right, saying, "We're giving receipts, and we'll see you at the national championship."

















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HAPPY 43RD BIRTHDAY TO FORMER TIGERS' WOMEN'S TRACK STANDOUT **LOLO JONES**

HAPPY 67TH BIRTHDAY TO FORMER LSU CENTER JOHN ED BRADLEY





HAPPY HEAVENLY 59TH BIRTHDAY TO FORMER LSU AND NFL STANDOUT ERIC ANDOLSEK

HAPPY HEAVENLY 110TH **BIRTHDAY TO FORMER** LSU BASKETBALL COACH PETER 'PRESS' MARAVICH







BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH CHECKLIST: START THE YEAR STRONG!

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As the back-to-school season rolls in, parents are busy stocking up on supplies, planning routines, and making sure their kids are ready to hit the ground running. But amidst the excitement of new backpacks and school shoes, one thing should never be overlooked: your child's health.

At Patient Plus Urgent Care, we're here to help you check off every item on your back-to-school health checklist - so your student can start the year healthy, safe, and confident.

Schedule a Sports Physical

Is your child trying out for a school sport? Most schools require a preparticipation physical exam (PPE) to ensure students are healthy enough for athletic activity. Walk in or schedule ahead - our clinics offer quick, convenient sports physicals without the long wait.

Address Those Lingering Health Concerns

Has your child been struggling with allergies, chronic sinus issues, or frequent ear infections? Start the school year on the right foot by addressing those nagging health concerns early. Our providers can evaluate and treat a wide range of common childhood conditions, no appointment needed.

Stock Up on Sick Day Essentials

Kids bring home more than homework - germs often tag along. Now is a good time to refresh your home medicine cabinet with essentials like fever

reducers, cold medicine, thermometers, and hand sanitizer. If your child does fall ill, Patient Plus is open 7 days a week with extended evening hours to fit your schedule.

Plan Ahead for When Illness Strikes

School exposure increases the risk of strep throat, ear infections, viruses, and other illnesses. Patient Plus offers rapid testing, same-day care, and online check-in to help you navigate sick days without missing a beat.

Establish a Healthy Routine

A consistent sleep schedule, balanced meals, and regular physical activity set the stage for academic success. Our team is always here to provide guidance and support.

Whether you need a quick physical or last-minute care for a sick day, we've got you covered so that your family can head back to school with confidence. Check in online or walk in today. Patient Plus is your partner in healthy



NEXT LEVEL TIGERS



LSU pitcher Kade Anderson, who won the College World Series MVP, is introduced at the national championship celebration on June 25 at Alex Box Stadium. Photo by: Jonathan Mailhes

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT

TIGERS CUT WIDE SWATH INTO PRO BASEBALL WITH 9 PLAYERS TAKEN ALONG WITH 8 COMMITMENTS

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

SU pitcher Kade Anderson was not expected to fall past the third pick of the first round of the Major League

Baseball draft on July 13, and that's exactly what happened.

The Seattle Mariners took LSU's ace left-hander who led the nation with 180 strikeouts and was the College

World Series MVP for the national champion Tigers with the third pick.

"Still doesn't really feel real," Anderson said. "When I heard my name, obviously, it's what you dream about. Just super grateful to be selected by an organization that I really got to meet and take in. I think everything happens for a reason, and for me to be selected by the Mariners truly means a lot."

Anderson was 12-1 with a 3.18 ERA and 180 strikeouts with 35 walks in 119 innings as a sophomore in 2025. Because of an early birthday on July 6 when he turned 21, Anderson was eligible for this draft as a sophomore.

"To have that opportunity to pitch in the SEC and the World Series prepares you for the next step," Anderson said. "Really looking forward to the next chapter. I want to leave an impact and impression on the Seattle Mariners and give them a reason why I'm here."

Anderson struggled through his freshman season at LSU before exploding as the Tigers' ace in 2025.

"Just like how I was at LSU, I want to win a World Series," he said. "You come here to win, and that's what I've already done. I think it's as simple as that. It's nothing new, and I know what it takes."

In the second round, LSU redshirt sophomore pitcher Chase Shores went as the 47th pick overall to the Los Angeles Angels, going 30 spots over his projection.

Junior pitcher Anthony Eyanson then went in the third round as the 87th overall pick to the Boston Red Sox. And designated hitter/outfielder Ethan Frey also went in the third round to the Houston Astros as the 95th pick.

In the later rounds, second baseman Daniel Dickinson went in the sixth round at No. 185 to Milwaukee.

LSU first baseman Jared Jones went in the ninth round to Pittsburgh. He led the Tigers with 22 home runs and 76 RBIs in 2025. Jones hit 64 home runs in his three-year career for third on LSU's all-time list.

Pitcher Jacob Mayers went in the ninth round, too, as pick No. 268, also to Pittsburgh. And pitcher Kade Woods went in the 10th at No. 307 to Atlanta. LSU's last player picked in the 20-round draft was left-handed pitcher Conner Ware in the 15th round at No. 463 overall by the New York Mets.

Eight LSU signees were drafted - third baseman Brady Ebel of Rancho Cucamonga, California, in the first round by Milwaukee at No. 32, outfielder/catcher Jaden Fauske of Willowbrook, Illinois, in the second round at No. 44 to the Chicago White Sox, infielder Quentin Young of Camarillo, California, to Minnesota in the second round at No. 54, outfielder Dean Moss of Atherton, California, in the second round at No. 67 to Tampa Bay, catcher Landon Hodge of Agua Dulce, California, in the fourth round to the Chicago White Sox, pitcher Miguel Sime of Queens Village, New York, to Washington in the fourth round, left-handed pitcher Briggs McKenzie of Wendell, North Carolina, to Atlanta in the fourth round, and pitcher River Hamilton of Woodville, Oregon, in the 11th round to Detroit. TR





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LSU PICKED 4TH

LB WHIT WEEKS MAKES 1ST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE AT SEC MEDIA DAYS

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

SU is making progress, according to the media.

National and regional reporters voted the Tigers to finish fourth in the Southeastern Conference regular season standings in a poll from SEC Media Days here released on July 18 by the SEC.

Texas was picked to win the SEC with a victory over defending SEC champion Georgia in the SEC Championship Game. The Longhorns, who will have redshirt sophomore Arch Manning starting at quarterback, received 96 votes to 44 for Georgia, 29 for third place Alabama and 20 for LSU, which was picked fifth last year.

LSU junior linebacker Whit Weeks was the only Tiger voted to the first team All-SEC preseason team. Quarterback Garrett Nussmeier was selected second team behind South Carolina quarterback LaNorris Sellers. Manning was voted third team.

LSU running back Caden Durham, wide receiver Aaron Anderson and linebacker Harold Perkins Jr., made second team.

The rest of the predicted order of finish had South Carolina fifth, Florida sixth, Ole Miss seventh, Texas A&M eighth, Tennessee ninth and Oklahoma 10th. The bottom six featured Auburn, Missouri, Vanderbilt, Arkansas, Kentucky and Mississippi State.

Only 10 times since 1992 has SEC Media Days voting been correct - Florida in

1994 and '95, LSU in 2007, Florida in 2008, Alabama in 2014, '16, '18, '20 and '21, and Georgia in 2014. LSU last won the SEC in 2019.

SEC PRESEASON

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB - LaNorris Sellers, South Carolina

RB - Quintrevion Wisner, Texas

RB - Le'Veon Moss, Texas A&M

WR - Ryan Williams, Alabama

WR - Cam Coleman, Auburn

TE - Eli Stowers, Vanderbilt

OL - Kadyn Proctor, Alabama

OL - Cayden Green, Missouri

OL - DJ Campbell, Texas

OL - Austin Barber, Florida

C - Jake Slaughter, Florida

DEFENSE

DL - Keldric Faulk, Auburn

DL - Dylan Stewart, South Carolina

DL - Colin Simmons, Texas

DL - Christian Miller, Georgia

LB - Anthony Hill Jr., Texas

LB - Whit Weeks, LSU

LB - CJ Allen, Georgia

DB - KJ Bolden, Georgia

DB - Michael Taaffe, Texas

DB - Daylen Everette, Georgia

DB - Jermod McCoy, Tennessee

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB -Garrett Nussmeier, LSU

RB - Jaydn Ott, Oklahoma

RB - Caden Durham, LSU

WR - Aaron Anderson, LSU

WR - Ryan Wingo, Texas

TE - Oscar Delp, Georgia

OL - Ar'maj Reed-Adams, Texas A&M

OL - Trey Zuhn III, Texas A&M

OL - Jaeden Roberts, Alabama

OL - Fernando Carmona Jr., Arkansas

C - Parker Brailsford, Alabama

DEFENSE

DL - Caleb Banks, Florida

DL - Tim Keenan III, Alabama

DL - LT Overton, Alabama

DL - R Mason Thomas, Oklahoma

LB - Deontae Lawson, Alabama

LB - Harold Perkins, LSU

LB - Suntarine Perkins, Ole Miss

DB - Malik Muhammad, Texas

DB - Domani Jackson, Alabama

DB - Will Lee III, Texas A&M

DB - Jalon Kilgore, South Carolina

THIRD TEAM

OFFENSE

QB - Arch Manning, Texas

RB - Nate Frazier, Georgia

RB - Jam Miller, Alabama

WR - Eric Singleton, Auburn

WR - Kevin Coleman Jr., Missouri

TE - Jack Endries, Texas

OL - Earnest Greene III, Georgia

OL - Chase Bisontis, Texas A&M

OL - Xavier Chaplin, Auburn

OL - Trevor Goosby, Texas

C - Connor Lew, Auburn

DEFENSE

DL - Keldric Faulk, Auburn

DL - Dylan Stewart, South Carolina

DL - Colin Simmons, Texas

DL - Christian Miller, Georgia

LB - Anthony Hill Jr., Texas

LB - Whit Weeks, LSU

LB - CJ Allen, Georgia

DB - KJ Bolden, Georgia

DB - Michael Taaffe, Texas

DB - Daylen Everette, Georgia

DB - Jermod McCoy, Tennessee TR





Editor's Note: The original version of this story appeared in Tiger Rag 10 years ago this fall

LSU GREAT LEONARD FOURNETTE WEATHERED THE STORM ON A BRIDGE FOR 4 NIGHTS AND 5 DAYS AT AGE 10

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

Pour nights and five days. Leonard Fournette says it over and over as if reciting a Biblical story.

Well, there was a catastrophic storm of biblical proportions 10 years ago on Aug. 29, 2005, called Katrina. And the world he knew flooded like a plague.

"We used the bathroom in the standing water under the bridge," the star LSU tailback remembered as the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina approached (in 2015). "We couldn't take baths. We saw dead bodies."

Fournette, then 10 years old, and family spent the days and nights immediately

after Katrina on the Claiborne Avenue overpass on Interstate 10 East near the Superdome and his grandparents' Seventh Ward home and St. Augustine High School. There he would become the greatest prep tailback in the nation in 2012 and '13.

The Fournettes spent Sunday night — Aug. 28, 2005 — on the fourth floor of the Grand Palace Hotel at 1732 Canal St.

"It caught on fire," Fournette said. "The water was rising, and so we didn't want to drown. We had to get out of there and carry our grandmothers and little cousins. So, we went right there on the bridge. The water was almost up to the bridge. You had to go through water to get on it."

Some died on the overpass and underneath it.

"Seeing all those dead bodies in the water, man, floating," Fournette said shaking his head. "People robbing. Actually, saw a man who took a man's watch off him — off a dead body. The city was crazy."

This was the circle of life for four nights and five days. But then there was also The Circle, where the Claiborne streetcars turned at Claiborne and St. Bernard avenues up until 1934. It created a natural meeting place, cultural epicenter, business hub and one legendary grocery store.

The Fournettes and hundreds of others on the overpass sustained themselves by looting The Circle Food Store, where some of them had grown up, at the bottom of a then-flooded I-10 ramp on St. Bernard. It sits at the edge of The Treme - the oldest African American neighborhood in the country and subject of an HBO series from 2010-13.

"We had to loot grocery stores," Fournette said. "You know, food, drinks for the young ones and my grandmothers and grandfathers. We did that to help the family. We just took what we needed."

In the days after Katrina, a national network did a piece on the Circle Food Store that focused on people taking what they needed for the most part.

Peaceful moments on the bridge stay with Fournette to this day.

"I never laid next to my grandmother until them days and those nights," he said. "She always lived around St. Aug. We were down by her house every day. I was always in trouble. She always seemed to drill things to me. 'Leonard, you can do better.' So right now, in my mind, I think I'm making her proud even though she's not with us now. We all helped each other get through Katrina."

And finally on the fifth day, a government bus took Fournette and family to higher ground in Baton Rouge and then to a shelter Portland, Texas, for several months.

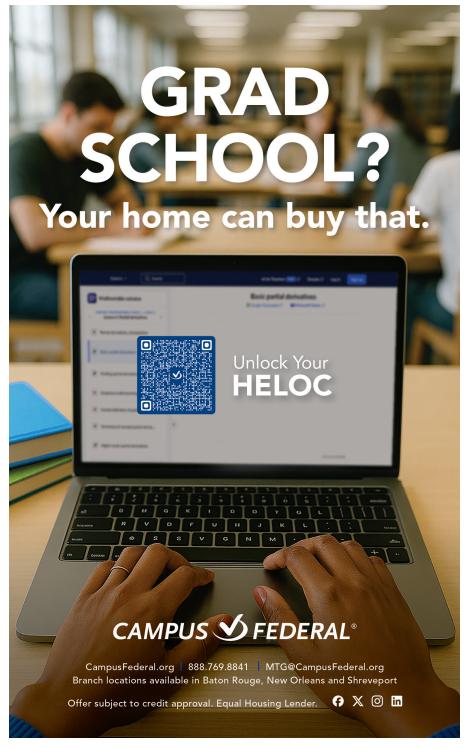
"I remember taking a shot to clean your system out," he said. "Man, that was the worst shot I ever took in my life. Throwing up every day. Went to a shelter in Texas. Just taking a bath and fresh clothes felt good."

Fournette could have gone to any college in the nation, but he chose to stay close to home.

"Because of Katrina," he said. "I didn't want to go far. New Orleans is where I'm from. That's my city. Katrina is something I went through to help me become a better man."

And whenever in New Orleans, he looks at the bridge.

"Man, I was right there. I slept there," he said. "I stayed there four nights and five days." TR









TALKING SEASON

BRIAN KELLY PREACHED ETHICS AMONG COACHES AND TRANSPARENCY AMID NIL AGE AT SEC MEDIA DAYS

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

SU football coach Brian Kelly led off Lthe Southeastern Conference Media Days at the Omni Hotel in Atlanta on

July 13. He started by throwing bouquets at the LSU fan base - always a smart move. Ouestions moved to NIL

(Name, Image & Likeness) and playoff models. Then he ended strongly, pointing the finger at himself and other coaches to be stewards of ethics and morality in a game void of traditional ethics because of NIL pay to players without sufficient guardrails yet.

BRIAN KELLY OPENS AS LSU FIGHT SONG PLAYS: I'm not starting until that's over. Go Tigers. Love it.

Well, welcome. It's an exciting part of this month, because we're close to football season. We have an incredibly passionate fan base. We've sold over 75,000 season tickets. We led the country in season tickets sales.

What confronts me is how we continue to generate that incredible support. And that is by continuing the vision of graduating champions. Every single day that's what we talk about. I know you find that hard to believe in a sense, but that's what we talk about. We are still college. This is still about college. This is not the NFL. And that's a great thing for a guy like myself that started in Division II and has worked my way through five different programs. It's really about the student-athlete and the relationships with student-athletes.

So, we have a clear process in place for our guys. That process is what I love to do. I love developing our players. I love the ability on a day-to-day basis to have a transformational relationship with them so when they leave our program, they're successful in the NFL, successful in life.

I know you're more interested in talking about other things, but this is what excites me about LSU football, our ability to graduate our players now and to move them on and see the success that they're having in the NFL.

QUESTION: You mentioned your \$1 million donation and the other donors' donation to build the roster to get to a championship level. How sustainable is that long-term not only at LSU, but other programs of similar resources?

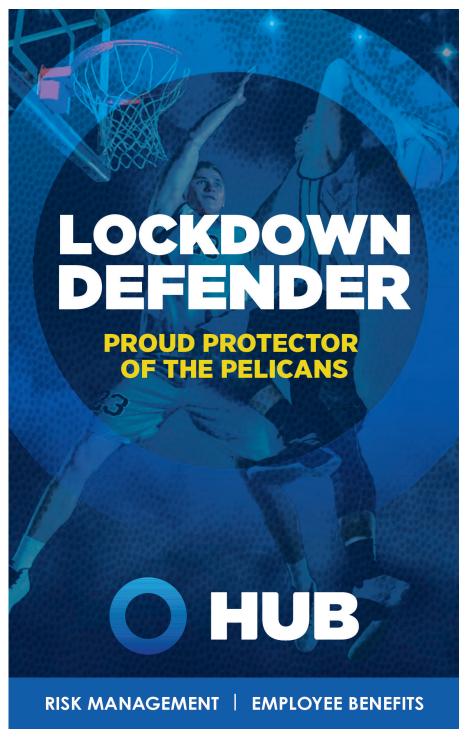
KELLY: I'm not going to do a million every year, no. I know that wasn't your question. I'm kidding. Look, I think it's the nature of where we are in college football. We have revenue sharing, NIL. We're early on in the process here. This is the first step towards what we're trying to put together. I'm excited about college football. I'm excited that we have something in place

relative to revenue sharing. NIL is still something that we have to navigate through. So to answer your question, I think we still have to be thinking about how we continue to build or support for NIL, because it's not going away, nor should it.

Q: What are your thoughts on the Big Ten wanting the SEC to finally increase its league games, having coached in that region for several years as Notre Dame's winningest head coach?

KELLY: Thank you for that last piece. That was very nice. The check is in the mail.

I think we would push for as many teams as possible, if they were evaluated based upon what their schedule looks like. If we're talking about winloss record, they're not all the same based upon what conference you're in and who you play. I think at the end of the day, that selection process will probably mean having the end in mind first. And that will then cont. next page





Brian Kelly signs an autograph outside SEC Media Days press conference at College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta. Photo by LSU Athletics

generate the answers in terms of how many teams and what's your conference schedule look like in terms of how many you play.

Q: What is your relationship with general manager Austin Thomas like?

KELLY: Austin has done a terrific job in this new order. He's extremely bright and innovative when it comes to the revenue sharing plan and certainly NIL. We've hired some great people who will help in personnel, in recruiting and in retention. And he can also assist with contracts. It's new for me, right? I've never had a general manager.

Q. When it comes to broader governance, whoever it is, I guess what is it that you want to see from those in charge leading college sports? Whether it's structure, whether it's consistency in rulings, what do you want to see as a football coach?

KELLY: Transparency and consistency. Those two words are probably the most important thing as we continue to move forward. Now, the other thing is we would like federal government involvement. I got the Christmas list here. I can go through them all, if we start with transparency and start with the clear communication necessary

and consistency in approach. Look, I know this might not be what you were asking, but it's got to start with the coaches. It's got to start with us. I mean, we have to be the stewards of this. There has to be a moral high ground and ethics in this. It starts with us. It starts with coaches.

I was at a speaking engagement a few weeks back, and every question about the NIL was trying to find a way around it. Sooner or later, we have to take the stand that transparency, consistency, ethics, and morality are at the core of this. TR

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SAY IT, AND IT WILL COME, SAYS BRIAN KELLY, BUT WILL TIGERS HAVE ENOUGH AROUND HEISMAN HOPEFUL GARRETT NUSSMEIER?

Lition of the word championship 10 times during his press conference at the Southeastern Conference Media Days last month.

Other coaches, like five-time LSU national champion baseball coach Skip Bertman, preached to his players they had to envision it happening before it could happen.

At least, Kelly is talking about it.

"What are we about to do? Continue the vision of graduating champions (1) at LSU," Kelly said. "Every single day, that's what we talk about."

LSU Football last won a championship in Kelly's first year in 2022 when the Tigers won the SEC West, which is no longer. There has been no SEC overall championship or national championship since the 2019 season.

"It's really about the relationships with student-athletes and helping them get to that goal of graduating and winning championships (2), or playing for championships (3)," Kelly said.

Kelly, 63, won Division II national championships in 2002 and '03 as Grand Valley State's head coach and took Notre Dame to the Bowl Championship Series national championship game in the 2012 season before losing to Alabama. He also took the Irish to a 12-0 season in 2018 before losing to eventual champion Clemson in a College Football Playoff semifinal.

"The one goal that I started with," said Kelly, who has been a head coach since he was 29 at Grand Valley State in Allendale, Michigan, in 1991, "was I want to graduate our players and play for championships (4)."

Kelly also just won the NCAA Transfer Portal national championship, if you will, as the Tigers' 2025 class finished No. 1 by 247sports.com.

"We went into the transfer portal to build depth – championship (5) level depth across the board," he said.

Kelly has the most important ingredient to win a national championship over the last decade or so – a very good or great quarterback. He has that in fifth-year senior Garrett Nussmeier.

"He wants to lead our football team to a championship (6)," he said. "If the Heisman comes with that, I think he's good with that."

Nussmeier at times last season showed flashes reminiscent of LSU's Heisman and national title winning quarterback Joe Burrow in 2019. But only glimpses. Nussmeier did finish fifth in the nation in passing yards with 4,052, but his passing efficiency was a very average at 142.7 because of 12 interceptions for 42nd nationally and 10th in the SEC.

"HE'S SEEN IT, BEEN
THERE. BEING IN THOSE
SITUATIONS WHEN
EVERYTHING AROUND
YOU AND YOUR BEST
IS NEEDED, YOU NEED
EXPERIENCE. THAT,
TO ME, IS WHY HE'S
GOING TO BE VERY
SUCCESSFUL."

- BRIAN KELLY

Five of those interceptions came in losses to Texas A&M (three) and Alabama (two) that knocked LSU from playoff contention before a 9-4 finish – 5-3 SEC.

"All of our conversations with him aren't about individual goals," Kelly said. "They're about, 'How do I lead this football team to a championship (7).' All we've seen is him leading and being selfless. His selflessness is going to be the differentiator from last year to this year, as well as the experience he had playing against really good SEC teams."

If Nussmeier can improve drastically in his second season as a starter as Burrow did in 2019 and as Jayden Daniels did in winning the Heisman in 2023, look out.

"Jayden Daniels' development in year one to year two was astronomical, if that word even suits it," Kelly said. "It was incredible. Garrett Nussmeier will have a similar jump. It's because you go on the road and it's sold out. You play teams so well coached and balanced with great players that you have no choice but to learn, develop, and get better."

Last year's mistakes by Nussmeier are now teaching moments.

"Just having last year to be able to go back and watch, study," Nussmeier said. "This entire offseason has been about that for me, watching all parts of the game, seeing the areas I need to be critical of myself and improve, whether it's taking care of the football or using my legs more in situations."

Many of Nussmeier's interceptions were painfully avoidable.

"There's no hiding from the turnovers," he said. "I think it's more of an understanding of the way I am as an anticipation player. There's going to be some interceptions. The ones I need to eliminate are where I'm trying to do too much - trying to make a play when I don't need to."

Nussmeier has also studied his fantastic game against Ole Miss as he drove LSU for the tying points in the final moments, then won it in overtime.

"Having confidence in that this is what I was able to do," he said. "And now, all I've got to do is raise the floor."

That experience cannot be duplicated in practice.

"He's seen it, been there," Kelly said. "Being in those situations when everything around you and your best is needed, you need experience. That, to me, is why he's going to be very successful."

But Nussmeier will need some help from a running game that too often disappeared last season or rarely appeared at all last season. In the 38-23 loss at A&M, LSU rushed for 24 yards on 23 attempts.

"You can't make a living with 24 yards rushing," an incensed Kelly said after that game. "We've got to help Garrett out. We've got to give him cont. next page



a more balanced offense. We need to keep a Garrett Nussmeier from having to stand on his freakin' head! So, he's not out there trying to make a play every flippin' play."

LSU will have to find a running game and protect Nussmeier with four starters gone from its offensive line to the NFL.

The Tigers' revamped line in the Texas Bowl win played well with sophomores Tyree Adams and Paul Mubenga at left tackle and guard, returning starting sophomore center DJ Chester and junior right guard Ben Bordelon. Redshirt freshman Weston Davis or senior transfer Josh Thompson will start at right tackle. Junior transfer Braelin Moore could start

at center with Chester moving to guard.

"I'm bullish on our offensive line," Kelly said. "I think we're going to be able to produce the kind of things necessary to be a championship (8) team."

The backs are there in returning sophomore Caden Durham and highly recruited freshman Harlem Berry.



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Kelly and second-year offensive coordinator Joe Sloan will also be running Nussmeier more. He passed up too many open running lanes last season to throw to receivers who often weren't open. Too often, he tried to force passes and go for big plays instead of the first down.

"I think it ties into my growth, and I've really bought into trying to change my body makeup and being more durable," Nussmeier said. "To be able to run, to be able to make plays with my feet as well."

The game film tells the story.

"There were times last year where I may have made a mistake," he said. "I should've put my head down and got back to the line, or ran for three yards and slid. It could have been a different outcome. There are many ways I'm trying to grow and be better. It's about becoming more well-rounded."

LSU can't get too risky with Nussmeier trying to be Daniels. The Tigers have a capable backup in sophomore Michael Van Buren Jr., who started eight games last season at Mississippi State. But he is not on Nussmeier's level. Neither is talented redshirt freshman Colin Hurley.

"I have a lot of respect for Jayden, a lot of respect for Joe, and what they accomplished in their second years, and also respectively in their first years," Nussmeier said.

But Nuss is not Burrow or Daniels.

"At the end of the day, I'm Garrett Nussmeier," he said. "I'm a follower of God. That's who I am. That's who God made me. And I'm worried about improving myself and being my best, so I can be to lead us where we want to go."

He didn't say championship, but he almost did.

For an SEC or national championship to happen, LSU's defense must improve significantly. It was better last year under first-year coordinator Blake Baker (whom Kelly got via the coaching portal from Missouri) than the disaster in 2023. But it was not close to any of the defenses of previous LSU national champions in 2019, '07, '03 or 1958.

"We have not played the kind of defense necessary to win a national championship (9)," Kelly said. "Clearly, the 2023 offense was good enough to win a national championship (10). But we weren't good enough as a team."

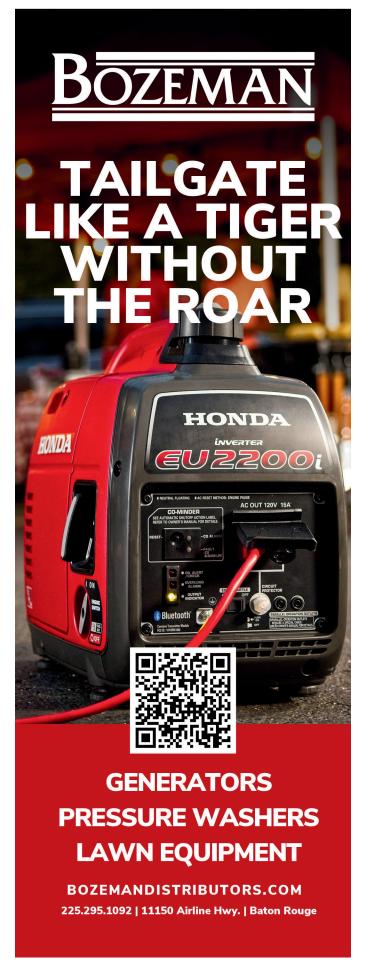
The best portal additions are on defense - No. 3 and No. 4 safeties A.J. Haulcy and Tamarcus Cooley from Houston and North Carolina State, respectively, No. 2 edge Patrick Payton of Florida State and No. 15 cornerback Mansoor Delane of Virginia Tech.

Baker needs to put it together and make better in-game adjustments.

"We put a roster together in the off-season," Kelly said, "and given Blake now the tools to play championship level defense."

That was Kelly's 11th "championship" reference - one to grow on.

Will this finally be the year Kelly lives up to his 10-year, near-\$100 million contract, which was a deal fit for a national champion, other than from Grand Valley State? TR



LSU FOOTBALL 2025 SCHEDULE



AT CLEMSON

SAT. AUG 30 | 6:30 PM CT | ABC

CLEMSON, S.C. (CLEMSON MEMORIAL STADIUM)



AT VANDERBILT

SAT. OCT 18 | TBA

NASHVILLE, TENN. (FIRSTBANK STADIUM)



vs. Louisiana tech

SAT. SEP 6 | 6:30 PM CT | SEC NETWORK+

BATON ROUGE, LA. (TIGER STADIUM)



AIM VS. TEXAS A&M

SAT. OCT 25 | TBA

BATON ROUGE, LA. (TIGER STADIUM)



vs. Florida

SAT. SEP 13 | 6:30 PM CT | ABC

BATON ROUGE, LA. (TIGER STADIUM)



AT ALABAMA

SAT. NOV 8 | TBA

TUSCALOOSA, ALA. (BRYANT-DENNY STADIUM)



vs. Southeastern Louisiana

SAT. SEP 20 | 6:45 PM CT | SEC NETWORK

BATON ROUGE, LA. (TIGER STADIUM)



vs. ARKANSAS

SAT. NOV 15 | TBA

BATON ROUGE, LA. (TIGER STADIUM)



AT OLE MISS

SAT. SEP 27 | TBA

OXFORD, MISS. (VAUGHT-HEMINGWAY STADIUM)



VS. WESTERN KENTUCKY

SAT. NOV 22 | TBA

BATON ROUGE, LA. (TIGER STADIUM)



vs. South Carolina

SAT. OCT 11 | TBA

BATON ROUGE, LA. (TIGER STADIUM)



AT OKLAHOMA

SAT. NOV 29 | TBA

NORMAN, OKLA. (OKLAHOMA MEM. STADIUM)

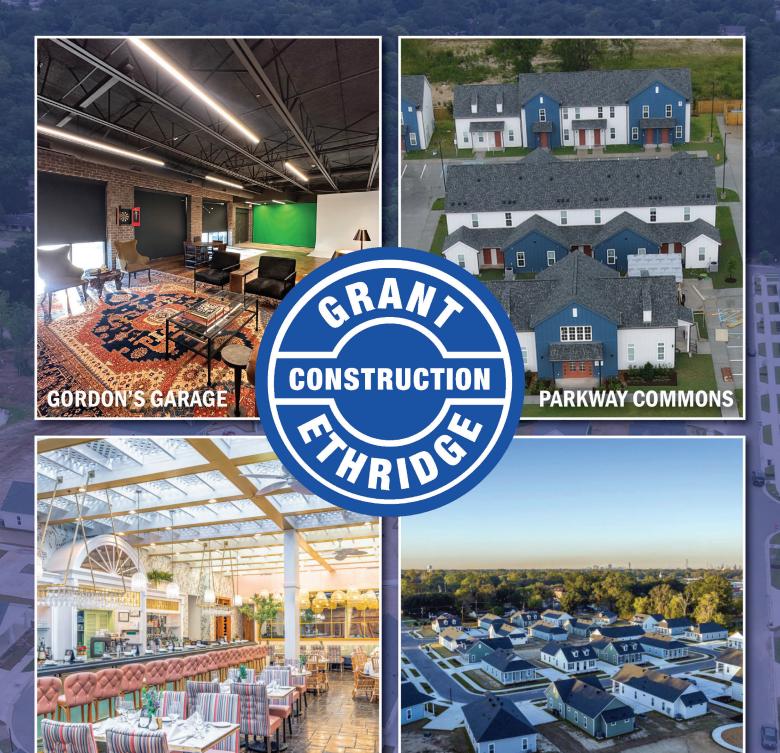




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HOLLYWOOD



Wide receiver Chris Hilton Jr. showed his true potential late last season after recovering from an ankle injury. Photo by Michael Bacigalupi

HILTON HONORS FINALLY ON THE WAY?

WR CHRIS HILTON JR. MAY REACH THE POTENTIAL THIS SEASON WE'VE ALL HEARD ABOUT FOR 4 YEARS

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

If you have not paid close attention, Lyou may have missed Chris Hilton Jr.'s career at LSU. It has basically been a flash and a glimpse for four seasons.

The deep threat plans on changing that in his fifth-year senior campaign for the Tigers in 2025.

"I've had a rough road, you know? Things haven't gone as planned," he said at the Southeastern Conference Media Days last month.

Various injuries plagued the No. 5 wide receiver in the nation following his signing with the Tigers before the 2021 season after starring in football and track at Zachary High. He played in just eight games in his first two seasons in '21 and '22, making only nine catches for 190 yards with a touchdown. He played a career-high 11 games in a season in 2023 and made 13 catches for 225 yards with two touchdowns.

Last year was supposed to be his year, but an ankle injury kept him sidelined until mid-season, and he struggled until the final two games.

"I would say one of the best things I did since I've been here was open the Bible and just started reading," he said. "That's kind of how I got back to myself, which you all saw the last two games."

Hilton caught nine passes over those two games for 198 yards and three touchdowns. His 40-yard TD catch from quarterback Garrett Nussmeier, who came in with him in the 2021 class, gave the Tigers a 24-17 lead over Oklahoma with 45 seconds left in the first half of the season finale. His 45-yard TD in the third quarter put LSU up 31-17 in a 37-17 win.

In the Texas Bowl against Baylor, he caught seven passes for 113 yards in a 44-31 win. His 41-yard score in the second quarter gave LSU a 21-7 lead.

Entering 2025, he is injury free.

"I would say I'm just really excited to see what I can do," he said. "Obviously everybody knows that I've been injured in the past, and I plan to keep that in the past."

Nussmeier can't wait to have him as a vertical option all season for a change.

"At the end of the year, you saw the Chris Hilton we were talking about," he said. "His speed, on top of his quickness and his catch-and-run ability is special. He's really grown as a complete and total receiver."

Hilton leads a talented and fast group of receivers as junior Aaron Anderson and senior Zavion Thomas return with transfers Barion Brown, Destyn Hill and Nic Anderson, who is recuperating from a car accident on July 11.

"I don't think we have a receiver that runs over a 4.4 (time in the 40-yard dash). A lot of versatility and a lot of speed," Nussmeier said.

"We're going to be really dynamic, very explosive," Hilton said. "You're going to see a whole bunch of dances, a whole lot of celebrations."

Hilton is also embracing coaching more.

"You better be (expletive deleted) coachable," LSU coach Brian Kelly told Hilton on the sidelines last season against Florida.

"I would say he wants what's best for his players," Hilton said. "That's been his main thing. He wants what's best for us. And he's going to push us to be our best."





LSU TARGETED RECEIVERS IN THE PORTAL. BUT THOSE ALREADY HERE ARE NOT GOING ANYWHERE

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

uch has been made of LSU's wide receiver additions from the NCAA Transfer Portal.

Junior Nic Anderson of Oklahoma is the No. 9-ranked player overall in the portal and No. 3 wide receiver.

Senior Barion Brown of Kentucky is the No. 33 transfer overall and No. 9 wide receiver. Sophomore Destyn Hill of Florida State was not ranked due to injuries and scarce playing time, but he impressed over the spring.

Do not think, however, that any of that trio will necessarily be lining up ahead of returning Tigers like senior Chris Hilton Jr. (see pages 30-31) and junior Aaron Anderson. Look out for senior returnee Zavion Thomas, too.

"Adding them to the room is not going to do anything but, how do I want to say this?," Hilton said. "But it makes us more dynamic. I've said this in previous interviews, you would think it would cause problems because we have so many weapons."

Sounds like options are a good problem to have. Case in point - the national champion LSU baseball team that platooned several players.

"But it's good because, like, if you try to put emphasis on one of us, you've still got to worry about two others," Hilton said. "If you somehow find a way to guard two of us, you still have a third you've got to worry about. We're going to be really dynamic, very explosive."

Aaron Anderson had the best 2024 season of any of LSU's receivers. He caught 61 passes for 884 yards and five touchdowns. Hilton played just the last six games because of an ankle and leg injury, but he was a deep play machine, catching nine for 243 yards with three touchdowns. His 27-yard-per-catch average was nearly twice as high as Anderson's No. 2 total at 14.5.

Another deep threat is Thomas, who caught 23 passes for 218 yards and two touchdowns.

Nic Anderson missed all but one game last season with a quadriceps injury and is coming off minor injuries in a car accident last month. He caught 38 passes for 798 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2023 for the Sooners. Brown caught 29 passes for 361 yards and three touchdowns last season at Kentucky. As a freshman in 2022, he caught 50 for 628 and four touchdowns.

Virtually every receiver quarterback Garrett Nussmeier can throw to has speed below or at 4.4 in the 40.

"That's special," Nussmeier said. "Chris and Aaron are coming off great years. Nic is very electric. He makes plays on the ball in the air that are unbelievable. Very excited for Nic, and looking forward to what he's going to put out this year."

Sophomore Trey'Dez Green showed superstar potential last season as he backed up tight end Mason Taylor, whom the New York Jets took in the second round last spring. Green caught 13 passes for 101 yards with four touchdowns.

LSU added senior tight end Bauer Sharp of Oklahoma from the portal. He caught 42 passes for 324 yards and two touchdowns, but is also versatile.

"You better do your work on him, because he can do both," LSU coach Brian Kelly said. "He can block. He can catch the football. And that to an already elite tight end in Trey'Dez, and we've answered that question of replacing Mason resoundingly." TR





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CADEN DURHAM CAN FEEL HIS TOES, KALEB JACKSON HAS LOST WEIGHT, AND HARLEM BERRY MAY BE AN IMPACT FRESHMAN

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

LSU's running game was supposed to be the calling card for the 2024 Tigers with an experienced and talented offensive line, so new starting quarterback

Garrett Nussmeier would not have to be relied on for virtually everything. It didn't happen, and Nussmeier was

often called upon to try to do too

much, particularly during a three-game losing streak that wrecked the season. Nussmeier was mistake-prone over that period, though, still at times spectacular. He may be in the same boat again as a senior with four starters from that offensive line gone via the NFL Draft - left tackle Will Campbell as the fourth overall pick to New England, right tackle Emery Jones in the third round to Baltimore, right guard Miles Frazier in the fifth to Detroit and left guard Garrett Dellinger in the seventh to Baltimore.

A revamped line looked good in the Texas Bowl win over Baylor, but Clemson's defensive front will be far more challenging in the opener on the road.

At least, though, top running back Caden Durham can feel his toes again. For most of last season, Durham played on two dislocated toes suffered in game five against South Alabama on Sept. 28. The freshman from Duncanville High in Dallas, where he was the No. 6-ranked back in the nation, still finished with 753 yards on 140 carries with six touchdowns and caught 28 passes for 260 yards and two touchdowns.

"The good part about it is he's healthy," LSU coach Brian Kelly said.

Meanwhile, Kelly, who has always been involved with the offensive line, and offensive line coach Brad Davis put in new running plays in spring drills.

"We're doing some things that will be first-time looks for Caden," Kelly said. "He's got to get comfortable in that because that's going to be featured."

Junior Kaleb Jackson, the No. 10 running back in the nation from Liberty High in Baton Rouge in 2023, is down to his freshman weight of 225 pounds after playing at 235 last year. He gained 150 yards on 44 carries as a reserve.

"He's done a great job with his weight," Kelly said. "He struggled last year with his size and volume. He was great in spring. So, he's really crossed that hurdle."

Kelly added Louisiana No. 1 running back in his 2025 class in Harlem Berry of St. Martin's High in Metairie.

"He's just figuring out the offense, but you can tell he's extremely talented," Kelly said. "It's just a matter of him learning the offense for a coat of armor." TR







LSU'S BIGGEST ISSUE IS INEXPERIENCE WITH ONE RETURNING STARTER

By TODD HORNE, Vice-President, Executive Editor

SU's 2025 offensive line has many Junknowns. Coach Brian Kelly isn't worried. He knows the team's success depends on two things: protecting quarterback Garrett Nussmeier and creating a strong ground game.

Last year's line struggled to rush. Now, new players must step up before August 30. Kelly believes they can do it. He's developed young linemen before.

The only returning starter is DJ Chester, a redshirt sophomore. Tyree Adams, Weston Davis, Paul Mubenga, Coen Echols, Josh Thompson, Braelin Moore, and Carius Curne are the newcomers. To succeed, they must protect Nussmeier

and establish a strong run. If they do, LSU could have one of the league's most improved lines by November.

Last year's rushing attack struggled, and now four starters are gone. New players must come together quickly. Coach Kelly is optimistic, recalling when he started true freshmen Emory and Will in the SEC. He believes his current mix of top recruits, transfers, and one returning starter can surprise people.

"I've been in their shoes," Kelly says of grooming young linemen. "We started true freshmen in the SEC-Emory and Will—and they held their own. Now, we feel we've developed guys ready to step

in who aren't true freshmen, but players who have soaked up our system." Kelly's tone is bullish: he sees a blend of bluechip recruits, seasoned transfers and one returning starter that can exceed outside expectations.

LSU didn't dip into the portal for tackles, signaling faith in Adams and Davis. Practices showcased spirited competition, with Chester's footwork and Thompson's hand placement emerging as camp highlights. Kelly believes that by opening fall camp with groundwork laid, his line can accelerate its comfort level before the season opener. TR



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Linebacker Whit Weeks finished 2nd in the SEC and 9th nationally in 2024 with 125 tackles. Photo by: Michael Bacigalupi

LSU HAS 'THE NATURAL' INTERVIEW

LINEBACKER WHIT WEEKS TACKLES MICROPHONES WITH SAME PASSION HE ATTACKS QUARTERBACKS, RUNNING BACKS AND RECEIVERS

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

L SU, like many high profile college football programs across the country, spends a lot of time grooming, advising and coaching its players for interviews with the media.

Tommy Karam, a Distinguished Instructor in LSU's Department of Marketing and the Flores MBA Program, has been coaching LSU football players for interviews since the 1980s. He's one of the best in the business and is the director of LSU's communication studio for media interviews. During player interviews each week during LSU football seasons, Karam is often standing near enough to hear and see his work.

LSU junior linebacker Whit Weeks is on his way to becoming one of Karam's best students, though Karam may have just had to point him to the microphone.

Quarterback Joe Burrow was a natural on arrival at LSU as a junior in 2018. So was former tight end Foster Moreau, who continues to interview well with the Saints. Marcus Spears and Jacob Hester were excellent as well, and have carried those talents to national network broadcast careers.

Another born interviewee is Weeks, who put on a show during SEC Media Days last month in his home state of Georgia in Atlanta. A native of Watkinsville an hour away, Weeks tackled the event as he does opposing players.

The key to Weeks' God-given talent at interviews is that he really enjoys it, as you can tell by his exuberance. A reporter noticed this and asked, "What keeps you so happy, energetic, enthusiastic?"

It apparently was the question Weeks was waiting for.

"Every day," he said. "This was a dream of mine as a kid. I'm from Georgia, so growing up I always knew how great LSU was. But I never really knew what LSU was about until I got down there."

Then came perhaps the quote of Media Days.

"I thank God every single day for allowing me to be an LSU Tiger," he said. "It's the honor of my lifetime to put on that Purple and Gold and represent the great state of Louisiana and the great fans. It's an honor that I don't take lightly."

After playing mostly as a backup freshman in 2023, Weeks had probably the best all-around season by a linebacker in LSU history in 2024. His 125 tackles were second in the SEC and ninth in the nation. He added 10 stops for losses with 3.5 sacks, six quarterback hurries, two forced fumbles and an interception.

Weeks missed spring practice after breaking his leg and dislocating in the Texas Bowl, but is expected back at 100 percent.

"I'm ready to roll," he said.

"Whit is our driver," LSU coach Brian Kelly said. "He brings the passion, but passion without focus is irresponsible. He's not that. He's got incredible focus and passion. It rubs off on our entire defense."

Weeks philosophy is simple.

"I know how passionate our fans are, and I'd be doing them a disservice if I didn't go out every single day and give them 110 percent."

And he's not even a local.

"It's not hard to do - play passionate for the best fans in the world," he said. "Playing in front of them on Saturday nights in Death Valley is the best feeling in the world."

Count on seeing Whit Weeks a lot this season ... on a television or website near you. TR





AT LAST, HAROLD PERKINS JR. CAN DO WHAT HE DOES BEST -RUSH FROM OUTSIDE

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

SU coach Brian Kelly and defensive coordinator Blake Baker have finally woke up and smelled the café au lait.

Football can be simple, and the best coaches keep it that way at times. For the up-anddown career of junior linebacker Harold Perkins Jr., the best philosophy is first-grade primal:

Line Harold Up Outside See Harold Run See Harold Make Tackles That's it.

That's what Perkins did his freshman year in 2022 from the edge, collecting career highs in sacks (7.5) and forced fumbles (4) with 13 stops for loss and an interception in eight starts in a freshman All-American season.

And he has never duplicated that, because then-defensive coordinator Matt House and Kelly started thinking too much and put Perkins inside. Then Baker followed suit last year, and Perkins started slow before a knee injury ended his season after four games.

He's back on the edge.

"We're helping ourselves by moving him back to outside, and we're helping him, because that's his next stop in the NFL," Kelly said at SEC Media Days. "He can come off the edge and blitz. Taking things head on inside, that's not who he is. So, let's put him in a position that suits who he is and let him play."

There is depth with Week's brother West, a senior, and sophomore Davhon Keys with signees Charles Ross II, Jaiden Braker, Keylan Moses and a third Weeks brother, Zach. TR





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MISSION POSSIBLE: LSU SENIOR TRANSFER CORNERBACK MANSOOR DELANE IS PRIMARY COG IN NEW SECONDARY

By TODD HORNE, Vice-President, Executive Editor

Senior transfer Mansoor Delane stepped off the plane in Baton Rouge with one mission: breathe life back into LSU's storied "DBU" legacy. At 21 years old, the Severn, Maryland, cornerback spurned a probable thirdor fourth-round NFL draft slot for one last collegiate campaign beneath Tiger Stadium's glare, intent on learning from secondary guru Corey Raymond. "I came down to either prep for the NFL draft or elevate my game," Delane says, pausing after his commitment announcement. "When I visited LSU, everything clicked. This is the place."

It's easy to understand why. Raymond, now in his third stint at LSU, has transformed 18 defensive backs into professionals—four in Round 1, five in Round 2 and four more in Round

3. Among them sits Derek Stingley Jr., the No. 3 overall pick in 2022 who just inked a three-year, \$90 million contract, vaulting him to the top of the NFL pay scale for defensive backs. "His record speaks volumes," Delane notes. "I'm aiming to be next in line." Spring practices in Tiger Town quickly

turned into gladiatorial affairs. Every day, Delane and the corner room

squared off against a loaded LSU offense headlined by potential 2025 Heisman hopeful Garrett Nussmeier. "I studied that attack—Nuss and the receivers. Competition pushes you," Delane explains with a grin.

Already, Delane has rotated across outside corner, nickel and even safety in Brian Kelly's hybrid scheme—a chessboard of coverages that Raymond relishes. "I refuse to be boxed into one spot," Delane insists. "Versatility is my bread and butter."

His résumé backs that claim. Over three seasons at Virginia Tech, he logged 1,826 defensive snaps in 33 games (29 starts), piling up 146 tackles, eight tackles for loss and six interceptions—four of those coming in 2024 alone. He broke in as a freshman, debuting midseason against North Carolina with backto-back tackles, including a two-yard takedown of Drake Maye. "My anticipation and football IQ let me

see plays before they happen," he says. "My quickness is a weapon."

LSU's revamped secondary brims with promise: junior Ashton Stamps, sophomore DaShawn Spears, freshmen D.J. Pickett and Michael Turner, plus sophomores P.J. Woodland and Florida transfer Ja'Keem Jackson. Delane has already stepped into a locker-room leadership role, uniting the group around a single aim—reclaiming DBU supremacy. "This room is loaded with talent," he says. "I want to bring everyone together to reach their peak."

And Delane isn't LSU's only portal prize. Houston safety A.J. Haulcy and NC State nickel Tamarcus Cooley have joined, fueling a fierce safety-room battle alongside returners Jardin Gilbert, Javien Toviano, Joel Rogers and Spears. "We're forging moments and building a brotherhood," Delane observes. "That's the key to championships."

As spring drills wind down, the buzz around Baton Rouge is unmistakable: DBU is on the march again. With Raymond's proven pedigree, Delane's Swiss Army-knife skill set and a wave of incoming talent, LSU's secondary is coalescing into an opposing quarterback's worst nightmare.

When the Tigers open the season against Clemson on August 30, their defensive backfield could be the SEC's fiercest. Delane is already predicting big numbers-50-60 tackles, multiple pass breakups and a handful of interceptions—all in the pursuit of national prominence.

"DBU isn't just a tagline," Delane says, eyes alight. "It's a standard of excellence. I'm here to raise it."

If spring practice was any indication, Mansoor Delane and his new teammates are well on their way to doing just that—and reestablishing LSU as college football's premier factory for elite defensive backs. TR







BRIAN KELLY'S RECORD AT LSU

29-11 OVERALL AND 17-7 IN SEC PLAY

2022: 10-4 (6-2 IN SEC)

2023: 10-3 (6-2 IN SEC)

2024: 9-4 (5-3 IN SEC)



TIGER GREAT KYLE WILLIAMS WILL TRY TO IMPROVE FRONT 7 IN 1ST YEAR AS A COLLEGE COACH

By TODD HORNE, Vice-President, Executive Editor

Lsignificantly, if only because of the additions of outstanding transfer defensive ends Patrick Payton (Florida State) and Jack Pyburn (Florida). Last season, LSU's defensive line faced uncertainty after losing key players to the NFL. However, they recruited well, bringing in Gio Paez and Jay'Viar Suggs. Despite Jacobian Guillory's early injury, the line fought hard throughout the season. Paez and Suggs performed well, and freshmen Ahmad Breaux and Dominick McKinley showed promise.

This season, Bo Davis has left, and Kyle Williams has taken over as defensive line

coach. Paez, Suggs, and Paris Shand are gone, but Guillory, Breaux, and McKinley remain.

LSU's top defensive tackle contenders are Jacobian Guillory and Dominick McKinley. Guillory is a seasoned player with SEC experience and a strong tackling record. McKinley is a five-star recruit who showed promise last season and is primed for a breakout. Ahmad Breaux is also expected to see significant playing time. The team has added Bernard Gooden from the transfer portal, who will bring pass-rushing skills. LSU will need to find depth, with players like Shone

Washington and Sydir Mitchell vying for roles.

Ranked as the No. 4 defensive tackle in the portal by On3, Gooden is projected as LSU's leading interior pass rusher, boasting an impressive 35 pressures during his stint at USF in 2024. He'll compete fiercely for a starting role, but his erratic run defense raises caution. However, fans should gear up to see Gooden shine in pass-rushing situations, bringing ferocity to the line.

Defensive coordinator Blake Baker should be able to tap Williams often to wreak havoc often with this defensive line. TR



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DAMIAN RAMOS GIVES LSU CONSISTENT FIELD GOAL KICKING, BUT TIGERS WILL TRY NEW PUNTER, HOLDER, AND SNAPPER

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

Everyone remembers LSU's 38-23 loss at Texas A&M last season for several reasons.

The Tigers blew a 17-7 lead midway through the third quarter to start a three-game skid that knocked them out of the playoffs. Freshman Aggies quarterback Marcel Reed came off the bench in the third, and the rest is history.

But something else contributed – special teams. The snap-holdplacement process went all Cirque du Soleil as the usually consistent Damian Ramos missed 48- and 49-yard field goals - both in his range - in the first half. Ramos had made field goals from 47 and 48 yards the previous week at Arkansas.

When LSU lined up for a 46 yarder in the third quarter while leading 17-14, Slade Roy snapped it perfectly to holder Peyton Todd. But Todd wasn't looking. After an 11-yard loss, A&M took over and drove for a touchdown and never trailed again.

"That is just ridiculous," LSU coach Brian Kelly said. "We'll get it fixed, and it's never going to happen again."

Roy graduated. And Todd, who was also LSU's punter, transferred to Louisiana-Monroe.

LSU has a new snapper in freshman, preferred walk-on Silas Hall of Episcopal High in Baton Rouge and a new holder/punter in sophomore Grant Chadwick of Middle Tennessee via the portal. Chadwick punted 50 yards or more 13 times last season and averaged 43.4 yards to Todd's 41.3.

And Ramos is back for his fifth-year senior season after making 23 of 27 field goals last year outside of A&M. He also holds the school record for consecutive extra points at 129. Sophomore Aeron Burrell was among the best in the nation at kickoffs last season.

And the Tigers have added a talented kick returner in wide receiver Barion Brown via Kentucky to go with Zavion Thomas and Aaron Anderson.

Sounds like things might be fixed. TR



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#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CLASS	EXP	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	PREVIOUS SCH
	Tamarcus Cooley	S	6-0	195	Redshirt Sophomore	TR	Knightdale, N.C.	Rolesville HS	NC State
	Zavion Thomas	WR	5-10	191	Senior	1L	Woodmere, La.	John Ehret HS	Mississippi State
	Aaron Anderson	WR	5-8	188	Redshirt Junior	2L	New Orleans, La.	Edna Karr HS	Alabama
	Ashton Stamps	CB	6-0	190	Junior	2L	Harvey, La.	Archbishop Rummel HS	
	Jardin Gilbert	S	6-1	195	5th-year Senior	1L	White Castle, La.	University Lab HS	Texas A&M
	Destyn Hill	WR	6-1	197	Redshirt Sophomore	TR	New Orleans, La.	Edna Karr HS	Florida State
	Chris Hilton Jr.	WR	6-0	190	5th-year Senior	3L	Zachary, La.	Zachary HS	
	DJ Pickett	CB	6-4	190	Freshman	HS	Zephyrhills, Fla.	Zephyrhills HS	
	Nic Anderson	WR	6-4	210	Redshirt Junior	TR	Katy, Texas	Katy HS	Oklahoma
	Mansoor Delane	CB	6-0	191	Senior	TR	Silver Spring, Md.	Archbishop Spalding HS	Virginia Tech
	Barion Brown	WR	5-11	180	Senior	TR	Nashville, Tenn.	Pearl-Cohn HS	Kentucky
	Patrick Payton	DE	6-5	255	5th-year Senior	TR	Miami, Fla.	Miami Northwestern HS	Florida Śtate
	Harold Perkins Jr.	LB	6-1	220	Redshirt Junior	3L	New Orleans, La.	Cy Park HS	
	Ja'Keem Jackson	CB	6-0	195	Redshirt Sophomore	TR	Kissimmee, Fla.	Osceola HS	Florida
	Ju'Juan Johnson	QB	5-11	205	Sophomore	1L	Lafayette, La.	Lafayette Christian Academy	1101144
	Bauer Sharp	TE	6-5	250	5th-year Senior	TR	Dothan, Ala.	Dothan HS	Oklahoma
)	Dashawn Spears	S	6-3	205	Sophomore	1L	Denham Springs, La.	Denham Springs HS	Okidilollid
	Michael Van Buren Jr.	QB	6-0	192	Sophomore	TR	Bowie, Md.	Saint Frances Academy	Micciccinni Stat
		CB			Sophomore	1L		Oak Grove HS	Mississippi Stat
	PJ Woodland		5-11	165			Hattiesburg, Miss.		Maharaha
	Jimari Butler	DE	6-5	260	Graduate Student	TR	Mobile, Ala.	Murphy HS	Nebraska
-	Kyle Parker	WR	5-11	197	Redshirt Sophomore	1L	Allen, Texas	Lovejoy HS	
	A.J. Haulcy	S	6-0	220	Senior	TR	Houston, Texas	Fort Bend Marshall HS	Houston
	Garrett Nussmeier	QB	6-2	200	5th-year Senior	4L	Lake Charles, La.	Marcus HS	
1	Trey'Dez Green	TE	6-7	240	Sophomore	1L	Jackson, La.	Zachary HS	
ŀ	CJ Jackson	DE	6-4	240	Redshirt Freshman	RS	Atlanta, Ga.	Tucker HS	
)	Jaiden Braker	LB	6-3	209	Freshman	HS	Snellville, Ga.	South Gwinnett HS	
,	Colin Hurley	QB	6-1	213	Redshirt Freshman	RS	Miami, Fla.	Trinity Christian Academy	
,	Damien Shanklin	DE	6-5	260	Freshman	HS	Indianapolis, Ind.	Warren Central HS	
	Jelani Watkins	WR	5-9	163	Redshirt Freshman	1L	LaPlace, La.	Atascocita HS	
)	Emile Picarella III	QB	6-2	212	Freshman	HS	Baton Rouge, La.	University Lab HS	
1	Gabriel Reliford	DE	6-2	268	Sophomore	1L	Shreveport, La.	Evangel Christian Academy	
	Michael Turner Jr.	CB	6-1	158	Redshirt Freshman	1L	Kenner, La.	John Curtis HS	
	Phillip Wright III	WR	6-0	164	Freshman	HS	Shrewsbury, La.	Destrehan HS	
)	Harlem Berry	RB	5-10	185	Freshman	HS	New Orleans, La.	St. Martin's Episcopal School	
2	Joel Rogers	S	6-0	198	Redshirt Freshman	1L	St. Francisville, La.	West Feliciana HS	
3	,	CB		162		HS		Ruston HS	
	Aidan Anding		5-11		Freshman		Grambling, La.		
3	JT Lindsey	RB	6-0	184	Freshman	HS	Alexandria, La.	Alexandria Senior HS	
	Jacob Bradford	S	6-0	192	Freshman	HS	Baton Rouge, La.	Catholic HS	
)	Trey Holly	RB	5-7	192	Redshirt Sophomore	SQ	Farmerville, La.	Union Parish HS	
5	Javien Toviano	S	6-1	199	Junior	2L	Arlington, Texas	Martin HS	
)	Cowinn Helaire	WR	5-9	165	Redshirt Junior	1L	Lafayette, La.	Lafayette Christian Academy	
	Austin Ausberry	S	6-0	195	Redshirt Junior	1L	Baton Rouge, La.	University Lab HS	Auburn
	Kaleb Jackson	RB	6-0	235	Junior	2L	Baton Rouge, La.	Liberty Magnet HS	
3	Jhase Thomas	S	6-1	173	Freshman	HS	Destrehan, La.	Destrehan HS	
)	Caden Durham	RB	5-9	205	Sophomore	1L	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Duncanville HS	
)	Wallace Foster IV	CB	5-10	175	Redshirt Freshman	1L	New Orleans, La.	Warren Easton HS	
)	Malachi Lane	RB	6-0	224	Senior	1L	Spring Branch, Texas	Smithson Valley HS	
)	Charles Ross II	LB	6-1	212	Freshman	HS	Houston, Texas	North Shore Senior HS	
	CJ Jimcoily	LB	6-3	210	Freshman	HS	Nashville, Tenn.	Lipscomb Academy	
)	Aeron Burrell	PK	6-2	195	Sophomore	1L	Bossier City, La.	Parkway HS	
	Keylan Moses	LB	6-2	213	Freshman	HS	Baton Rouge, La.	University Lab HS	
}	West Weeks	LB	6-3	232	Graduate Student	пэ 3L	Watkinsville, Ga.	Oconee County HS	Virginia
								•	Virginia
	Joseph Ebun	RB	5-11	201	Redshirt Sophomore	SQ	John's Creek, Ga.	Chattahoochee HS	
	Damian Ramos	PK	6-2	190	5th-year Senior	3L	Baltimore, Md.	St. Paul's HS	
	Zach Weeks	LB	6-3	224	Freshman	HS	Oconee County, Ga.	Oconee County HS	
	Aidan Corbello	PK	5-8	190	Redshirt Sophomore	SQ	New Orleans, La.	Jesuit HS	
	Craig Walton Jr.	CB	5-11	170	Redshirt Sophomore	1L	Camden, N.J.	Camden HS	
)	Reid Chauvin	RB	5-9	193	Freshman	HS	Baton Rouge, La.	Episcopal HS	
)	Tyson Short	S	6-2	205	Redshirt Sophomore	1L	San Antonio, Texas	Brandeis HS	
)	Whit Weeks	LB	6-2	225	Junior .	2L	Watkinsville, Ga.	Oconee County HS	
l	Justin Echols	CB	6-0	201	Redshirt Junior	RS	Katy, Texas	Katy HS	Texas Wesleyan
2	Davhon Keys	LB	6-0	230	Sophomore	1L	Aledo, Texas	Aledo HS	
	Jack Pyburn	DE	6-4	264	Senior	TR	Jacksonville, Fla.	The Bolles School	Florida
1		~_	J 1						
4 5	Sean Perret	PK	5-10	184	Freshman	HS	Baton Rouge, La.	Catholic HS	

LSU FOOTBALL 2025 ROSTER

#	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CLASS	EXP	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	PREVIOUS SCHOOL
46	Badger Hargett	Р	5-8	189	Redshirt Sophomore	SQ	Lafayette, La.	Ascension Episcopal HS	
46	Tylen Singleton	LB	6-1	220	Redshirt Freshman	1L	Many, La.	Many HS	
47	JD LaFleur	TE	6-7	263	Freshman	HS	Sulphur, La.	Sulphur HS	
48	Kolaj Cobbins	DE	6-2	233	Redshirt Freshman	1L	St. Rose, La.	Destrehan HS	
49	Jonathan Ferguson	LS	6-2	230	Graduate Student	SQ	Sacramento, Calif.	Davis Senior HS	
49	Gabe Leonards	LB	6-2	225	5th-year Senior	1L	Crowley, La.	Notre Dame HS	
50	Kenzel Kelly	LB	5-11	230	Graduate Student	1L	South Bend, Ind.	Saint Joseph HS	Grand Valley St.
51	Silas Hall	LS	6-4	206	Freshman	HS	Baton Rouge, La.	Episcopal HS	·
52	Princeton Malbrue	LB	6-2	215	Redshirt Junior	2L	Carencro, La.	Lafayette Christian Academy	Northwestern St.
53	Hayes Fuqua	DL	6-5	271	Freshman	HS	West Monroe, La.	West Monroe HS	
55	Jake Ibieta	LB	6-1	230	Redshirt Sophomore	SQ	Metairie, La.	Country Day HS	
55	Khayree Lee Jr.	0L	6-6	305	Redshirt Freshman	RS	Harvey, La.	John Ehret HS	
56	Josh Thompson	0L	6-5	301	5th-year Senior	TR	Fenton, Mich.	Fenton HS	Northwestern
57	Carius Curne	0L	6-5	335	Freshman	HS	Hughes, Ark.	Marion HS	
59	Tyler Miller	OT	6-5	337	Freshman	HS	Laurel, Miss.	Laurel HS	
61	Braelin Moore	0L	6-2	300	Redshirt Junior	TR	Bethlehem, Pa.	Freedom HS	Virginia Tech
65	Paul Mubenga	0L	6-5	315	Redshirt Sophomore	1L	Buford, Ga.	Buford HS	•
66	Solomon Thomas	OT	6-4	325	Freshman	HS	Jacksonville, Fla.	Raines HS	
67	Bo Bordelon	0L	6-6	305	Redshirt Junior	2L	Raceland, La.	Isidore Newman School	
68	Brett Bordelon	0L	6-4	295	Freshman	HS	Raceland, La.	Isidore Newman School	
71	Tyree Adams	0L	6-7	310	Redshirt Sophomore	1L	Marrero, La.	St. Augustine HS	
73	Ethan Calloway	OT	6-7	308	Redshirt Freshman	RS	Mooresville, N.C.	Lake Norman HS	
74	Braden Augustus	0L	6-2	305	Redshirt Sophomore	SQ	Baton Rouge, La.	The Dunham School	
75	Weston Davis	OT	6-6	317	Redshirt Freshman	1L	Beaumont, Texas	Beaumont United HS	
76	Christian Stamps	0L	6-1	320	Redshirt Sophomore	SQ	Metairie, La.	Archbishop Rummel HS	
77	Ory Williams	OT	6-8	335	Redshirt Freshman	1L	San Marcos, Texas	San Marcos HS	
78	Coen Echols	0L	6-3	316	Redshirt Freshman	1L	Katy, Texas	Katy HS	
79	DJ Chester	0L	6-6	320	Redshirt Sophomore	1L	Conyers, Ga.	Eagle's Landing Christian Acad.	
80	Isaiah Stone	WR	5-9	169	Redshirt Sophomore	1L	Smyrna, Ga.	Campbell HS	
81	Landon Craig	TE	6-3	228	Redshirt Freshman	RS	New Orleans, La.	Brother Martin HS	
82	Kylan Billiot	WR	6-3	193	Redshirt Freshman	RS	Houma, La.	Terrebonne HS	
83	TaRon Francis	WR	6-1	208	Freshman	HS	Avondale, La.	Edna Karr HS	
87	Joey August	DT	5-11	285	Redshirt Sophomore	SQ	New Orleans, La.	The Willow School	
87	Noah Nash	WR	5-11	180	5th-year Senior	SQ	Baton Rouge, La.	Catholic HS	
88	Bernard Gooden	DL	6-1	263	5th-year Senior	TR	Montgomery, Ala.	Park Crossing HS	South Florida
88	Donovan Green	TE	6-4	250	Redshirt Junior	TR	Dickinson, Texas	Dickinson HS	Texas A&M
90	Grant Chadwick	Р	6-5	205	Sophomore	TR	Tullahoma, Tenn.	Tullahoma HS	Middle Tennessee
90	Jacobian Guillory	DT	6-2	320	Graduate Student	4L	Alexandria, La.	Alexandria Senior HS	
91	Walter Mathis Jr.	DT	6-2	285	Freshman	HS	Savannah, Ga.	Calvary Day School	
92	Brandon Brown	DT	6-1	288	Freshman	HS	Melbourne, Fla.	Eau Gallie HS	
93	Ahmad Breaux	DT	6-3	280	Sophomore	1L	Ruston, La.	Ruston HS	
94	Zion Williams	DT	6-4	355	Freshman	HS	Lufkin, Texas	Lufkin HS	
95	Shone Washington	DT	6-4	300	Redshirt Junior	1L	Woodmere, La.	Life of Christ Academy	East Mississippi CC
96	Dominick McKinley	DT	6-6	306	Sophomore	1L	Lafayette, La.	Acadiana HS	
97	Dylan Carpenter	DE	6-4	255	Redshirt Sophomore	1L	St. Amant, La.	St. Amant HS	
99	Sydir Mitchell	DT	6-6	355	Redshirt Sophomore	TR	Paterson, N.J,	Bergen Catholic HS	Texas

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Former LSU offensive tackle Andrew Whitworth helped lead the Tigers to the national championship in the 2003 season. Photo by: Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame

BIG WHIT COMES HOME AGAIN

THE SABAN TOUCH POINTED ANDREW WHITWORTH TO LOUISIANA SPORTS HALL OF FAME VIA LSU AND NFL STARDOM

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

ndrew Whitworth probably did Anot need Nick Saban to reach the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame last month here, even though Saban happened to be going in at the same time.

Whitworth played for the legendary Don Shows, who was inducted into the Hall in 2011, at West Monroe High, winning three state championships in the Superdome in New Orleans

in 1997, '98 and 2000. He played in Super Bowl LIII in the 2018 season with the Los Angeles Rams and coach Sean McVay. He helped the Rams and McVay win Super Bowl LVI in the

2021 season as the oldest offensive tackle ever to play in a Super Bowl at 40 before retiring two months later.

A giant of a man at 6-foot-7 and 330 pounds when he played, but slimmed down now below 300, Whitworth was the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year in 2021, a first team All-Pro in 2015 and '17 and a Pro Bowler in 2012 and 2015-17 after the Bengals took him in the second round in 2006. He is now an analyst on Amazon for the NFL's Thursday Night Football television. And the Pro Football Hall of Fame is near as well.

After signing as a 35-year-old free agent in 2017 with the Rams for three years at \$36 million following 16 seasons with Cincinnati from 2006-16, Whitworth had dinner with McVay.

"Sean McVay and I have been documented as being really close," Whitworth said. "But a lot of that is talking to him about a lot of the things I learned from Nick. When I went to dinner with Sean after signing, I told him, 'Hey, man, you're the closest thing I've ever met to Nick Saban."

That was 13 years after Saban last coached Whitworth in the 2004 season at LSU before becoming the Miami Dolphins coach.

Whitworth was part of Saban's first recruiting class in which he had a full year to gather at LSU in 2001. It was Saban's first of two No. 1 classes in just five years at the school and included such future NFL first round picks as defensive end Marcus Spears, wide receiver Michael Clayton and running

back Joseph Addai, as well as the late Marquise Hill at defensive end in the second round.

"THAT WEEK, HE WAS SO IN CONTROL. LIKE HE WAS PLAYING A PIANO WITH US. AND HE KNEW WHEN THE **BIG PART OF THE SONG WAS COMING.**"

- FORMER OT ANDREW WHITWORTH ON NICK SABAN DURING WEEK LEADING UP TO LSU'S WIN OVER OKLAHOMA FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ON JAN. 4, 2004.

LSU has not signed a No. 1 class since.

And Saban convinced Whitworth to move from tight end to offensive tackle while Whitworth was still at West Monroe, much like Saban persuaded Spears to move from tight end to defensive end out of Southern Lab. He also recruited Whitworth away from Florida.

"That's where I was going," he said. "And then LSU hired this guy named Nick Saban. He came into my living room, sat with my parents and me, and the rest is history. He convinced me of his vision that he was going to bring to life."

And he did quickly - first LSU winning season since 1997 in his first year in 2000, first SEC title since 1988 in 2001, first traditional New Year's Day Bowl since the Sugar in 1968 in the '01 season at the Sugar Bowl, and the Tigers' first football national championship since 1958 in the 2003 season.

People have asked Whitworth what was behind the success of Saban, who won an NCAA record seven national championships (one at LSU, six at Alabama) before retiring after the 2023 season and becoming an Emmy-winning ESPN analyst.

"Talk to him for three minutes, and you'll see," Whitworth said. "I wanted to play tight end in college. And Nick said, 'We could sign you as a tight end, and you could play that. But the sooner you play offensive tackle, you'll have a pretty good run."

And Whitworth was all but hypnotized.

"I was like, 'Man, this is the first coach who told me I should be a lineman.' Which is the most insulting thing ever for a tight end. But the way Nick said it, you're like, 'Hmm, I might be a linemen.' And it became cool. And I actually asked at West Monroe to move to tackle. That was the first time that somebody was honest with me in the recruiting process." cont. next page



At the Hall induction ceremony with Saban a few feet away, Whitworth cracked, "I don't know if Nick's been right about a lot, but he was definitely right about that one."

Whitworth signed with LSU as the No. 5 offensive lineman in the nation from a state that still rarely produces elite offensive linemen. Then Saban red-shirted him in 2001. And when Whitworth walked into a meeting late, he might as well have been a walk-on.

"I was the example," he said. "It was one of those things you never forget, but you grow to appreciate it. It was an even field for everybody. Nick was so good at knowing when to push people's buttons and make examples, and when not to."

And when to let his players hit the French Quarter leading up to the Sugar Bowl BCS national title game on Jan. 4, 2004, against Oklahoma.

"One of the chill-est weeks I've ever seen from Nick was that game,"

Whitworth said. "I thought he did a great job being chill, and then knowing when it was time to really bring the energy. Most of the week, he let us have fun. He knew it was New Orleans, where so many of the team was from, and we had so many Louisiana kids."

But a few days before kick-off, it was game on.

"Just great management of our emotions," Whitworth said. "And there were times during the regular season when you're like, 'Man, his thumb's on you all the time.' That week, he was so in control. Like he was playing a piano with us. And he knew when the big part of the song was coming, and when we had to get after it."

And LSU hit all the high notes in a 21-14 win.

"What a week! I always tell people I don't know if I had a moment in the NFL that I felt more like a rock star than that week in New Orleans," Whitworth said. "Now, with NIL, it's safe to say that not a kid on our team paid for a thing that whole week. I can assure you that."

Whitworth and his family live in the Los Angeles area, but West Monroe, Baton Rouge, the Superdome and now Natchitoches remain strong in his heart.

"This honor means a lot because of the pride I have in this place and its people," he said.

Particularly one Louisianian from 2000-04.

"When you use terms like, 'Iron sharpens iron.' And you talk about culture and how it affects people, and how you do things, I think of Nick Saban," Whitworth said. "His impact on me in general, my leadership style as a captain in the NFL, my passion for being great at things I'm a part of - a lot of that all derives from Nick Saban." TR





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LSU CELEBRATES BASEBALL NATIONAL **CROWN THE WAY ONLY LSU CAN**

By GLENN GUILBEAU, Tiger Rag Editor

Tt was just a typical June Wednesday night in Baton Rouge with temperatures in the 90s and 80 percent-plus humidity.

But a crowd of more than 10,000 filled Alex Box Stadium as if for a Super Regional, but there was no game.

The swarm instead braved the heat for a series of stirring speeches during yet another baseball national championship celebration.

LSU knows this drill. It was No. 8 after all.

"You know what I love about all of you? It doesn't matter if it's Wednesday in the middle of June," LSU coach Jay Johnson began. "Or if it's in Baton Rouge, or Omaha, or it's 1:17 a.m., you never run out of energy."

And the place went wild.

The 1:17 a.m. reference was one Johnson has made often. That was the morning No. 4 LSU beat No. 5 and defending national champion Tennessee, 6-3, on April 26 with a six-run rally in the bottom of the ninth that

ended at 1:17 a.m. The game's start was pushed from 6:30 p.m. to 9:55 p.m. on April 25 because of rain and lightning. Jared Jones won it with a walk-off, three-run homer.

LSU trailed Arkansas, 5-3, in the ninth in a College World Series semifinal and won 6-5 on a Jones' walk-off single to set up the championship series with Coastal Carolina, which the Tigers swept in two games.

That's the LSU way. TR









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OVERTIME EXTRA POINTS



TODD HORNE Vice President / Executive Editor

In LSU's enlarged football operations center, every screen and group-chat message reminds players of one goal: "1-0." Beat Clemson in the season opener, and the Tigers set the tone for a national-title run. In the weight room, bodies strain in unison; upstairs, veteran executive assistant Ya'el Lofton—who's supported every LSU coach for 35 years—smiles, confident that Brian Kelly could join Nick Saban, Les Miles and Ed Orgeron in championship lore.

Kelly speaks quietly of process and standards, not destiny. He admits LSU is 0-3 in openers under him, so this year "Clemson first"—play your best on Aug. 30. When he gathered newcomers in January, every transfer and early enrollee said they came to win a national title. That hunger matches Kelly's vision since leaving Notre Dame: now he has university backing, NIL resources, a revamped

CLEMSON IS THE FOCUS AT THE MOMENT

staff, a deep transfer class and leaders like quarterback Garrett Nussmeier returning.

Kelly knows Louisiana demands success—the governor quipped that Monday mood hinges on wins. His résumé is strong-two Division II crowns, a Notre Dame title-game berth—but his 10-3 and 9-4 LSU seasons, capped by a 42-13 loss to Alabama, have fallen short. Last year's defense ranked 105th, so he rebuilt the unit under coordinator Blake Baker. Spring results offered cautious optimism.

The real shift came in the transfer portal: 14 additions, including two top-five receivers, the nation's No. 1 corner and edge rusher, plus reinforcements on the lines. Kelly and his wife pledged to match \$1 million in NIL gifts, sparking 1,600 booster donations. Meanwhile, facilities-from nutrition stations to hydrotherapy pools—signal an elite program.

Still, Kelly tempers hype: "We love fan passion, but it must be grounded in

facts." Facts include a better defense led by Whit Weeks, a returning All-American in Harold Perkins Jr. and five-star freshman corner in DJ Pickett. As pads go on, focus has narrowed: Week 1 against Clemson. Nussmeier says he's never seen such clarity: "Our mindset starts with that game."

For Kelly, it's simple: "Only one team wins the trophy, but my job is to put LSU back in elite status. Are we elite now? We'll find out."

When the sun rises on Aug. 30, those "1-0" screens will go dark—but will never be forgotten.

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



OVERTIME MOTIVATIONAL MOMENTS



DALE BROWN Tiger Rag Featured Columnist

nowing when to quit is a rarity. Every life has a cycle, and too many coaches stay longer than they should and they actually reduce the value of their wonderful accomplishments.

Let me give you some paramount examples of this:

- 1) Eleven coaches that won an NCAA Championship were fired from the school they led to the national championship or at another institution.
- 2) Twenty one coaches that one time in their careers were selected as National Coach of the Year were fired.

Famous journalist and author John-Feinstein so profoundly described the coaching profession when he said, "Coaching can be a joyless job, especially at the top. No matter what

WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME TO WALK **AWAY FROM A SUCCESSFUL CAREER?**

you do, no matter how much you win, there will always be more demanded."

My friend, the late Bill Libby, in his book The Coaches said, "He is called Coach. It is a difficult job, and there is no clear way to succeed in it. Those who have succeeded and those who have failed represent all kinds - young and old, inexperienced and experienced, hard and soft, tough and gentle, good-natured and foul-tempered, proud and profane, articulate and inarticulate, dedicated and casual. Most are dedicated, some more than others, and just wanting to win is not enough in any event. Even winning is not enough. Losers always get fired, but winners get fired too. I have seen some broken and bitter by the job and others die from it."

The word coach was first used back in the 1500s in England. A coach was a horse-drawn carriage used to transport a person from where he or she is to where he or she wants to be, needs to be, or ought to be going.

All these years later, that is exactly what coaching should be about but this is most difficult to follow because of the pressure to win. Measuring the success of a coach shouldn't have anything to with league titles, state championships, national rankings or national titles. It should have everything to do with directing a program ethically and making good use of the power coaches have to reach and teach young people about issues and ideas that will carry them not only through a season... but through a lifetime.

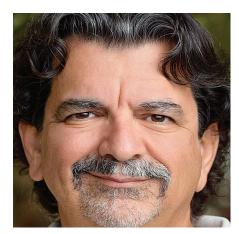
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OVERTIME KLEINPETER DIARY



JIM KLEINPETER
Tiger Rag Featured Columnist

Football coaches are a duplicitous lot.

They have their axioms written in stone, they have their "coach-speak" evasion tactics and then sometimes – since they're so well paid it doesn't really matter what they said before – they chuck it all and violate their own rules.

Former Mississippi State coach Jackie Sherrill once said in public, "If it ain't broke, break it." That's one of my all-time favorites.

Now at LSU according to Brian Kelly it's OK to circle a game on the calendar. I would annually chuckle at young reporters – and even some veteran TV media – who would ask that question in all sincerity about the revenge aspect of any game.

In Kelly's case, he gets a pass because it's OK to circle that season opener, especially considering LSU has fallen on its face three times in a row under his guidance and five times overall.

At least he isn't ignoring the elephant in the room.

That first one was excusable, a loss to Florida State that the Tigers actually had a chance to win while playing poorly. But one of the reasons he can't seem to get any traction with a demanding LSU fan base is this seeming inability to have the Tigers ready to play in Game One. His team was blown out by the Seminoles in the second half two years ago.

BRIAN KELLY CIRCLING AN OPENER LIKE NEVER BEFORE, SO WHAT HAPPENS TO REST OF THE SEASON, IF HE LOSES AGAIN?

Kelly caught a lot of fire postgame last year saying his team wasn't ready after 27-20 loss to a mediocre USC team on a TD with eight seconds left. That loss looked worse each week as the season went on as the Trojans crumbled to a 7-6 mark.

Kelly made the comment as if he was pointing a finger at his players and not himself. Not this time with a trip to Clemson - the "other" Death Valley – on the docket.

The Tigers have 1-0 posted on video screens in the weight room. There's a Clemson logo Tiger paw print on the tacking dummies. Managers are even playing music the LSU players don't want to hear to simulate the raucous environment they will play in.

"We needed to do some things differently this year, and that is to embrace this opener," Kelly said. "And embracing it in a manner that this is a big game. It's a tangible goal for our football team to want to be 1-0."

"This is a clock in front of them saying, 'This is where we start this," Kelly said. "And then it becomes 1-0 every week after that."

The issue in trying to break this disturbing five-year trance LSU appears to be in is that this is their biggest challenge of the six.

In most prognostications, the "other" Tigers are rated several spots higher than an LSU team thought to be Kelly's best in four years, and it's a road game rather than a neutral site like the past three. It has strong coaching, a veteran team returning and, like LSU, its starting quarterback primed for another big season.

Kelly worked hard and had his best off-season plugging holes and building depth with experienced player additions through the transfer portal. No more excuses about the coaching staff. All but one are in their second season, including both coordinators.

Another loss will fall squarely on Kelly's shoulders, which makes this emphasis on the opener a little bit dangerous. If LSU loses, it won't be just any other loss. It will be one that got extra attention, a big build up and lots of additional time put into it.

Sound familiar? Last season's 42-13 loss to Alabama was a game the Tigers were never in despite the stakes and an open date for preparation.

If that happens, the season won't be ruined but there will be a black cloud over it full of growing doubts about Kelly's ability to get LSU into the playoff field. That's something that can affect a team all season.

"If it doesn't go the way we want it to go," LSU quarterback Garrett Nussmeier said, "then we're back to going 1-0 again."

And circling that next game on the calendar.

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.

OVERTIME STATISTICALLY SPEAKING



JIM ENGSTER President, Tiger Rag Magazine

The legend of Brian Keith Kelly will take shape in the next 120 days. LSU's football czar, who is the oldest head coach in LSU history, is in the pivotal year of his ten-year contract. Year four is the time of reckoning for Tiger football coaches. It always has been the pivotal moment in the modern era, which began with Paul Franklin Dietzel capturing the national title at 34 in 1958.

Dietzel was three decades younger than the soon to be 64-year-old Kelly, who is in his 35th season as a head coach. BK went 8-4 in 1994 in year four at Grand Valley State. He was 12-0 in year four at Cincinnati in 2009 and was immediately hired by Notre Dame where he was 9-4 in his fourth season at South Bend where NCAA sanctions erased his nine victories in 2013.

Dietzel was the first of three LSU leaders to win championships in year four. Nick Saban did it in 2003 when he was 52 as his 13-1 Tigers beat Oklahoma 21-14 to secure the crystal trophy at the Louisiana Superdome. Fifty-eight-year-old Edward James Orgeron Jr. capped a previously mediocre career with a magical 15-0 championship run in 2019.

Orgeron's career record was 52-47 in nine seasons removed from 2019, but the greatest season in school history fueled enough mojo to provide him with 17 million reasons not to coach anymore after he turned 60 in 2021.

Kelly has won 313 times on the field (292 wins after NCAA punishment) in his career which began in 1991 during Curley Hallman's first season in Tiger-Town. No matter what happens this season, Kelly has a record of accomplishment which rivals most of his peers. He has not won a national crown, and this

KELLY HAS APPOINTMENT WITH DESTINY

is the year that it is expected for him to return gold to the bayou.

LSU fans demand that Kelly win the title on Jan. 19 of next year in Miami or face the consequences at season's end. The fourth season brought crushing closures to once promising careers of Hallman, Mike Archer and Jerry Stovall.

Hallman was dismissed after a 4-7 campaign in 1994; Archer lost his job after going 5-6 in 1990 and Stovall was canned after a 4-7 season in 1983, just ten months removed from being named National Coach of the Year.

It is certain that Kelly will not lose seven games in 2025, but expectations are so extravagant that 8-4 is considered a disastrous outcome. Les Miles won his national title in 2007 in year three, but it was crucial year No. 4 that was his undoing. After posting a 34-6 record in his first three years, Miles dipped to 8-5 in 2008 and was never regarded the same.

The LSU program is among the best in the country and produced a surplus of more than \$50 million last year which paid for gymnastics, women's basketball; track and field and other sports absorbing multi-million-dollar deficits. Kelly is a respectable 29-11 overall and 17-7 in the SEC through three tours of duty in the most rugged conference in the land.

The numbers are respectable, but they do not meet the forecast for a championship by year four or else. Charles McClendon and Gerry DiNardo are the two coaches to make it to year five without winning a national championship, but both men were wounded as they approached their fifth season at LSU.

McClendon inherited a spectacular treasure from Dietzel as Miles did from Saban, Mac went 9-1-1, 7-4, 8-2-1 and 8-3 in his first four seasons. His job was likely saved by the remarkable 14-7 victory over Arkansas in the 1966 Cotton Bowl, snapping the Razorbacks' 22-game winning streak and depriving Frank Broyles of a second straight NCAA title.

Without the upset in Dallas over the Hogs, LSU would have probably fired McClendon when he posted a 5-4-1 mark in his fifth season at the helm in1966. Mac lasted 18 seasons, most of them good, but few of them spectacular.

When Dietzel defied naysayers and brought glory to Baton Rouge in 1958, the Tigers had not won a title since 1908 when champions were not crowned. The drought was 50 years from 1908 to 1958, and it was another 45 years before Saban conquered

Four years later, Miles was a champ, and in 2019 Orgeron hoisted the trophy for being the nation's best. LSU fans were spoiled by three titles in 17 seasons. Patrons, who invest much in watching the Tigers seven nights a year, anticipate national recognition at the highest levels, not just a winning season and bowl trip.

Gerry DiNardo appeared on the brink of greatness after three years which produced a 26-9-1 record after LSU had gone 11-22 in the three seasons before his arrival. But DiNardo faltered in year four with a 4-7 debacle and closed his LSU tenure by going 2-8 in 1999. It was curtains for the man who briefly returned the magic to Tiger Stadium when LSU whipped No. 1 Florida 28-21 in 1997.

It is vital for Kelly to win at Clemson on Aug. 30. The Tigers from Louisiana must beat the Tigers from South Carolina on the 122nd anniversary of the birth of Huey Long, or Kelly is facing extinction from the SEC. He will retire a rich man, but his legacy as one of the top mentors of his generation is dependent on the outcome of this season.

Kelly should survive for at least one more season if LSU competes for the championship as the Bengals did in 2011, losing 21-0 in the title game to Alabama. But if the Tigers don't make the post-season playoffs, look for Scott Woodward to be orchestrating another expensive buyout.

Woodward is taking an appropriate bow for his brilliance in hiring two-time College World Series champion Jay Johnson as baseball coach, but his future is tied to

ENGSTER COLUMN cont. page 60

presented by





Josh Hall What I'm reading -**Operation Mincemeat** by Ben Macintyre

How a dead man and a bizarre plan fooled the Nazis and assured an Allied victory. A true story of the most successful, and certainly the strangest, deception carried out in World War II.



Peggy Hilzim What I'm reading -Watership Down by Richard Adams

An exciting story about freedom and surviving the odds. A small band of rabbits struggle for survival in a courageous adventure to the meadow, Watership Down.

ENGSTER COLUMN cont. from page 59

Kelly. If the man from Massachusetts leads his troops to the promised land in Miami, Woodard will be hailed as a genius. If the Tigers slip this season, Woodward may be known as the king of the buyout with Kelly's parting gift rivaling the going away present that Texas A&M's Jimbo Fisher received at College Station.

Much is on the line in the next four months as the opener sets the tone. If LSU whips Clemson, Kelly should win 10 games at a minimum. If LSU loses a sixth consecutive opening date, vultures will rapidly encircle Death Valley, leaving Kelly with precious little room to maneuver his way out of an appointment with a firing squad.

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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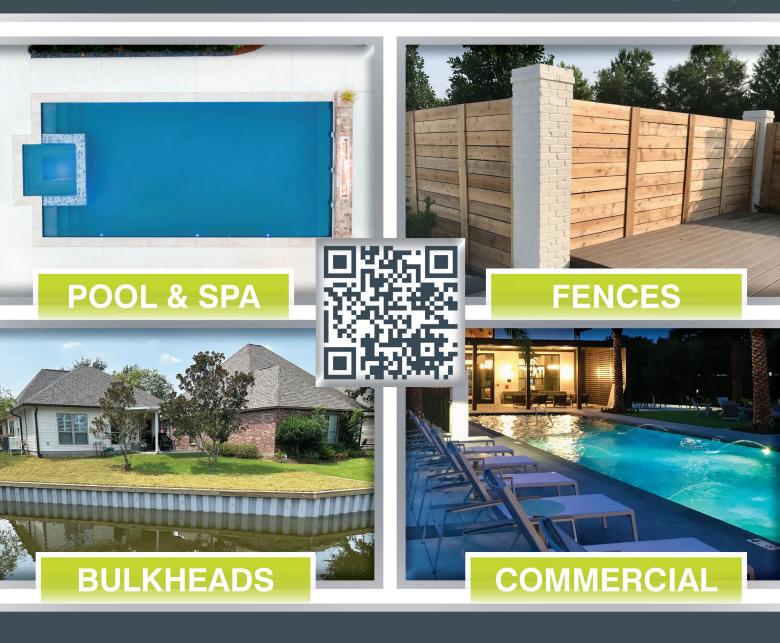
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