

LSU Athletics Caps Historic Season, Ranked No. 9 in Director's Cup

http://www.lsusports.net/ViewArticle.dbml?&ATCLID=3757549&DB_OEM_ID=5200

06/29/2009

by **Michael Bonnette**

Associate AD/Sports Information Director

BATON ROUGE -- Another record-setting and historical season in LSU athletics was capped on Monday when the school recorded its second straight top 10 finish in the Learfield Sports Director's Cup with a No. 9 showing among all Division I institutions.

The annual Learfield Sports Director's Cup, which measures the overall strength of institution's athletic programs, released its final standings for the 2008-09 athletic year following the conclusion of the College World Series. Points are awarded based on each institution's finish in up to 20 sports – 10 women's and 10 men's.

The ninth-place finish comes on the heels of last year's No. 8 national finish, which marks only the second time in school history that LSU has posted back-to-back top 10 finishes in the Director's Cup. LSU finished No. 10 in consecutive seasons in 1996-97 and 1997-98.

It also marked the second-highest finish in the standings ever for LSU, bettered only by last year's eighth place showing. The Tigers accumulated a total of 1,029 points in this year's Director's Cup as LSU scored points in 18 of a possible 20 sports, a first in school history. In all, the Tigers sent all 20 of their teams to NCAA post-season play in 2008-09, also a first in LSU history.

Leading the way in terms of Director's Cup points for LSU in 2008-09 was its national title in baseball, which awarded the school 100 points for the first place finish. LSU also picked up 80 points for a fourth place finish in men's indoor track and field; 75 points for a fifth place finish in men's outdoor track and field; 73.5 points in the sports of women's gymnastics and women's indoor and outdoor track and field for six place finishes in each of those sports.

LSU's other Director's Cup points came in the following sports: women's golf (64.5 points) women's swimming and diving (58.5 points), women's basketball (50 points), men's basketball (50 points), men's tennis (50 points), women's tennis (50 points), softball (50 points), men's swimming and diving (46 points), football (45 points), men's golf (39.5 points), women's soccer (25 points), and volleyball (25 points).

Stanford won its 15th straight Director's Cup title with a total of 1,455 points, followed by North Carolina with 1,184.25 points and Florida with 1,172.75 points. Southern Cal (1137.75) and Michigan (1131.80) rounded out the top five.

Other Southeastern Conference teams in the top 25 in the final standings include Georgia at No. 18 with 866.5 points, Tennessee at No. 23 with 746.25 points and Arkansas at No. 25 with 730 points.

In addition to its national championship in baseball, LSU posted top 10 national finishes in five other sports in 2008-09. The LSU men's indoor track and field team finished fourth in the national meet, followed by a fifth place showing by the Tigers at the NCAA Outdoor Meet. The Lady Tiger track and field team placed sixth at both the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Meet, while LSU gymnastics squad finished six at the national championships after reaching the NCAA Super Six for the second consecutive season.

LSU also enjoyed success at the conference level in 2008-09 with baseball and men's basketball winning the SEC title, while the women's soccer and volleyball teams both captured the league's western division title. The baseball team also claimed the SEC Tournament title this year.

LSU's History In the Director's Cup

Year	Rank	Total Points
1993-94	No. 36	213.5
1994-95	No. 19	271.5
1995-96	No. 16	302.5
1996-97	No. 10	374.5
1997-98	No. 10	440.0
1998-99	No. 16	390.0
1999-00	No. 10	764.0
2000-01	No. 22	653.5
2001-02	No. 10	842.5
2002-03	No. 23	597.25
2003-04	No. 11	867.75
2004-05	No. 23	571.25
2005-06	No. 20	675.125
2006-07	No. 17	888.0
2007-08	No. 8	1,085.0
2008-09	No. 9	1,029.0

LSU's National Champions in 2008-09

Baseball

LSU's SEC Champions in 2008-09

Baseball

Men's Basketball

LSU's Western Division Champions in 2008-09

Volleyball

Baseball

Women's Soccer

Men's Basketball

LSU's Top 10 National Finishes in 2008-09

Baseball – national champions

Men's Indoor Track and Field – fourth at NCAA meet

Men's Outdoor Track and Field – fifth at NCAA meet

Women's Outdoor Track and Field – sixth at NCAA meet

Women's Indoor Track and Field – sixth at NCAA meet

Gymnastics – sixth at NCAA meet