



## **FFBS Press release**

Paris, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### **Bruce BOCHY to manage the French National Baseball Team**

Winner of three World Series as a Manager with the San Francisco Giants, the native of Landes de Bussac in France will lead *Les Bleus* in their quest for a place at the 2021 World Baseball Classic.

Next year's World Baseball Classic Qualifier date and location will be announced by Major League Baseball in the coming weeks.

**Didier SEMINET, FFBS President:** "We are proud to name Bruce Bochy as manager of the French National Baseball Team for the 2020 World Baseball Classic Qualifier. Born in Landes de Bussac, Bruce has a special connection to France. We are deeply honored and thrilled that he is willing to take this opportunity to help the development of French Baseball.

The game has been consistently growing over the last 10 years in France and we think Bruce can help the French National Baseball Team enter a new dimension by qualifying for the World Baseball Classic."

**Bruce BOCHY:** "I've been thinking a while about what's next in my life after managing the Giants. I want to stay involved and give back to Baseball. Managing France is a perfect example of how I can help develop the game. I was born in France, my son is eligible play, my brother will help me in the dugout so the Bochy's will be on deck to give a boost to French Baseball.

I want to thank President Seminet for giving me the opportunity to manage Team France at the 2020 World Baseball Classic Qualifier. Allez les Bleus !"

## **French National Team resume**

- Three participations in the Baseball World Cup: 1995, 2001 and 2003
- Bronze medal at the European Baseball Championship: 1999
- World Baseball Classic Qualifier participations in 2012 and 2016

### **About the World Baseball Classic**

The World Baseball Classic is one of the major international baseball tournament, sanctioned by the World Baseball Softball Federation (WBSC), and features the best players in the world competing for their home countries and territories. The United States of America are the reigning World Baseball Classic Champion. The upcoming World Baseball Classic will be played in 2021 and will again feature the greatest baseball-playing nations in the world.

### **About the French Baseball & Softball Federation**

Founded in 1924, the French Baseball & Softball Federation (FFBS) counts 14,000 registered players, a 50% increase over the last 10 years. France ranks 25th in the world according to WBSC World Rankings.

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