



FFBS Press release

Paris, September 18, 2022

**Bruce BOCHY returns as manager the French National Baseball Team
for the 2023 World Baseball Classic Qualifications**



Winner of three World Series as a Manager of the San Francisco Giants, the native of Landes de Bussac in France will lead *Les Bleus* in their quest for a place at the 2023 World Baseball Classic.

France will play the World Baseball Classic Qualifier from September 16th to the 21st 2022 in Regensburg, Germany. Two of the six participating teams – Czech Republic, Germany, Great-Britain, France, South Africa and Spain – will qualify for the 2023 Classic.

Thierry RAPHET, FFBS President: "We are thrilled to welcome Bruce Bochy back as manager of the French National Baseball Team for the World Baseball Classic Qualifier. Born in Landes de Bussac, Bruce has a special connection to France and we are deeply honored of his commitment to help French Baseball as we hope *Les Bleus* can enter into a new dimension by qualifying for the 2023 World Baseball Classic."

Bruce BOCHY, Manager of the French National Baseball Team for the World Baseball Classic Qualifier: "Managing France is a perfect example of how I can help develop the game and stay involved after retiring from managing the San Francisco Giants. We were ready in 2020 but the competition was cancelled due to the pandemic. I'm glad we have a new opportunity to give a boost to French Baseball and qualify for the World Baseball Classic. Allez les Bleus !"

About the World Baseball Classic

The World Baseball Classic is the premier international baseball tournament, sanctioned by the International Baseball and 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 2023 and will again feature the greatest baseball-playing nations in the world.

About the French National Baseball Team

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

About the French Baseball & Softball Federation

Founded in 1924, the French Baseball & Softball Federation (FFBS) counts 13,500 registered players, organizes grassroots activities and runs domestic competitions and National Team Programs. The French National Baseball Team ranks 22nd in the WBSC World Baseball Rankings.

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