



2017 World Baseball Classic Media Guide Compiled by Sam Finn

World Baseball Classic Information

The World Baseball Classic (WBC) is the highest profile international baseball event in the world, and for the fourth consecutive tournament, Team Australia has qualified. Australia will play two time WBC champion and world #1 ranked Japan, #5 Cuba and #18 China in Pool B at the tournament, with the two highest ranked teams from that pool progressing to the second round. Australia's first and second round games (pending qualification) will be held at the Tokyo Dome. The Championship Round will take place at Dodger Stadium, home of the LA Dodgers in Los Angeles, California.

Australia sealed qualification for the 2017 World Baseball Classic in February 2016, when they defeated The Philippines, South Africa and New Zealand at Blacktown International Sportspark. [Click here for results and information from the Sydney World Baseball Classic Qualifier.](#)

World Baseball Classic Pools

[Pool A Information \(KOR, TPE, NED, ISR\)](#)

[Pool B Information \(JPN, CUB, CHN, AUS\)](#)

[Pool C Information \(USA, DOM, CAN, COL\)](#)

[Pool D Information \(ITA, VEN, MEX, PUR\)](#)

Past Champions

2006 – **Japan** def. Cuba

2009 – **Japan** def. South Korea

2013 – **Dominican Republic** def. Puerto Rico

Coaches



Jon Deeble – Manager

One of the highest profile figures in Australian Baseball, Deeble leads Australia for the fourth time at the World Baseball Classic. Deeble took Australia to a Silver Medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics as well as overseeing the Australian team that defeated the Arizona Diamondbacks at the 2014 MLB Opening Series. Deeble spent 2016 as heavily involved as ever in national team programs, with



the World Baseball Classic Qualifier, the Honkbalweek tournament in The Netherlands as well as a coach of the Silver medal winning U23 World Cup team.



Tony Harris - 3rd Base Coach

Another long-time member of the national team setup, Tony Harris returns for his fourth World Baseball Classic. Harris' roles have varied in his 17 years involved with the national team, including On-Field Coordinator at three World Cups. Harris was an integral part of the National Team setup in 2016, having coached at the 2016 World Baseball Classic Qualifier, 2016 Honkbalweek and the 2016 ABL All-Star Game. Harris also lead the U23 World Cup team to a silver medal at the 2016 World Cup in Mexico.



Michael Collins - 1st Base Coach

At 32 years of age, Canberra Cavalry manager Michael Collins has gained experience beyond his years in various roles with the Australian National Team and in US Minor League Baseball. Having reached AAA-level as a player in 2009, Collins was immediately touted as a manager, and took control of his first Minor League team as a 27 year old. Collins lead the Canberra Cavalry to the 2012/13 ABL Championship as well as a historic title in the 2013 Asia Series. Collins becomes the first Australian to play and coach in a World Baseball Classic after playing in 2006.



Craig Shipley - Bench Coach

After making his MLB debut in 1988, Craig Shipley has become one of the most influential and well-known figures in Australian baseball. Shipley 2016ly is based in the US and holds the prestigious role of Special Assistant to the GM at the Arizona Diamondbacks, a role that Shipley has held for four years. Shipley



was an assistant coach at the 2006 World Baseball Classic, and his experience will be vital in Team Australia's pursuit for a second round berth.



Graeme Lloyd - Bullpen Coach

A two-time World Series winner with the New York Yankees, Graeme Lloyd will make his third appearance as a coach at the World Baseball Classic. A member of the 2004 silver medal winning Athens Olympic baseball team, Lloyd has spent time at the highest level both as a player and a coach and continues his time with the Australian National Team following the World Baseball Classic Qualifier in February 2016.



Phil Dale - Pitching Coach

After starring as a player in the Australian Baseball League, Phil Dale returns to Team Australia as the Pitching Coach. Dale began his tenure as Pitching Coach at the 1999 Intercontinental Cup, where Australia claimed the Gold Medal. Since then, Dale has been the Pitching Coach at the last three World Baseball Classic's, as well as the silver medal winning 2004 Olympic baseball team.



Kevin Jordan - Hitting Coach

After serving as the Hitting Coach for Australia's 2016 Honkbalweek campaign in The Netherlands, Kevin Jordan will make his return to Australia's coaching staff for the 2017 World Baseball Classic. Jordan was a feature in the Philadelphia Phillies infield for six years after making his debut in 1995 and has spent time as a hitting coach in the Phillies organisation. Jordan was a part of Jon Deeble's staff



at the 2016 ABL All-Star game and the 2016 World Baseball Classic Qualifier, and is a career .258 hitter in the MLB.



Andrew Graham - Assistant Coach

The newest member of Team Australia's coaching staff for the World Baseball Classic is NSW native Andrew Graham. Graham spent four seasons in the Detroit Tigers Minor League system where he reached AAA level. Graham also played for the Sydney Blue Sox between 2010-2012. Graham has had significant experience playing on the international stage, with three consecutive World Cup appearances between 2005 and 2009, as well as playing for Australia at the 2006 and 2009 World Baseball Classic.

Team Australia Baseball Playing Roster



ATHERTON, Tim - RHP

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 27

Notable Teams: Oakland Athletics - 2014 (AAA)

2016 Team(s): Canberra Cavalry (ABL)

After undergoing shoulder surgery in October 2015, Tim Atherton has bounced back stronger than ever. Atherton's ABL numbers speak for themselves, with the right-handed reliever finishing with a 3-0 record and an outstanding 1.37 ERA. Atherton was awarded the win in Australia's exhibition match against the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2014.



BERESFORD, James - IF

Bats/Throws: L/R

Age: 28

2016 Team(s): Minnesota Twins (MLB), Melbourne Aces (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 2 (2009, 2013)

One of the best stories of Australian baseball in 2016 was James Beresford and his debut in the Majors. After spending 10 years and playing 1070 games in the Twins Minor League System, Beresford finally received the call-up to the Twins in September 2016, making him Australia's 33rd Major League Baseballer.

AUSTRALIA



BLACKLEY, Travis – LHP

Bats/Throws: L/L

Age: 34

Notable Teams: Seattle Mariners (2004), San Francisco Giants (2007, 2012), Oakland Athletics (2012), Houston Astros (2013), Texas Rangers (2013)

2016 Team(s): Pericos de Puebla (Mexican League)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2009)

The definition of a journeyman, Travis Blackley has plied his trade all over the world after making his MLB debut with the Seattle Mariners as a 21-year-old in 2004. An integral member of the Brisbane Bandits ABL Championship in 2015/16, Blackley represented Pericos de Puebla in the Mexican League in 2016, where he won a championship, and was also named MVP of the Championship Series. Blackley has made over 200 starts in Minor League Baseball, and has recently signed a minor league deal with the Detroit Tigers.



DE SAN MIGUEL, Allan – C

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 29

2016 Team(s): Kansas City Royals (AAA), Melbourne Aces (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2013)

A four-time ABL Champion with the Perth Heat, Allan de San Miguel made the move to the Melbourne Aces for the 2016/17 ABL season. de San Miguel has had stints with the AAA-affiliates of Baltimore, Minnesota and most recently Kansas City. de San Miguel has been a feature on the Australian team for six years after making his debut in 2011.



DENING, Mitch – OF

Bats/Throws: L/R

Age: 28

Notable Teams: Tokyo Yakult Swallows – (NPB) 2015

2016 Team(s): Adelaide Bite (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 2 (2009, 2013)

Another player with a fantastic baseball resume is Mitch Denning. Denning has dominated the ABL in 2016/17, leading the league in batting average (.340), RBI (27) and total bases (77). Denning has played at the top club level in Japan, and his defence in centrefield adds another string to his bow. This will be Denning's third World Baseball Classic after making his debut at the World's premier baseball tournament as a 20-year-old in 2009.

AUSTRALIA



HARMAN, Brad - IF

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 31

Notable Teams: Philadelphia Phillies - MLB (2008)

2016 Team(s): Melbourne Aces (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 3 (2006, 2009, 2013)

After an extensive minor league career, an appearance in Major League Baseball in 2008 and over 200 games in the Australian Baseball League (including holding the home run record for four seasons), Brad Harman becomes one of two Australians to be selected for four World Baseball Classic teams. Harman debuted for Australia in 2005 at the Baseball World Cup, and has continued to impress with bat in hand wherever he's played in a distinguished career.



HENDRIKS, Liam - RHP

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 27

Notable Teams: Minnesota Twins (2011-2013), Toronto Blue Jays (2014, 2015), Kansas City Royals (2014), Oakland Athletics (2016)

2016 Team(s): Oakland Athletics (MLB)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2009)

Liam Hendriks made his MLB debut as a 22-year-old in 2011, and is the only Australian to have played MLB every year since 2011. A native of Perth, WA, Hendriks' star has risen over the past two years where he has become a vital cog in the bullpen of Toronto (2015) and Oakland (2016). Hendriks was the youngest member of the Australian team at the World Baseball Classic in 2009.



HUGHES, Luke - UTL

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 32

Notable Teams: Minnesota Twins - MLB (2010-11, 2012),

Oakland Athletics - MLB (2012)

2016 Team(s): Perth Heat (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 3 (2006, 2009, 2013)

A true journeyman and legend in the Team Australia setup is Luke Hughes. Hughes has over 100 games of MLB experience with the Minnesota Twins and the Oakland Athletics and is one of two Team Australia players that has been selected in four consecutive World Baseball Classic teams. Hughes began his international career in 2005, but his breakout tournament didn't come until 2007 where he hit .333, had a game-tying RBI against the Netherlands and an 11th inning walk-off three run home run against Venezuela.

AUSTRALIA



KANDILAS (CAN-dillis), David – OF

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 26

Notable Teams: Colorado Rockies – AAA (2014)

2016 Team(s): Canberra Cavalry (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2013)

Another veteran returning to the national setup is David Kandilas. Coming off a season where he represented Australia in the World Baseball Classic Qualifier and Honkbalweek, Kandilas finished the year with the Canberra Cavalry hitting .264 and driving in 24 runs (t-6th in the ABL). Kandilas aims to get back to the MiLB after a serious knee injury sidelined him in early 2016.



KENNEDY, Jon – LHP

Bats/Throws: L/L

Age: 21

2016 Team(s): Atlanta Braves (Class A-Adv), Melbourne

Aces (ABL)

Making his debut at the World Baseball Classic and also his debut in the Australian Men's Senior Team is Jon Kennedy. After two solid seasons in the ABL for the Melbourne Aces, Kennedy is rewarded with a shot in his first major international tournament. Kennedy's last time in the green and gold came at the 2014 21U World Cup, where the team finished sixth. Kennedy is currently affiliated with the Atlanta Braves, and is the nephew of Pitching Coach Phil Dale.



KENNELLY, Tim – UTL

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 30

Notable Teams: Philadelphia Phillies – AAA (2012)

2016 Team(s): Perth Heat (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2013)

One of the members of the first family in Western Australian baseball, Tim Kennelly suits up for his second consecutive World Baseball Classic. Kennelly is one of four brothers that have signed a professional contract. Kennelly had his first full year as a professional as an 18-year-old in 2005, and went on to play over 550 games over 10 years in the Philadelphia Phillies organisation. Tim Kennelly was awarded the Helms Award for MVP of the ABL in 2011/12 after hitting .374 with 10 home runs and 39 RBI.

AUSTRALIA



KENT, Steven - LHP

Bats/Throws: L/L

Age: 27

2016 Team(s): Atlanta Braves (AAA), Canberra Cavalry (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2013)

Many have touted Steve Kent as the next Australian to make the step into the MLB, and the numbers back him up. Kent posted a 2.08 ERA in the ABL this season, and a 3.36 ERA in his first season back in the US Minor Leagues since 2011. Kent recovered from Tommy John surgery in 2015 and has been one of the outstanding arms in the ABL in the past two years. Manager Jon Deeble will be reliant on Kent at the back end of ballgames.



MOYLAN, Peter - RHP

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 38

Notable Teams: Atlanta Braves - (MLB) 2006-12, 2015, LA Dodgers - (MLB) 2015

2016 Team(s): Kansas City Royals (MLB), Melbourne Aces (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2006)

After an unsuccessful stint with the Minnesota Twins in 1996/97 and two Tommy John surgeries, Peter Moylan has just wrapped up his 10th season in the MLB, and will go down as one of Australia's most successful international baseball exports. Moylan has 24 career wins in the MLB, and with a career ERA of 2.91, the 38 year old will be a vital cog in the bullpen for Jon Deeble's team. Moylan was excellent during his first World Baseball Classic in 2006, and was subsequently signed by the Atlanta Braves.



NILSSON, Mitch - IF

Bats/Throws: S/R

Age: 25

Notable Teams: Cleveland Indians - Class A (2009)

2016 Team(s): Brisbane Bandits (ABL)

Mitch is the nephew of former MLB Star Dave Nilsson has made a name for himself over the past few years as one of the most consistent hitters in the ABL. A former Cleveland Indians minor leaguer, Nilsson has come into his own, hitting .284 and .317 in his past two seasons with the Brisbane Bandits. This is Nilsson's first World Baseball Classic, however he has spent time in the national team setup, with the recent 2016 ABL All-Star Game and 2016 Honkbalweek in The Netherlands.

AUSTRALIA



OELTJEN (OLT-chen), Trent - OF

Bats/Throws: L/L

Age: 33

Notable Teams: Arizona Diamondbacks – MLB (2009), LA Dodgers – MLB (2010-11)

2016 Team(s): Brisbane Bandits (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 2 (2006, 2009)

One of the most popular figures in Australian baseball, Trent Oeltjen returns for his third World Baseball Classic. Oeltjen is an ex-MLBer after stints in the big leagues with Arizona in 2009, and the LA Dodgers in 2010/11. Oeltjen started his MLB career with a bang, nailing 12 hits in his first five games. Oeltjen was a member of the 2004 Silver Medal winning team at the Athens Olympics.



PERKINS, Robbie - C

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 22

Notable Teams: U23 Australian Team (2016)

2016 Team(s): Colorado Rockies (Class A-Adv), Canberra Cavalry (ABL)

A bright young prospect with the Colorado Rockies and feature in the ABL is catcher Robbie Perkins. Recently, Perkins was named the 2016/17 Canberra Cavalry MVP, after the 22-year-old hit .331 with five home runs and 21 RBI in 32 games for the Cavalry. Perkins was a member of the WBC Qualifier in February 2016, and an integral part of the U23 World Cup team that won a silver medal in Mexico 2016.



ROWLAND-SMITH, Ryan - LHP

Bats/Throws: L/L

Age: 34

Notable Teams: Seattle Mariners (2007-2010), Arizona Diamondbacks (2014)

2016 Team(s): Brisbane Bandits (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 2 (2006, 2013)

Despite a surprisingly quiet ABL season, Ryan Rowland-Smith has consistently shown that form is temporary, but class is permanent. Rowland-Smith has appeared in 121 games at Major League Baseball level, and his versatility is evident, consistently pitching at the start, middle and end of a ballgame. Rowland-Smith was the first player with a hyphenated name to play in the MLB, and returns for his third World Baseball Classic with Australia.

AUSTRALIA



RUZIC (ROO-zik), Dushan – RHP

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 35

Notable Teams: Cincinnati Reds – AA (2007)

2016 Team(s): Melbourne Aces (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2013)

One of the most well travelled members of the Team Australia roster is Dushan Ruzic. Ruzic spent four years in affiliated baseball, reaching as high as AA with the Cincinnati Reds in 2007. From there Ruzic split his time between the Australian Baseball League and the Dutch Professional League, where he played for Curaçao Neptunus for five seasons. Ruzic was a starter for Jon Deeble's 2016 Honkbalweek team, and is playing at his second World Baseball Classic.



SAUPOLD (SAW-pold), Warwick – RHP

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 27

2016 Team(s): Detroit Tigers (MLB), Perth Heat (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2013)

One of four Australians to see time in the MLB in 2016 was Warwick Saupold. The Western Australian native had an outstanding season with the Detroit Tigers Triple-A Affiliate, and was rewarded with his MLB debut in May 2016. A member of the four Perth Heat Championship teams, as well as picking up the ABL Pitcher of the Year in 2011/12, Saupold brings major league experience to an already experienced roster.



SEARLE, Ryan – RHP

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 27

Notable Teams: Chicago Cubs – AAA (2012)

2016 Team(s): Lamigo Monkeys (CPBL), Fortitudo Bologna (Serie A1), Tiburones de la Guaria (Venezuelan Professional Baseball League), Brisbane Bandits (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2013)

Ryan Searle has been the premier Australian closer in the Australian Baseball League for the last two years, picking up 26 saves in 29 opportunities. Searle reached Triple-A with the Chicago Cubs in 2012, and in 2016, won championships with the Brisbane Bandits in the ABL (where he was named reliever of the year), and Fortitudo Bologna in the Italian Serie A1 Baseball League.

AUSTRALIA



TOLS, Josh - LHP

Bats/Throws: L/L

Age: 27

2016 Team(s): Kansas City T-Bones (American Association), Melbourne Aces (ABL)

Josh Tols has never signed a professional contract with an MLB team, but his numbers and work ethic have seen him selected for his first ever World Baseball Classic team. Tols has been one of the outstanding pitchers in the ABL over the past three seasons with 16 wins and a career ERA of 1.89, Tols is a former Rookie of the Year and Reliever of the Year. Tols claimed the ABL wins record (9) in season 2014/15 even though he didn't start in any games.



VAN STEENSEL, Todd -RHP

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 26

2016 Team(s): Minnesota Twins (AA), Sydney Blue Sox (ABL)

A member of the 2016 World Baseball Classic Qualifier, Todd Van Steensel has been a consistent member of the Sydney Blue Sox since 2010/11. Van Steensel is in his second stint with the Minnesota Twins, and this season reached Double-A for the first time ever. Van Steensel has posted an ERA of under 3.50 in his last three seasons of affiliated baseball. A self-confessed Taylor Swift fanatic, Van Steensel makes his debut at a World Baseball Classic.



WADE, Logan - IF

Bats/Throws: S/R

Age: 25

2016 Team(s): Minnesota Twins (Class A-Adv), Brisbane Bandits (ABL)

One of the stars of the 2015/16 ABL Champions Brisbane Bandits, Logan Wade has been a constant in the middle infield of Team Australia. Wade participated in the 2016 World Baseball Classic Qualifier and the 2016 Honkbalweek tournament, and hit .315 with five home runs and 20 RBI in the Bandits Championship year. Wade's father Greg is an Australian baseball legend, winning National Championships with Queensland, as well as playing and coaching the Australian National team.

AUSTRALIA



WALKER, Mike – IF

Bats/Throws: L/R

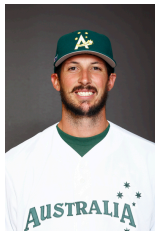
Age: 28

Notable Teams: Milwaukee Brewers – AA (2013)

2016 Team(s): Melbourne Aces (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2013)

Even though 2016/17 has been his first season in the ABL, Mike Walker will suit up for the second time at the World Baseball Classic. Walker led Team Australia in hitting at the 2013 Classic, going 5-for-11 across three games. Walker is both an American and Australian citizen, and returned to professional baseball after two years off pursuing a coaching career.



WELCH, Stefan – IF

Bats/Throws: L/R

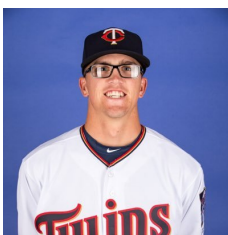
Age: 28

Notable Teams: Boston Red Sox – AA (2014)

2016 Team(s): Adelaide Bite (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 2 (2009, 2013)

One of the mainstays in the National team setup for the past eight years has been third baseman Stef Welch. Welch won a Double-A Championship with the Portland Sea Dogs (Red Sox affiliate) in 2014, and has held down third base for the Adelaide Bite in the ABL and the national team for well over five years. Welch is one of few professional baseball players born in Darwin, NT, and hit the first of back-to-back-to-back home runs in the 2015 ABL Championship Series.



WELLS, Lachlan – LHP

Bats/Throws: L/L

Age: 19

Notable Teams: U18 Australian Team

2016 Team(s): Minnesota Twins (Class A)

The only teenager on Australia's World Baseball Classic team, Lachlan Wells has continued to impress well before signing with the Minnesota Twins in 2014. Wells is a highly touted prospect in the USA, and has represented Australia at the U18 World Cup in 2015. Lachlan's twin brother Alex is affiliated with the Baltimore Orioles in the US, and both are stars to keep an eye on moving forward.

AUSTRALIA



WHITEFIELD, Aaron - OF

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 20

Notable Teams: U23 Australian Team (2016)

2016 Team(s): Minnesota Twins (Rk), Brisbane Bandits (ABL)

One of the most unique stories on the Australian WBC team is Aaron Whitefield, who only began playing baseball seriously three years ago. A talented softball player, Whitefield has cemented himself in the Australian baseball scene. A feature of the Brisbane Bandits outfield for the past two seasons, Whitefield last year was an integral member of the U23 World Cup team that brought home silver. Whitefield signed a contract with the Minnesota Twins in 2014, and hit .297 in his first full season of professional baseball in 2016.



WILLIAMS, Matt - RHP

Bats/Throws: R/R

Age: 29

Notable Teams: Minnesota Twins - AA (2010)

2016 Team(s): Adelaide Bite (ABL)

World Baseball Classic Appearances: 1 (2013)

A one-time single season saves record holder in the ABL, Matt Williams is as versatile as they get, and has been a feature in the ABL since the inception of the league in 2010. Williams has over 200 games of minor-league experience over five years with the Minnesota Twins, and has made the most appearances of any pitcher in the ABL since 2010 (120). Williams appeared for the national team three times in 2016, at the World Baseball Classic Qualifier, Honkbalweek and the 2016 ABL All-Star Game.

Past results at World Baseball Classic

2006 - 13th

2009 - 12th

2013 - 16th

2006 Roster

Craig Anderson

Phil Brassington

Adam Bright

Adrian Burnside

Tristan Crawford

Matthew Gahan



Wayne Lundgren
Paul Mildren
Damian Moss
Peter Moylan
Ryan Rowland-Smith
John Stephens
Phil Stockman
Rich Thompson
Michael Collins
Andrew Graham
Matthew Kent
Trent Durrington
Gavin Fingleson
Bradley Harman
Justin Huber
Luke Hughes
Brendan Kingman
Dave Nilsson
Rodney van Buizen
Glenn Williams
Tom Brice
Trent Oeltjen
Brett Roneberg
Paul Rutgers

2006 Results

Game 1: Italy 10-0 Australia (F/7)

[Box Score](#)

Game 2: Venezuela 2-0 Australia

[Box Score](#)

Game 3: Dominican Republic 6-4 Australia

[Box Score](#)

2009 Roster

Craig Anderson
Travis Blackley
Adam Bright
Tristan Crawford
Liam Hendriks
Joshua Hill
Paul Mildren
Damian Moss



Drew Naylor
Chris Oxspring
Brad Thomas
Rich Thompson
David Welch
Brendan Wise
Andrew Graham
Joel Naughton
James Beresford
Daniel Berg
Michael Collins
Brad Harman
Justin Huber
Luke Hughes
Ben Risinger
Stefan Welch
Mitch Denning
Trent Oeltjen
Brett Roneberg
Chris Snelling

2009 Results

Australia 17-7 Mexico (F/8)

[Box Score](#)

Cuba 5-4 Australia

[Box Score](#)

Mexico 16-1 Australia (F/6)

[Box Score](#)

2013 Roster

Tim Kennelly
Shane Lindsay
Chris Oxspring
Andrew Russell
Dushan Ruzic
Warwick Saupold
Ryan Searle
Matthew Williams
Brendan Wise
Josh Davies
Adam Bright
Steven Kent



Ryan Rowland-Smith
Clayton Tanner
Brad Thomas
Allan de San Miguel
Matthew Kennelly
James Beresford
Brad Harman
Luke Hughes
Mike Walker
Stefan Welch
Corey Adamson
Mitch Denning
Justin Huber
David Kandilas
Josh Roberts
Chris Snelling

2013 Results

Chinese Taipei 4-1 Australia
[Box Score](#)

South Korea 6-0 Australia
[Box Score](#)

The Netherlands 4-1 Australia
[Box Score](#)

Road to the top 10 in the world

2016 was one of the most successful years in the history of High Performance Baseball in Australia. The Men's National Team qualified for the World Baseball Classic and the U15 team qualified for their World Cup in Iwaki, Japan. To cap off an already stellar year, the U23 World Cup team travelled to Mexico and exceeded expectations to come home with a Silver Medal and valuable WBSC (World Baseball Softball Confederation) World Ranking Points. One of the highest profile tournaments the WBSC offers is the Premier 12, which pits the World's top 12 baseball nations against each other.

Top 12 Men's Baseball Nations (Current WBSC World Rankings)

1. Japan – 5699 points
2. United States of America – 4928 points
3. South Korea – 4849 points
4. Chinese Taipei – 4261 points
5. Cuba – 3857 points



6. Mexico – 3081 points
7. Venezuela – 2684 points
8. Canada – 2200 points
9. The Netherlands – 2071 points
- 10. Australia – 2013 points**
11. Italy – 2008 points
12. Puerto Rico – 1759 points

Following the qualification of the U12 & U18 teams to their respective World Cups in January 2017, Australia has leapfrogged Italy and moved into 10th in the world, their highest ranking since 2009.

Australia's rise up the WBSC World Rankings comes off the back of 9 years of consecutive participation growth of baseball in Australia as well as the impact of increased international competition opportunities and the ability to participate in them. Baseball has also been re-included in the Olympics for Tokyo 2020.

World Baseball Classic Qualifier (Sydney, February 2016)

Roster

James Beresford
Travis Blackley
Steven Chambers
Trent D'Antonio
Allan de San Miguel
Mitch Dening
Justin Erasmus
Sam Gibbons
Brad Harman
Luke Hughes
David Kandilas
Matt Kennelly
Steve Kent
Wayne Lundgren
Peter Moylan
Mitch Nilsson
Trent Oeltjen
Ryan Rowland-Smith
Warwick Saupold
Ryan Searle
David Sutherland
Matt Timms
Josh Tols
Todd Van Steensel



Logan Wade
Stefan Welch
Aaron Whitefield
Matt Williams

Results

Australia 11-1 Philippines (F/7)

[Box Score](#)

Australia 4-1 South Africa

[Box Score](#)

Australia 15-5 South Africa

[Box Score](#)

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