

# First-Pitch of the 2013 World Baseball Classic This Weekend

## *Printablebrackets.net Offers Fans Last Chance for Commemorative Complimentary 2013 World Baseball Classic Schedule, Bracket*

The 2013 World Baseball Classic will get underway this weekend. The international baseball tournament will begin when Chinese Taipei faces Australia in Taiwan at 11:30 p.m. EST on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. On Saturday, two-time champion Japan will begin defense of its crown against Brazil at the Yahoo! Japan Dome.

Though Japan has won the only two previous tournaments, Printable Brackets says picking the winner this year is anyone's guess.

"Japan enters the WBC without a single current Major Leaguer on its roster," said Printable Brackets spokesman Zaniel Worth. "That leaves the rest of the field very excited about the prospect of winning the event for the first time."

The United States enters the event as the odds-on favorite to win the 2013 World Baseball Classic. The Americans will open up round robin play on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> against Mexico in Phoenix, Arizona. The U.S. has never finished better than fourth in the WBC.

"Team USA enters the tournament with a lot of power in the lineup," said Worth. "If the Americans have one question mark, it certainly is their starting rotation."

Young stars Giancarlo Stanton, David Wright and Ryan Braun highlight Team USA's offense. The pitching staff is anchored by reigning Cy Young Award winner R.A. Dickey. The rest of the starting rotation includes Ryan Vogelsong, Gio Gonzalez, Derek Holland and Ross Detwiler.

In recognition of the 2013 WBC, Printable Brackets is offering a commemorative Team USA schedule that also features brackets for the championship round. The schedule is part of a new wave of complimentary sheets released by the site.

"March is an extremely busy month in the world of sports," said Worth. "With Spring Training, the World Baseball Classic, conference basketball tournaments, March Madness and the UEFA Champions League knockout stage all going on, sports lovers all over the globe are rejoicing."

The championship game in this year's World Baseball Classic will take place in San Francisco in March 19<sup>th</sup>.

For the complimentary 2013 World Baseball Classic schedule, UEFA Champions League knockout stage brackets, 2013 March Madness brackets, or for dozens of other tournament and sports-related sheets, please visit [www.Printablebrackets.net](http://www.Printablebrackets.net).