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## #1 Buster Posey



Daniel Shirey/Getty Images

For the better part of the last decade, Buster Posey has been the face of the San Francisco Giants franchise.

### BY MATT RAWLINGS Of the Keizertimes

The top spot on the list of the *Keizertimes* top 20 greatest Volcanoes players of all time goes to Buster Posey. As one of the most accomplished catchers of the 21st century, Posey has won four Silver Slugger awards and a Gold Glove to go along with his three World Series rings. Posey also was the National League (NL) Rookie of the Year in 2010 and the league MVP in 2012.

Posey grew up in Georgia and was a four-sport athlete in high school. During his senior season, he was named the Georgia Gatorade Player of the Year, the Louisville Slugger State Player of the Year, an EA Sports All-American, and a *Baseball America* All-American. Posey attended Florida State University from 2006-08 and was arguably the best player in school history. After receiving first-team All-American honors in his sophomore season, Posey easily established himself as the top player in the country the following year.

In his junior season, Posey hit .463 with 29 homers and 93 RBIs. He won the Johnny Bench Award as the nation's best catcher and was named the Collegiate Baseball Player

of the Year. He was also given the Golden Spikes award as the country's best amateur player.

On May 12, 2008, Posey played all nine fielding positions and hit a grand slam in a 10-0 victory over Savannah State.

*Baseball America* touted Posey as the best available catcher in the 2008 Major League Baseball Draft — the San Francisco Giants selected Posey with the fifth overall pick. Posey officially signed with the Giants on Aug. 16, 2008 and was given a \$6.2 million signing bonus — which was the largest up-front signing bonus in team history.

Posey only played three games with the Volcanoes in 2008. He hit two doubles and had a pair of RBIs. In 2009, Posey spent the majority of the year in Advanced Single-A in San Jose. He batted .326 with 63 runs, 95 hits, 23 doubles, 13 homers and 58 RBIs in 80 games.

Posey was moved up to Triple-A in Fresno later in the year and hit .321 with 21 runs scored, 42 hits, eight doubles, five homers and 22 RBIs in 35 games.

Due to an injury to San Francisco catcher Bengie Molina, Posey was called up

to join the Giants on Sept. 2, 2009. However he didn't make his debut until Sept. 11. Posey was mainly used as a reserve to conclude the San Francisco season and only had two hits in 17 at-bats. But the following year, Posey showed the Giants, and the MLB world, that he was more than prepared for the big leagues.

Posey began the season in Triple-A, where he proved to be dominant over 47 games, batting .349 with 31 runs scored, 60 hits, 13 doubles, six homers and 32 RBIs. On May 29, 2010, Posey was called back up to the big leagues, and his impact with the Giants was immediate.

In his first game of the year, Posey went 3-for-4 with three RBIs. He hit his first homer on June 9, 2010 off Aaron Harang of the Cincinnati Reds. Posey mostly played first base in the first two months of his 2010 tenure with the Giants, but when Molina was traded to the Texas Rangers on June 30, Posey became the Giants full-time catcher.

From July 1 to July 10, Posey batted .514 and had 19 hits and six homers, including his first career grand slam on July 7. Posey also had 13 RBIs during the stretch, the most ever by a rookie during a 10-



game span — he was named NL Player of the Week for the week of July 5-11.

Posey also had a 21-game hit streak during the month of July, falling one game short of the Giants rookie record, which is held by Willie McCovey. He was named NL Player of the Month in July 2010.

Posey finished the season batting .305 with 58 runs scored, 124 hits, 23 doubles, 18 homers and 67 RBIs and was named the NL Rookie of the Year — he also nearly finished in the top 10 for NL MVP voting.

During the final game of the season, Posey hit a key solo homer against the San Diego Padres to propel the Giants to the NL West division title.

In the NL Division Series (NLDS), Posey batted .375 as the Giants defeated the Atlanta Braves in four games. Even though he was inconsistent at the plate in the NL Championship Series (NLCS), Posey led the Giants to a key victory against the Philadelphia Phillies in game four of the series, going 4-for-5 with a pair of RBIs in the 6-5 victory — he was the first rookie ever to record four hits in an NLCS game.

In game four of the World Series, Posey and rookie battery mate Madison Bumgar-

ner became the first rookie starting pitcher-catcher tandem in a World Series game since 1947. In the same game, Posey hit his first postseason homer, leading the Giants to a 4-0 win. With the homer, Posey became the fifth rookie catcher to ever hit a home run in the playoffs.

Posey caught every inning of the 2010 postseason, helping the Giants to a World Series title after defeating the Rangers in five games.

In 2011, Posey missed the majority of the season after suffering a season-ending ankle injury on May 25. Posey was injured on a play at the plate by Scott Cousins of the Florida Marlins, who collided with Posey while attempting to score on a sacrifice fly — Cousins admitted later that he ran into Posey intentionally but did not intend to injure Posey.

In the aftermath of the violent play, the MLB adopted rule 7.13 during in 2014 — otherwise known as the "Buster Posey Rule." The rule states that "a runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate). If, in the judgment of the

Please see POSEY, Page A9

### The Complete Countdown



20. Matt Downs
19. Clay Hensley
18. Bryan Reynolds
17. Fred Lewis
16. Dan Otero
15. Matt Duffy
14. Jonathan Sanchez
13. Travis Ishikawa
12. Nate Schierholtz
11. Ryan Vogelsong
10. Adam Duvall
9. Kevin Correia
8. Joe Panik
7. Francisco Liriano
6. Sergio Romo
5. Brandon Crawford
4. Pablo Sandoval
3. Joe Nathan
2. Tim Lincecum
1. Buster Posey

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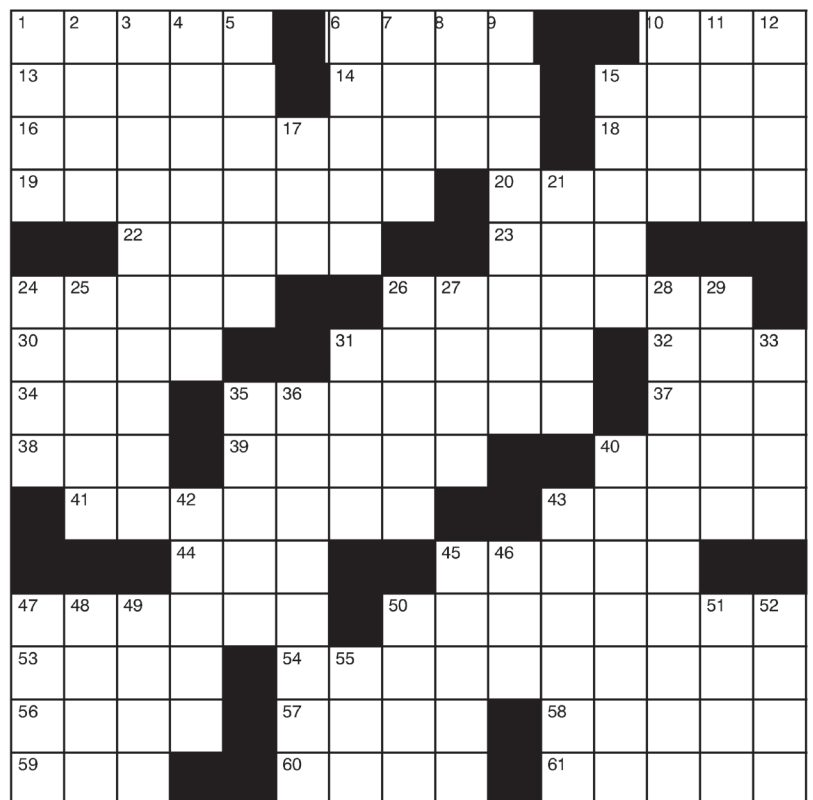
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- 10 Discussion
- 13 Tropical climber
- 14 Fashion color
- 15 Rational
- 16 Novice
- 18 Dwarf buffalo
- 19 New wing, e.g.
- 20 Intending
- 22 Western resort lake
- 23 Hansel, to Gretel: abbr.
- 24 Rhone feeder
- 26 Egyptian amulets
- 30 Old English letters
- 31 "And now \_\_\_ I bud again": George Herbert
- 32 Org. once headed by Lewis Strauss
- 34 Actress Farrow
- 35 Horse feeder
- 37 Nav. rating
- 38 Wayside stopover
- 39 Greedy looks
- 40 B'way sign
- 41 Suitor
- 43 Anthem's start
- 44 Verb ending
- 45 West Point student
- 47 Large crowd

### DOWN

- 1 Canadian prov.
- 2 Like a patchwork quilt
- 3 Kind of combat
- 4 Cleveland team
- 5 Boil
- 6 Friday's creator
- 7 Sacred image
- 8 Spanish gold
- 9 Turnip variety
- 10 A Hindu queen
- 11 Prolific auth.
- 12 Wampum
- 15 Pagopago's island group
- 17 City on Guanabara Bay
- 21 Var. of verb
- 24 Prefix for private
- 25 L'Elisir d'Amore heroine
- 26 Haughty expression
- 27 Hansoms, e.g.

- 28 Swimmer's specialty
- 29 Plant or animal membranes
- 31 Innisfree, e.g.
- 33 Snug: var.
- 35 Racket
- 36 Into the Woods giant, et al.
- 40 Start of a Pearl Buck title
- 42 Budes
- 43 Renowned folk singer
- 45 Some dorm dwellers
- 46 River islet
- 47 Perfume measure
- 48 Sitarist Shankar
- 49 Metamorphoses poet
- 50 Yard thirds
- 51 Take \_\_\_: heed some advice
- 52 Kaput
- 55 River of Wales and England

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