



## EUROPEAN BASEBALL TEAM: BIG IN JAPAN

Fifteen players, five countries – one incredible experience. From October 22nd till November 2nd, **TEAM EUROPE**, a U19 team consisting of European baseball talents, visited Fukuoka in Japan and dilated not only their skills in baseball but much more.

"The discipline and the way the Japanese players trained had a huge impact on me", said Jonah Schaller, describing his experiences of the past days. Jonah Schaller is 17 years old, Suisse born and has played baseball for 13 years. He is one of the 15 European players, who formed a selected team, which represented European baseball and the European union in Fukuoka, Japan from October 22nd till November 2nd. Built upon the idea that sport connects people all over the world, no matter where they come from or which culture they belong to, the community **TEAM EUROPE** has set it's goal to strengthen the sport of baseball all over the world and to support the relationships between young athletes and coaches of different countries and continents. This trip has again contributed to that idea successfully.

Coming from five different countries, **TEAM EUROPE** competed against high school and university teams from Fukuoka. In exchange with the Japanese players, the team gained insight into how baseball is approached and trained in Japan. "The time and intensity which is invested here is not comparable to what we know from Europe. The level is much more professional and the experiences are very helpful", says Austrian Moritz Scheicher. On the field the Japanese teams were superior, but **TEAM EUROPE** still had the possibility to gain important insights. "Accept the challenge no matter how powerful your opponent is and get into the right mindset", is something German player Marvin Stockhaus takes out of the matches. "To learn from the other players and coaches – on and off the field is a great opportunity for our young players", describes Georg Apfelbaum Initiator of **TEAM EUROPE** and longtime 1st division baseball coach of the Cologne Cardinals. "This trip once again confirmed, how important the international exchange is and how it is an enrichment for everybody involved."

The players from Switzerland, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Austria advanced their skills on the field. In addition the experiences off the field had an enormous impact on the young players aged 16 to 19. "It was the best experience of my life so far. I will try to include parts of the Japanese culture like courtesy and respect into my lifestyle at home", Marvin Stockhaus sums up.

The roster of U19 **TEAM EUROPE** is: Jonah Schaller (SUI), Arnaud Droxler (SUI), Rafael Blom (NED), Alban Spilette (BEL), Loup Bellem (BEL), Kyle Ascher (GER), Florian Kawczynski (GER), Marvin Stockhaus (GER), Erik Aplevich (GER), Marcel Theiner (AUT), Alex Almbauer (AUT), Colin Tuttle (AUT), Lukas Bickel (AUT), Niklas Fröhlich (AUT), Moritz Scheicher (AUT) und Devery Van de Keere (Coach/CAN).

### About TEAM EUROPE:

Since 2005 **TEAM EUROPE** travels with various teams to Japan and the USA. The baseballteams of the ages U12, U15 and U19 consist out of players from Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria and Czech Republic.

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**For further press inquiries + interviews + fotos please contact:**

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## TEAM EUROPE

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PRESS RELEASE – November 15th, 2017

## PRESS PICTURES TEAM EUROPE: BIG IN JAPAN



TEAM EUROPE (left to right):  
Rafael Blom (NED), Florian Kawczynski (GER), Jonah Schaller (SUI), Moritz Scheicher (AUT), Lukas Bickel (AUT), Niklas Fröhlich (AUT), Marvin Stockhaus (GER), Arnaud Droxler (SUI), Colin Tuttle (AUT), Kyle Ascher (GER), Loup Bellem (BEL), Alban Spilette (BEL), Erik Aplevich (GER), Alexander Lambauer (AUT) und Marcel Theiner (AUT)



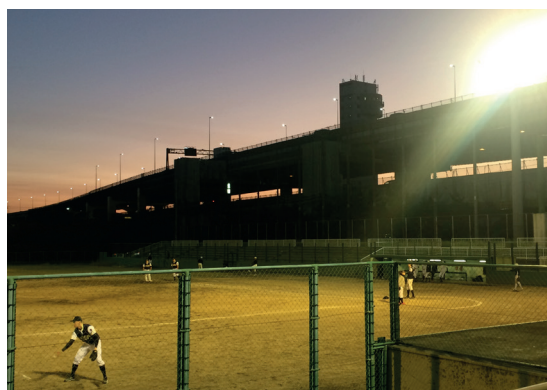
Before games TEAM EUROPE indulged in training sessions



The baseball team of Fukuoka University impressed with professional behavior and high level baseball



The players (here Kyle Ascher) tried out in various positions throughout the trip



Alone Fukuoka has around 160 highschool baseball teams



Lukas Bickel (AUT)

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TEAM EUROPE had the opportunity to visit Fukuoka Dome, home of the Fukuoka Hawks and winner of this year's nippon series



Beside baseball the team was given the chance to experience attractions such as the Dazaifu shrine



The coaches Devery Van de Keere (left) and Kazusa Katayama (middle) with initiator Georg Apfelbaum (right)



TEAM EUROPE at the reception of Toko junior highschool



The players in exchange with the students of Toko junior highschool



The training facilities in Japan impressed the players



Batting practice for TEAM EUROPE

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