

= Buster Posey =

Gerald Dempsey " Buster " Posey III (born March 27 , 1987) is an American professional baseball catcher for the San Francisco Giants of Major League Baseball . He stands 6 feet 1 inch (1 @. @ 85 m) tall and weighs 220 pounds (100 kg) . He bats and throws right @-@ handed . Posey has also filled in at first base for the Giants .

Posey grew up in Leesburg , Georgia . He played four sports in high school ; when playing baseball , he excelled at hitting and pitching . He attended Florida State University , where he began playing the catcher position . He won the Golden Spikes Award in 2008 and was selected by the Giants with the fifth overall pick in the 2008 Major League Baseball draft . Posey made his major league debut on September 11 , 2009 . After beginning the 2010 season in the minor leagues , he was called back up to the major leagues in May . With the presence of then full @-@ time catcher Bengie Molina , Posey played first base when originally called up to the majors , but became the Giants ' regular catcher at the end of June when Molina was traded to the Texas Rangers , the team the Giants would later face in the World Series .

As a rookie , he finished with a .305 batting average , 18 home runs , and 67 runs batted in . He was named the National League (NL) Rookie of the Year . He caught every inning of the playoffs as the Giants won the 2010 World Series . In 2011 , Posey missed most of the year after he was severely injured in a collision with Scott Cousins at home plate .

Posey returned from his injury in 2012 and posted a .336 batting average to win the 2012 NL batting title . He became the second San Francisco Giant to win the batting title and was named the NL Most Valuable Player for 2012 . He won his second World Series that year as the Giants swept the Detroit Tigers in four games . In 2013 , Posey signed an eight @-@ year contract extension worth \$ 167 million , a record in sum and in length for a player with his level of experience . He won his third World Series the following year as the Giants defeated the Kansas City Royals .

= = Early years = =

Posey , the oldest of four children , was born to Gerald Dempsey " Buster " Posey II and Traci Posey on March 27 , 1987 , in Leesburg , Georgia . His nickname , " Buster " , came from his father 's childhood nickname . He played football , soccer , and basketball growing up , but baseball was his main sport . As a junior at Lee County High School , Posey pitched and played shortstop . That year he hit 9 doubles , 3 triples , and 7 home runs while setting school records for batting average (.544) and runs batted in (RBI) (46) . His pitching achievements included a 10 ? 1 record and a 1 @. @ 53 earned run average (ERA) . In his senior year , he batted .462 with 40 RBI while setting a school record with 14 home runs . In 13 starts as a pitcher that year , he had a 12 ? 0 record with a 1 @. @ 06 ERA and 108 strikeouts . In the Georgia AAAA State Championship , Lee County was defeated by Henry County High , for whom fellow future major leaguer Jason Heyward played .

After his senior season , Posey 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 . He graduated with a 3 @. @ 94 grade point average in high school , fourth in his class of 302 students . Although he was drafted in the 50th round of the 2005 Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim , he chose to enroll in college instead of signing a professional baseball contract .

= = College career = =

Posey played college baseball for the Florida State Seminoles under coach Mike Martin . He played shortstop as a freshman at Florida State , starting all 65 games for the Seminoles . He was named a Louisville Slugger Freshman All @-@ American . He finished his freshman season with a .346 batting average , four home runs and 48 RBI . As a sophomore , Posey moved to the catcher position on the suggestion of assistant coach Mike Martin , Jr . He batted .382 with three home runs and 65 RBI . After one season of playing the position , Posey finished second to Ed Easley in

Johnny Bench Award voting .

In 2008 , as a junior , he hit .463 with 26 home runs and 93 RBI , won the Johnny Bench Award , and garnered the Collegiate Baseball Player of the Year award . On May 12 , he hit a grand slam and played all nine fielding positions in a 10 ? 0 victory over Savannah State University ; as a pitcher that day , he struck out both batters he faced . Posey was awarded the Dick Howser Trophy and the Golden Spikes Award at the end of the year .

During the college offseason , Posey started at shortstop for the Yarmouth @-@ Dennis Red Sox in 2006 when they won the Cape Cod Baseball League championship . He started at catcher in 2007 when they won another championship .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Draft and minor leagues = = =

Buster was considered by Baseball America to be the best catcher available in the 2008 Major League Baseball draft . He was drafted by the San Francisco Giants with the fifth overall pick . On August 16 , the Giants signed Posey shortly before the signing deadline for draftees and gave him a \$ 6 @. @ 2 million bonus , the largest up @-@ front bonus in Giants history . Entering the 2009 season , Baseball America ranked him the number two prospect in the Giants ' organization (behind Madison Bumgarner) . He was invited to the Giants ' spring training in 2009 . Following spring training , Posey was assigned to the Giants ' Class A Advanced affiliate , the San Jose Giants of the California League . In 80 games with San Jose , he batted .326 with 63 runs , 95 hits , 23 doubles , 13 home runs , and 58 RBI .

On July 13 , Posey was promoted to the Giants ' Class AAA team , the Fresno Grizzlies of the Pacific Coast League . In 35 games with Fresno , he batted .321 with 21 runs scored , 42 hits , eight doubles , five home runs , and 22 RBI .

= = = San Francisco Giants (2009 ? present) = = =

= = = = 2009 = = = =

Because of an injury to Giants starting catcher Bengie Molina , Posey was called up to the majors for the first time on September 2 , 2009 . He made his major league debut on September 11 , striking out in his first at bat against Hiroki Kuroda of the Los Angeles Dodgers . Posey got his first major league hit on September 19 against Jeff Weaver of the Dodgers . In 17 at @-@ bats with the Giants in 2009 , Posey had two hits .

Coming into 2010 , Baseball America ranked Posey as the top prospect in the Giants ' organization . After again appearing in the Giants ' spring training camp , Posey began the 2010 season at Fresno , batting .349 with 31 runs scored , 60 hits , 13 doubles , six home runs , and 32 RBI in 47 games .

= = = = 2010 = = = =

Posey was called up to the major leagues on May 29 , 2010 , and started at first base against the Arizona Diamondbacks . Posey drove in the first runs of his major league career , going three for four with three RBIs . He appeared primarily at first base through the end of June . Posey hit his first career home run against Aaron Harang of the Cincinnati Reds on June 9 . Following Molina 's trade to the Texas Rangers on June 30 , Posey became the starting catcher for the Giants .

Posey hit his first career grand slam against Chris Narveson of the Milwaukee Brewers on July 7 , en route to a two @-@ home run , four @-@ hit , six @-@ RBI night . This was part of a ten @-@ game streak from July 1 to July 10 during which he batted .514 with 19 hits , six home runs , and 13

RBI to set a National League (NL) record for rookies during any ten @-@ day stretch according to the Elias Sports Bureau . This performance also earned him the NL Player of the Week honors for the week of July 5 ? 11 , 2010 .

In a July 10 game against the Washington Nationals , Posey was inserted into the Giants ' batting order as the clean @-@ up hitter , which became his regular position in the lineup . He had a 21 @-@ game hitting streak that started July 4 and ended July 29 when Aníbal Sánchez of the Florida Marlins threw a one @-@ hitter against the Giants . During the streak , which fell one game short of tying the San Francisco Giants ' rookie mark set by Willie McCovey and five short of the team record , Posey batted .440 with 37 hits , six home runs , and 23 RBI . Posey was awarded both the NL Player of the Month and NL Rookie of the Month awards for his excellent July .

On September 21 , Posey hit an eighth @-@ inning home run against Andrew Cashner of the Chicago Cubs to win the game , 1 @-@ 0 . He hit another eighth @-@ inning home run against Luke Gregerson of the San Diego Padres in the final game of the year on October 3 as Giants secured the NL West Division championship by defeating the Padres 3 @-@ 0 . In 108 games , Posey batted .305 with 58 runs scored , 124 hits , 23 doubles , 18 home runs , and 67 RBI .

Posey was named the NL Rookie of the Year ; Posey had 20 first place votes while Heyward , now playing for the Atlanta Braves , finished second with nine . Posey was the sixth Giant to win the award , joining Willie Mays , Orlando Cepeda , Willie McCovey , Gary Matthews and John Montefusco . He was also the sixth catcher in NL history to win the award . Posey was named by his peers as the NL Players Choice Awards Outstanding Rookie . He was named the catcher on Baseball America 's All @-@ Rookie Team and the 2010 Topps Major League Rookie All @-@ Star Team . He finished 11th in NL Most Valuable Player (MVP) voting .

In the NL Division Series (NLDS) against the Braves , Posey batted .375 as the Giants won the series in four games . In Game 4 of the NL Championship Series (NLCS) against the Philadelphia Phillies , he became the first rookie to get four hits in an NLCS game as the Giants won 6 ? 5 . He batted .217 with five hits and three RBI in the series as the Giants defeated the Phillies in six games . In Game 4 of the World Series against the Texas Rangers , Posey and Madison Bumgarner formed the first rookie starting pitcher @-@ catcher tandem in a World Series since Yogi Berra caught Spec Shea in Game 1 of the 1947 World Series . Posey hit his first postseason home run against Darren O 'Day in the 4 @-@ 0 victory , making him the fifth rookie catcher to hit a home run in the World Series . The Giants won the series four games to one , giving Posey (who batted .300 with a home run and two RBI in the Series) his first World Series ring . Posey caught every inning of the playoffs for the Giants .

===== 2011 =====

Posey set season highs with three hits and four RBI on April 6 , 2011 , including a two @-@ run home run against Tim Stauffer in an 8 ? 4 victory over the Padres .

On May 25 , during a game against the Florida Marlins , Posey was injured during a collision with Scott Cousins at home plate as Cousins scored the winning run in the 12th inning of a 7 ? 6 Giants ' loss . Posey suffered a fractured fibula and torn ligaments in his ankle , requiring season @-@ ending surgery . Cousins , who was not disciplined , said he hit Posey intentionally in order to score . " If you hit them , you punish them and you punish yourself , but you have a chance of that ball coming out . " He expressed regret over injuring Posey , saying " I certainly didn ' t want him to get hurt . " Cousins received threats from fans , but Posey denounced them : " I appreciate the continued support of Giants fans and others as I begin the process of working my way back ... But in no way do I condone threats of any kind against Scott Cousins or his family . As I said last week , I 'm not out to vilify Scott . " In 45 games , Posey batted .284 with 17 runs scored , 46 hits , five doubles , four home runs , and 21 RBI .

===== 2012 =====

Posey started at catcher during Matt Cain 's perfect game on June 13 , 2012 , the 22nd in major

league history . He stated afterwards that the game had him feeling " as nervous as I 've ever been on a baseball field . " He played in the 2012 Major League Baseball All @-@ Star Game , his first , on July 10 , going 0 @-@ 2 with a walk and a run scored . After batting .289 with 10 home runs and 43 RBI in 77 games before the All @-@ Star break , Posey batted .385 with 14 home runs and 60 RBI in the final 71 games of the season . On July 17 , he had three hits and five RBI in a 9 ? 0 victory over the Braves . Four days later , he had four hits and three RBI , including a two @-@ run home run against Cole Hamels in a 10 @-@ inning , 6 ? 5 victory over the Phillies . Two days later , he had three hits and four RBI , including a three @-@ run home run against Clayton Richard in a 7 ? 1 victory over the Padres . He hit a game @-@ winning three @-@ run home run against Lance Lynn on August 7 in a 4 ? 2 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals . On September 17 , he had three hits , including a game @-@ winning two @-@ run home run against Wade Miley in a 3 ? 2 victory over the Diamondbacks . In 148 games , Posey had 78 runs scored , 178 hits (tied for eighth in the NL with David Wright) , 39 doubles (tied for eighth with Yonder Alonso) , 24 home runs , and 103 RBI (sixth) .

Posey 's teammate Melky Cabrera batted .346 in 2012 , but he asked MLB to rule him ineligible for the batting title after receiving a 50 @-@ game suspension for raised testosterone levels . As a result , Posey led both leagues in batting in 2012 with an average of .336 , becoming the first catcher to lead the NL in hitting since Ernie Lombardi of the Boston Braves in 1942 . He also became only the second San Francisco Giant to win the batting title , following Barry Bonds in 2002 and 2004 . Posey 's .433 batting average against left @-@ handed pitching (71 for 164) led all batters in the major leagues in 2012 .

In Game 5 of the NLDS against the Reds on October 11 , Posey hit a grand slam against Reds starter Mat Latos to give the Giants a 6 @-@ 0 lead and subsequently won the game . The Giants become the second NL team to win a Division Series after being down two games to none and first since the LDS became a permanent standard in the playoffs in 1995 . Posey became just the third catcher in MLB history to hit a grand slam in the playoffs , along with Berra and Eddie Pérez . He also completed a strikeout @-@ throw out double play at third base in the sixth inning to help preserve the victory . He batted .154 with four hits and one RBI in the NLCS as the Giants defeated the Cardinals in seven games . He hit a two @-@ run home run against Max Scherzer in Game 4 of the World Series as the Giants swept the Detroit Tigers , giving Posey his second World Series ring .

After the season , the Baseball Writers ' Association of America named Posey the NL MVP . He won the Silver Slugger Award for the catcher position . He won the NL Hank Aaron Award , and Miguel Cabrera of the Tigers won the American League (AL) award , marking the first time in history that World Series opponents won the award in the same year . He was named the NL Comeback Player of the Year , and he received the Willie Mac Award from the Giants ' organization .

== == 2013 == ==

Eligible for salary arbitration for the first time , Posey signed a one @-@ year , \$ 8 million contract with the Giants prior to the 2013 spring training season . On March 29 , Posey agreed to an eight @-@ year contract extension worth \$ 167 million , said by the Giants to be the most lucrative in franchise history . The contract wiped out three arbitration years and five years of free agency for Posey , locking in his services through the 2021 season with a club option for 2022 . The agreement was the second largest in major league history for a catcher , exceeded only by that of Joe Mauer in 2010 with the Minnesota Twins .

On July 1 , 2013 , Posey was named National League Player of the Week for the week of June 23 @-@ June 29 . It was the second time Posey earned the award during his career , and the first since 2010 . In six games Posey hit .500 , to raise his average from .307 to .322 , had an on @-@ base percentage of .560 , a slugging percentage of 1 @-@ 182 , stroked four home runs , and drove in six .

On July 13 , 2013 , Posey caught Tim Lincecum 's first no @-@ hitter against the San Diego

Padres . The no @-@ hitter also marks the 15th ever in Giants history as well as the second performed in an away ballpark .

On July 16 , 2013 , Posey played in his second straight All @-@ Star Game , striking out in his only at @-@ bat .

Posey 's offense regressed in 2013 following his 2012 MVP season , especially in the second half of the season where he hit just 3 home runs . However , he still finished with a solid .294 batting average , 15 home runs and 72 runs batted in .

===== 2014 =====

On July 13 , 2014 , Posey and pitcher Madison Bumgarner hit grand slam home runs against the Arizona Diamondbacks . It marked the first time in Major League Baseball history that a catcher and a pitcher hit grand slams in the same game .

On August 29 , 2014 , in a 13 ? 2 win over the Milwaukee Brewers at AT & T Park , Posey went 5 @-@ for @-@ 5 in 6 innings , and became the only catcher in Giants franchise history to have two career five @-@ hit games .

In the 2014 World Series the Giants defeated the Kansas City Royals in seven games , giving Posey his third ring in five years .

===== 2015 =====

On June 9 , 2015 , Posey caught rookie Chris Heston 's no @-@ hitter against the New York Mets at Citi Field , including the final out , a strikeout . It marks the seventeenth no @-@ hitter in Giants franchise history . This was the third no @-@ hitter during which Posey played catcher and the fourth overall , as he started at first base in Tim Lincecum 's second career no @-@ hitter . This puts him one behind the record for no @-@ hitters caught , held by the Philadelphia Phillies ' Carlos Ruiz and the Boston Red Sox ' Jason Varitek .

On June 19 , 2015 , in a 9 ? 5 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers at Dodger Stadium , Posey hit a grand slam and stole a base , becoming the first Giants catcher in 112 years since Roger Bresnahan to accomplish the feat . Four days later , in a 6 ? 0 win over the San Diego Padres at AT & T Park , Posey hit another grand slam . On July 5 , 2015 , Posey was selected to his third career All @-@ Star Game and was number one in voting for NL catchers .

On September 6 , 2015 , at Coors Field , in a 7 @-@ 4 win over the Colorado Rockies , Posey hit his 100th career home run .

On November 11 , 2015 , Posey was named winner of the 2015 Wilson Defensive Player of the Year award , given to the best defensive catcher in MLB . The following day , Posey was named winner of the 2015 National League Silver Slugger award at catcher .

===== 2016 =====

On May 28 , in a 10 @-@ 5 win over the Colorado Rockies at Coors Field , Posey hit two three @-@ run home runs en route to a career @-@ high six runs batted in . It is the second most RBIs in a single game by a Giants catcher in the San Francisco Era .

Posey was selected by Fan Voting to start at catcher in the 2016 MLB All Star Game , Posey 's fourth career MLB All @-@ Star Game , the most all @-@ time by a Giants catcher in franchise history . He was the catcher for battery mate Johnny Cueto , the second battery mate he started and caught for in the Midsummer Classic after teammate Matt Cain in 2012 .

== Personal life ==

Posey married his high school sweetheart , Kristen , in January 2009 . They had twins in 2011 . Posey lives with his family in the East Bay during the season , and they also have a home in Georgia during the off @-@ season .

Posey 's younger sister , Samantha , played softball for Valdosta State University . On April 18 , 2011 , she hit a home run cycle in a doubleheader .