



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS SINCE 9.9.99

## **BAKERSFIELD BRAVES BASEBALL CLUB**

### **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JACKSON VAUGHN**

JACKSON VAUGHN, A 2018 GRADUATE OF BAKERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, IS NOW MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN WITH SAN JOAQUIN DELTA COLLEGE JUST A FEW HOURS UP THE ROAD FROM HIS HOMETOWN.

THE 5'8" RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR HIS TOUGHNESS AND GRITTIENESS ON THE MOUND AND IT STILL HOLDS TRUE AFTER 7 LIVE INNINGS OF ACTION THIS FALL AT DELTA (7 IP, 2 H, 1 R, 0 ER ALLOWED). VAUGHN WAS A VITAL ROLE FOR THE BRAVES IN OUR BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK SPRING LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM 2017-2019.

VAUGHN, ONE OF THE HARDEST WORKERS BOBBY HAS HAD A PLEASURE OF COACHING, LEARNED FROM A YOUNG AGE HOW TO FIGHT. WHEN HE WAS 3 YEARS OF AGE, VAUGHN WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A RARE FORM OF STAGE 4 LIVER CANCER. HE UNDERWENT CHEMOTHERAPY AT LUCILLE PACKARD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT STANFORD IN PALO ALTO, CA. BEFORE RECEIVING A LIVER TRANSPLANT.

THE TRANSPLANT WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL.

VAUGHN WAS PLACED ON A MACHINE TO REPLICATE THE LIVER'S FUNCTIONS; HOWEVER, HIS BLOOD PRESSURE DROPPED SEVERELY. DOCTORS WORKED HIM FOR 36 MINUTES TO BRING A HEARTBEAT BACK, AND JUST AS HE ALWAYS HAS... HE FOUGHT. VAUGHN WAS GIVEN A SECOND TRANSPLANT, AND RECOVERED FULLY.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE FIGHT, VAUGHN TELLS US, "I'M ON BORROWED TIME, I'M GOING AS HARD AS I CAN."

VAUGHN GRADUATED IN 2018, VALEDICTORIAN OF HIS CLASS AND PROVIDED AN UPLIFTING STORY OF HOPE, A HOPE FOR ALL THEIR FUTURES AND TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT.

**DESCRIBE BBBC IN 3 WORDS.**

GRITTY, HONEST, HOME.

**WHAT DOES BBBC MEAN TO YOU?**

BBBC HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE TO MY HEART. I BEGAN TAKING LESSONS FROM THE "OLD FAT GUY" NAMED BOBBY. I ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE THAT'S HOW HE DESCRIBES HIMSELF. I CRIED OF LAUGHTER FROM HIS STORIES, SAID NO MORE THAN THREE

WORDS THE ENTIRE LESSON, AND RECEIVED ONE BIG OLE HUG FROM A COACH WHO WOULD GO ON TO PLAY A MONUMENTAL ROLE IN MY LIFE. **BBBC** GIVES PLAYERS A SHOT. WITHOUT **BBBC**, I WOULD'VE QUIT BASEBALL AND LISTENED TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO TOLD ME THAT IT WAS "TOO HARD," OR I WAS "TOO SHORT." THE PROGRAM HELPED ME FORGE A MINDSET TO WHERE THE ONLY THING I NEED IS A CHANCE TO PROVE MY WORTH AND WITH THAT CHANCE, I WILL SUCCEED.

#### **HOW IS THE SCHOOLYEAR GOING?**

SCHOOL IS GOING WELL, I'M ON TRACK TO GET MY AA DONE THIS YEAR, BUT U HAVE TO ADMIT MY MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY CLASS IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF ALL THE FOREIGN NAMES I HAVE TO REMEMBER.

#### **HOW IS THE BASEBALL LIFE?**

THE TEAM IS INCREDIBLY TALENTED AND IS STOCKED WITH A FEW PLAYERS THAT HAVE POTENTIAL TO GET DRAFTED AS WELL AS MANY TO MOVE ON TO A FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY. MORE SPECIFICALLY, OUR STAFF IS INCREDIBLY DEEP WITH NUMEROUS GUYS ITCHING FOR SOME INNINGS THIS YEAR. I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO PLAYING BASEBALL WITH MY TEAM EVERY DAY SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE AND I PLAN ON DOING SO MY WHOLE TIME AT DELTA.

#### **ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES OF **BBBC**?**

SPENDING A FEW DAYS IN **BOBBY'S** TRAILER AT **SAN DIEGO** BECAUSE IT WAS CONTROLLED CHAOS WITH **10** AWESOME DUDES AND NOT A LOT OF SPACE.