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**BLANCHET**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**P R E S S R E L E A S E**

## Former Volcanoes Coach Bert Hunter Joins Blanchet's Baseball Staff

Salem, OR- Former Salem-Keizer Volcanoes hitting coach, Bert Hunter, has agreed to assist the Blanchet Catholic School varsity baseball team as a coach this spring. Hunter was a fan-favorite during his years with the Volcanoes (1998-2000). Frequently Hunter would hear the admiring chants of "Bert! Bert! Bert!" as he headed to and from the first base coaches box at Volcanoes Stadium.

Hunter's professional baseball career began in 1985, when he was drafted in the 2nd round of the amateur draft (40th selection overall) by the Houston Astros. He spent 1985-1991 in the Astros organization before being traded to the New York Mets, where he played in the Mets' organization in 1992 and 1993.

Hunter, who resides in Keizer with his wife Debbie and two children, began his coaching career in Jackson, Mississippi in 1997 for Houston's AA team. Hunter has spent the last 11 years coaching and managing for the San Francisco Giants organization. Bert managed the Arizona Giants for six seasons (2002-2007), posting a winning record each season, and leading the club to the Arizona League Championship in 2004 and 2005. Hunter was named Arizona League Manager of the Year in 2005.

Hunter joins his friend, Volcanoes owner Jerry Walker, on the Blanchet coaching staff. Walker became Blanchet's head varsity baseball coach in 2007. The Cavaliers had their most successful season ever in 2008, posting a 23-6 record and making it all the way to the State quarter-final game. The Cavs also made post-season play in 2007, posting a record of 18 wins against 10 losses.

Blanchet President Charles E. Lee said, "We are excited about our upcoming baseball season and are thrilled that baseball professional Bert Hunter has joined our coaching staff."

The Cavaliers will play 26 games this spring, 18 of which are home games that will all be played at Volcanoes Stadium. The Cavs open at home on Monday, March 16 against the McKenzie Eagles.

Blanchet Catholic School is a college preparatory secondary school serving Mid Valley students in grades 6-12.

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