

Badgers' Cole an alternate

By Gerry Steele
WesCom News Service

Powder Valley's Hudson Cole would like nothing better than to be playing football Saturday at Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

To do so he needed to be selected to play in the 66th annual East-West Shrine All-Star Football Game.

Cole, the son of Arnie and Cynthia Cole, currently is listed as an alternate for the East squad.

"I'd like to be playing, but I thought it was awesome to be considered. I was so excited," Cole said.

Cole, who played four seasons of football at Powder Valley, was also selected to play in the 8-man all-star football game this summer. However, he was unable to play due to fire school. He is working for the Forest Service in La Grande.

Cole plans to attend Eastern Oregon University and play football.

At Eastern, Cole plans to study agriculture or physical education. He said if that doesn't work out he plans to attend a technical school, possibly Linn-Benton Community College.

Cole credits his grandfather, Richard Stephens, with helping him get to where he is today.

"Grandpa taught me a lot of things about how to live life," Cole said. "He helped me learn how to help others. And my parents have shown me how to keep my grades up and how to stay in football shape."

Junior All-Stars finish strong

Observer staff

While they won't get an opportunity to build on the victory, the La Grande Junior All-Stars did end their trip to the West Regionals in San Jose, California, on a high note.

The Juniors scored six runs in the bottom of the sixth inning — five more than they had in their previous two games at regionals — to earn a 6-1 win over Yakima, Washington's West Valley All-Stars in Thursday's consolation game.

La Grande scored only one run in an earlier loss to Nogales, Arizona, was shut out by Pearl City, Hawaii, and was down 1-0 after West Valley scored the game's first run in the top of the sixth Thursday.

But the quiet offense finally sprung to life.

Three straight RBI singles by Cole Shafer, Sam Tsiatsos and Jace Schow gave La Grande a 3-1 lead. Devin Bell followed with a two-run double and Logan Williams added a sacrifice fly to extend the advantage to five.

Williams finished the game on the mound in the seventh. He pitched five innings for the win, allowing one run on four hits with one walk and four strikeouts.

Schow and Bell had two hits each to power La Grande's seven-hit attack.

The Juniors finished 1-2 at the regional tournament.

Chamberlain honored to play in Shrine Game

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

"Let the strong legs run so the weak legs may walk."

That quote was shared with La Grande graduate Isaac Chamberlain and the rest of the athletes taking part in the 66th annual East-West Shrine Football game at 7 p.m. Saturday night in Baker City.

"That's definitely a huge part of what we're going (to play) for," Chamberlain said. "It's one of the best quotes I've ever heard."

Chamberlain and the other players in the Shrine Game are part of an event that helps raise money for the Shriners Hospital for Children, which according to the Shrine Game's website "is the only pediatric health care system in the United States that provides care and services regardless of the patient's ability to pay."

It's a game Chamberlain has wanted to be a part of for several years.

"It's an honor to play. I've been wanting to play this game since I was a little kid," he said. "Going to the fair (growing up), seeing the (players) with the jerseys on — I've wanted to do it since then."

Of course, there is the desire to play the game for the simple fact of getting on a football field one more time.

That definitely has a meaning for



Observer file photo

Isaac Chamberlain, left, shown last season with La Grande, will take part in the East-West Shrine Game Saturday in Baker City.

Chamberlain, who wants a chance to get the taste of his last football game out of his mouth — La Grande's 24-21 quarterfinal loss to Marshfield last November.

"Nobody expected us to go as far as we did," he said. "We had the lead (in that game), ended up losing by three. It's good to get that feeling of, I get one more shot to go out with a bang."

But it's more than just playing a football game for Chamberlain. It's the opportunity to help those less fortunate.

"It's about something way bigger than life," he said.

Before they even take the practice field, the players get an opportunity to visit the Shriners Hospital in Wilsonville. Typically that includes

meeting some of the patients they are playing for.

Chamberlain said they didn't get that chance this year since they went on a weekend, but they did get to tour the facility and hear from speakers who had been helped by the Shriners.

That included Cylie Lagao, who will serve as the Shrine Game queen for the East team, which Chamberlain is playing on.

"What I took away from it was that there's a lot of kids who may not be given the same opportunities you are given," he said. "They're out there fighting for their lives or to walk on their own feet. I've always put it as they're the cool kids. They're out there busting their butts trying to make their lives better."

"And (yet) they look up to us. We're a role model. (If) we represent good personality and good drive, it shows them they can do it. They look up to us, and they take away what we do and use it as their fuel. It's giving them confidence in themselves because of what we're doing for them."

Because of that, Chamberlain and the other players want to put their full effort into Saturday night's game.

"We're going to go out there and give it 100 percent. Even though it's an East-West Shrine Game, we're all one big team," he said.

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