

Continuing the family tradition

Baker athlete is third in family to play in East-West Shrine Game

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**
The Observer

BAKER CITY — The Van Arsdall name has quite a legacy at the Oregon Shrine game. Mason Van Arsdall, a multisport athlete for Baker High School, became the third-generation Van Arsdall to compete at the East-West Shrine Game in the 2021 rendition on Saturday, Aug. 7. Van Arsdall started on the offensive line for the East and helped the team to a 34-6 victory over the West.

“It’s great to keep the tradition, and I just feel awesome that I get to be a part of this,” Van Arsdall said.

Van Arsdall’s father, Jef, and grandfather, Jim, both played in the Shrine Game in previous years. Jef was selected out of Seaside High School in 1990 and Jim represented Franklin High School in 1961.

“I’m incredibly proud of him,” Jef Van Arsdall said. “He’s a great kid, and he’s dedicated to his team and he’s just a good dude. It’s a great sendoff to represent Baker one last time and be the hometown athlete.”

The East-West Shrine Game features the state’s elite football players from the 1A to 4A state levels. Football coaches from across the state nominate players to compete in the game and partake in the fundraising and festivities.



Jef Van Arsdall, left, stands with his son, Mason Van Arsdall, after the 2021 Oregon East-West Shrine Game on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, in Baker City. Mason Van Arsdall marked the third generation of his family to compete in the Shrine game.

The Shrine Game raises money for the Shrine Hospital for Children in Portland and is recognized as the organization’s largest fundraiser.

All the players involved are aware of the game’s cause, but Mason has learned the importance of the game through his predecessors who played in the past.

“It’s huge for our community and it’s a huge event city-wide,” he said. “It’s just an amazing organization. Getting to not only win, but just be a part of this whole thing, is just so awesome.”

According to his father, Jef, competing in the game



Mason Van Arsdall smiles on the East sideline during the 2021 East-West Shrine Game in Baker City on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021. The East cruised to a commanding 34-6 victory.

and raising funds for the hospital is a way of being a servant to the community.

“It’s about being a part of something bigger than yourself,” he said. “The Shrine Hospital is an amazing place and the service they provide is just incredible for folks that might not otherwise have the opportunity to have access to medical care.”

With the East holding a comfortable lead in the second half, Mason Van Arsdall took additional reps on the defensive line. The versatile lineman recorded a sack near the sidelines that drew a huge eruption from the crowd at Baker Bulldog Memo-

rial Stadium. After the game, he was swarmed by friends, family and fans.

“Everybody turned out,” he said. “We had a huge crowd.”

The East dominated the entirety of the game, taking an early lead and never looking back. The West closed the lead to 7-6 in the second quarter, but the East scored 27 unanswered to run away with the victory.

“We controlled the game the entire time,” Van Arsdall said. “There wasn’t a single moment where we weren’t in control.”

Baker Athletic Director Buell Gonzales Jr. has watched Van Arsdall compete over the years and recognizes the importance of a local athlete participating in the Shrine Game.

“Growing up over here and playing football, this is the pinnacle of what you want to reach,” he said.

“Mason is a great kid and the community is really proud.”

Van Arsdall will now shift gears and start training for the start of his collegiate baseball career. The all-state catcher is signed to play for Eastern Oregon University next year.

“I got to end on a good note, that’s really important,” Van Arsdall said.

For the Van Arsdalls, the 2021 Shrine Game marked a historic night that continued the family’s legacy. At the conclusion of his high school athletics career, Mason Van Arsdall will carry his family’s name in his future collegiate career at Eastern Oregon.

SPORTS SHORT

CJ McCollum elected president of NBA Players Association

By **AARON FENTRESS**
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum has been elected president of the NBA Players Association.

McCollum, 29, replaces Phoenix guard Chris Paul who decided not to seek a third term.

Boston forward Grant Williams, 22, has been elected vice president replacing Golden State forward Andre Iguodala. Both Williams and McCollum will serve four-year terms that end in 2025.

“I am grateful for this opportunity to take over as the new president of the NBPA,”

McCollum said in a statement. “Chris has done an incredible job over the last eight years, strengthening the voice of the players as a whole and using his platform to make sure our membership is taken care of on and off the court. I look forward to stepping into this role and to further growing the game so that future players can continue to learn and benefit from the Union’s work.”

Paul served eight years as president.

“It has been an honor to serve in this position and to represent the diverse group of players that make up our incredible league,” Paul said in a statement. “I am

extremely proud of all that we have accomplished at the Union in the last 8 years and I am forever grateful to Michele (Roberts), all of my colleagues on the NBPA Executive Committee — past and present, and of course all of the players who trusted me to make the best decisions for our collective brotherhood. I am confident that CJ will continue to build on the work we have already done and I look forward to working with him to make our Union even stronger.”

The NBPA directs the affairs of the union, including conducting collective bargaining relationships between the union and the NBA.



Craig Mitchell/dyer, The Associated Press, File

Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum shoots during the second half of a first-round playoff series Thursday, June 3, 2021, in Portland. McCollum has been elected president of the NBA Players Association

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