

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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**MILTON-FREEWATER**

## Shrine Game has special meaning for **PATTON WRIGHT**



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Patton Wright, of Weston-McEwen, who will play in the East-West Shrine All-Star Football Game on Aug. 3 in Baker City, poses with his grandfather, Larry Wright. Larry wears his Shrine All-Star jersey from 1964.

**Weston-McEwen lineman is a Shriners patient, and his grandpa played in the game 55 years ago**

By ANNIE FOWLER  
*East Oregonian*

**MILTON-FREEWATER** — Patton Wright has five screws in his hips. Souvenirs, so to speak, from his three surgeries over six years at Shriners Hospitals for Children in Spokane.

It's because of those surgeries that Wright was able to play football at Weston-McEwen High School, and subsequently earn an invite to play in the 67th annual East-West Shrine All-Star

Game on Aug. 3 in Baker City. "I was super ecstatic about it," Wright said of the invite.

It's rare that a patient at the Shriners Hospital has an opportunity to play football, let alone play in the game that is a major fundraiser for the organization.

"I like to think I am giving back to the kids who can't play, and the hospital that helped me," Wright said. "A lot of the kids, unfortunately, can't play regular sports, let alone contact sports. After three surgeries, I am able to play football and wrestle. My left leg is about an inch shorter than my right. I have a little limp, but it's not real noticeable unless you know to look for it."

Wright will be joined on the East roster by Derek Howard and Tyler Car-

ter of Heppner and Josh Gray of Ione. Trent Durfey of Umatilla also was selected to play, but he will not be able to participate.

According to Shriners International, the game is the largest fundraiser in Oregon for the Shriners Hospital and is considered the second-largest athletic money-maker for Shriners Hospitals in North America.

Though he is a lineman, Wright will wear No. 27 in the game, honoring his grandfather, Larry Wright, who played in the Shrine Game in 1964.

"I didn't even know that until this came about," Wright said of his grandfather. "He was really excited for me. He

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## Diamondjaxx sweep opener in Spokane tournament

Hodgen Distributing goes 1-1 in day one of weekend tourney

By BRETT KANE  
*East Oregonian*

**SPOKANE** — Pendleton's 16U Pepsi Diamondjaxx were unstoppable in day one of Spokane's summer baseball tournament.

The team opened play with a five-inning 19-0 blowout over Coeur d'Alene's Northern Lake and followed it up with a 16-8 win against Spokane's own North Central to complete the sweep.

"Our base running was the best it's been all summer," coach Brett Swanson said. "We had some good situational hitting."

The Diamondjaxx were hot right out the gate, putting up five runs in the top of the first. It would be their first of three five-run innings.

Aiden Gunter got things started with an RBI-double into left field, and from there, Blane Peal, Jacob Devereaux, and Andrew Demianew all followed with RBI-singles. Devereaux's drove in two.

Kobe Fell, who led Pendleton with a 3-for-5 batting performance that scored three runs, notched a double of his own in the top of the fifth, driving in a run. Devereaux, Demianew, and Hayden Hodson each hit RBI-singles to secure their 19-run advantage, enacting the ten-run rule and ended the game early.

"We played some strong defense today," Swanson said. "We would hit the ball right at them, and once they struggled we just capitalized on that."

Payton Lamber and Jack Monkman also chipped in three runs apiece.

But Pendleton was strong on both sides of the ball, with Fell and Hodson combining to shut out their Northern Lake opponents from the hill. Each gave up just one hit, but no runs. Hodson benched four batters, including a strikeout that ended the game.

"Both games were good all-around wins for us," Swanson said.

**Hodgen Distributing**

Pendleton's 17U Hodgen Distributing battled their way through the Spokane-hosted weekend tourney, suffering a close loss to Northwest Advantage 6-4, but rallying for a 4-1 victory over Mt. Spokane to finish the day.

"It's been a good tournament so far," coach Wes Armstrong said. "We played against two nice, competitive teams today."

Nic Sheley and Jordan DeGeer scored on a pair of wild pitches in the top of the second for an early 2-0 Pendleton lead, but Northwest Advantage was quick to retaliate with four runs in the bottom of the third.

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## 15-year-old Coco Gauff still unfazed, unbeaten at Wimbledon

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
*AP Tennis Writer*

**WIMBLEDON, England** — It was easy to forget that Coco Gauff is still just 15 as she stood on the grass of Centre Court, pounding her chest and shouting, "Let's go! Come on!" to celebrate a 32-stroke point that forced a third set in her match Friday evening at Wimbledon.

Up in the stands, Mom rose to pump a fist and yell, "Yes!" Thousands of spectators jumped out of their seats, too, roaring. By then, Gauff already twice

had been a point from losing in the third round to Polona Hercog of Slovenia.

Most players, no matter the age, would not be able to find a path past that kind of a deficit on this imposing a stage, would not be able to handle that sort of stress and figure out a way. Gauff is, quite clearly, not most players. That much has been established. How far can she go, both this fortnight and in the future? The tennis world is watching, waiting to learn the answers.

That Gauff, ranked 313th

and facing another unseeded player, was scheduled to appear at Wimbledon's main stadium says plenty about what a sensation the Floridian already is. That she won this one, and how she did so — erasing a pair of match points and coming back to beat Hercog 3-6, 7-6 (7), 7-5 — offers some insight into what Gauff might become.

"Obviously, this moment is an incredible moment," Gauff said. "I'm still excited I get to keep living it."

As it is, she was the youngest player to qualify for Wimbledon

in the professional era, winning three matches last week against higher-ranked women in the preliminary rounds.

Then, by upsetting five-time champion Venus Williams, who is 39, in the first round of the main event, Gauff became the youngest woman to win a match at the All England Club since 1991, when Jennifer Capriati reached the semifinals at 15.

That was followed by a win against 2017 Wimbledon semifinalist Magdalena Rybarikova,

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AP Photo/Ben Curtis

United States' Cori "Coco" Gauff reacts after winning the second set against Slovenia's Polona Hercog in a Women's singles match during day five of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on Friday.

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