



BALDY'S PUCK DROP

Weekly E-Newsletter December 14, 2023

Dear Great Falls Americans Enthusiast:

Another successful weekend is in the books and the players are very much looking forward to their holiday break – after they take care of business at the NA3HL Showcase in Blaine, MN early next week. The Americans won both games last weekend and have won 7 of their last 8 while currently holding 3rd place in the Frontier Division. Congratulations to forward Cade Bendigo and defenseman Ty Brander for earning “Honorable Mention” player of the week honors from the league.

The Americans play three games at the Showcase on Sunday (4:15 MDT vs New Jersey Titans), Monday (5:15 PM MDT vs. Alexandria Blizzard) and Tuesday (11:00 AM MDT vs. Louisiana Drillers). The Showcase is the one time of the



year when all 34 teams across five divisions of the NA3HL travel into one location and play games against teams from the other divisions. The league tries to match up competitive opponents based on standings from other divisions, so it is a chance to see some new faces and to try to establish bragging rights. These games do count in the league standings, so it is an important three game stretch to gain playoff position, as well. The primary purpose of the Showcase, though, is to create an easy and efficient way for scouts to be able to see all the players at the same time. There will be a couple of hundred scouts on site representing the NAHL (USA Hockey Tier II Junior Hockey), NCAA Division III and ACHA College Club teams from throughout the country. It is not uncommon for some of these coaches to ask to speak to several players after each game, so it is a great

opportunity to be seen and open additional doors for these young men’s hockey careers. Some of the top 18U and HS teams from throughout the country will also be playing games on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, so it provides an opportunity for our staff to get a head start on scouting players for next season, as well.

The team leaves today after an early morning practice and will travel to Bismarck. They will practice again Friday morning at the University of Mary and take a quick tour of their facilities before heading to Fargo for the next adventure. On Friday night we will attend a USHL game in Fargo. The USHL is the premier Tier I Junior League in the U.S. where most of their players go on to play Division I college hockey and their top players will be drafted next summer. It will be a great experience for our team to see where they are at and what the highest level looks like. We will then practice again on Saturday morning in Aiden Kennedy’s home rink (Detroit Lakes, MN) before arriving in the Twin Cities and having an Italian style team dinner on Saturday the 16th. Games take place on the 17th-19th and then all players will be off for the holidays until January 2nd. Many of the players will fly directly out of Minneapolis after our game on the 19th while a handful will hop back on the bus for the trek back to Great Falls, arriving back on the evening of the 20th.



All of the Showcase games will be broadcast on NAHL TV. Please join other passionate fans at our official watch party taking place at the **Stadium Sports Bar and Casino** (1121 5th St. S). We will have one more edition of the newsletter for this year as we will recap the Showcase next week, but then will take a couple of weeks off for the Holidays. In the meantime, be safe finishing up your holiday shopping and enjoy the delay to the start of winter.



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Player Profile – #7 Zach Orwig (Bettendorf, IA) 5'7" 170 lbs. FOR - Shoots Right

Favorite Team: Chicago Blackhawks **Favorite Player:** Cole Caufield

Favorite Movie: Surf's Up **Favorite Actor/Actress:** Jake Gyllenhaal

Favorite Food: Steak **Favorite Pre-Game Meal:** Chicken Alfredo

Musical Group You Won't Miss in Concert: \$uicideboy\$

Song or Artist Guaranteed to get you hyped: 21 Savage

One Item you would bring with you to a deserted Island: Boat

Hobbies other than Hockey: Lifting, Art and making playlists

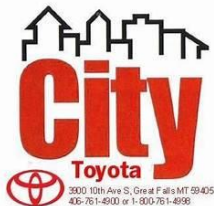
Three People you would invite to Dinner: Wayne Gretzky, Kanye West, Quentin Tarantino

College/University of Choice: UW-Concordia **Like Most About Great Falls:** Peak Health and Wellness (Gym) and my teammates.

How would you define a successful season: Personal and team development that leads to post-season success!



Thank you to all our existing **Eagle's Nest, Diamond and Platinum Level** partners for their continued support.



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Heidelberg Lounge	Treasure State Eyecare	Craftmaster Cabinets	Floors and More Abbey Carpets
Tuttle Tile	Teriyaki Madness	Central MT Lock & Safe	3D International Restaurant
Jersey Mike's	Noble's West Side Liquor	Annie's Taphouse	Hotel Avron-Celtic Cowboy
Scheel's	Croxford Funeral Home	Big Sky Laboratory	AllState- Tammy Quintrell-Stubbs
All State Signs	Highwood Creek Outfitters	Automotive Machine	She Bare Wax & Sugar Boutique
Wheat Montana	Stifel Investment Services	Bigelow Endodontics	Best Western Plus Riverfront Hotel
Culligan Water	Best Med Urgent Care	Buffalo Wild Wings	Tilleraas Landscape & Nursery
Stockman Bank	SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Central Avenue Meats	Todd Neighbor at Comparion Insurance
Fuddrucker's	Play It Again Sports	The Beacon IceHouse	Nate and Renae Weisenburger
Life in Bloom	Comparion Insurance	United Materials	Fox Sports Radio, Q 106, 104.9 The Wolf
Hampton Inn	Traynor Capital	Bravera Bank	Discount Meats
KFBB	Cascade Electric		

Thank you for being a part of our family and we look forward to seeing you at the rink.

Matt Leaf
Great Falls Americans HC Inc
MattL.GFAmericans@gmail.com



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