



BALDY'S PUCK DROP

Weekly E-Newsletter December 21, 2023

Dear Great Falls Americans Enthusiast:

The Americans wrapped up their journey to Minneapolis and the NA3HL Showcase when the four players, Coach Greg, alumni Viktor Wennberg, bus driver Rex Rigor and I pulled into the IcePlex at 4:13 PM on Wednesday. Rex, once again, does an amazing job of getting us to and from all our road games safely not to mention also being one of our biggest fans. The full contingent loaded up for the three-day journey after a light skate last Thursday loaded with drinks and snacks from the Booster Club. Can't say that the eastern Montana landscape is the most



exciting but can in fact verify that

Rex can handle the few curves that do appear during the trip quite well. We are also very thankful that the weather fully cooperated in both directions, which greatly reduced any stress levels or possible discomfort. The remaining players/staff either left with their families directly from Minneapolis after the game Tuesday or flew out of Minneapolis either late Tuesday or Wednesday morning. One interesting tidbit that we will continue to follow is Dmitri Kuleshov returned to Australia to train with their National U20 team and will play for team Australia at their U20 IIHF World Championship in Belgrade, Serbia in January. We wish Dmitri the best and will follow him along the way, but also will miss him in our line-up for the month of January.



On ice was a bit of a mixed blessing. We played well and secured a gritty 2-1 win versus the New Jersey Titans in game one and followed that up with a 3-1 loss versus a strong Alexandria team in a game where they also played very well. Tuesday's game was the one game everyone would say they want back as never really got it going against a Louisiana team that clearly wanted it more and worked harder than we did. The result is we are currently in 4th place (and securely holding the last playoff spot) as we head into the holiday break and will have 19 regular season games remaining when the players return to get back to work on January 3rd. One bright spot from the Showcase is the overall performance of the Frontier Division which finished with a record of 14-8-2 - the 2nd best divisional record.

As we wrap up the year 2023, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have and will continue to support the Great Falls Americans. This includes the players and their families, our billet families, our staff and their families and, of course, all of our partners within the Great Falls community. All of this could not be possible without their trust in allowing us to create an opportunity and culture designed to set these young men up for success, the support and kindness of those who are making sacrifices to host our players or the contributions of those who simply support this endeavor – all who are listed in the following pages. The Holiday season is one that is meant to be spent with family and I sincerely hope all who read this can enjoy a safe and festive time with those they care about the most. I know I am extremely thankful for my hockey family.

We'll be back in early January and in the meantime, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Player Profile – #8 Tariq Khan (Airdrie, AB) 5'10" 148 lbs. FOR/DEF - Shoots Right

Favorite Team: Toronto Maple Leafs **Favorite Player:** Mitch Marner

Favorite Movie: Miracle **Favorite Actor/Actress:** Ryan Reynolds

Favorite Food: Shrimp Alfredo **Favorite Pre-Game Meal:** Pasta

Musical Group You Won't Miss in Concert: Drake

Song or Artist Guaranteed to get you hyped: Headlines - Drake

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

Hobbies other than Hockey: Basketball

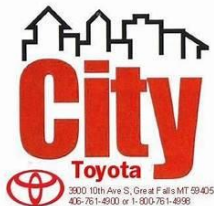
Three People you would invite to Dinner: Drake, Phil Harrell, Sam Duehlmeier

College/University of Choice: Arizona State **Like Most About Great Falls:** The team and coaching staff.

How would you define a successful season: A good playoff run as well as personal improvement.



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
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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.

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