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**Great Falls Americans Press Release**

**Contact: Kevin Scott, GF Americans Public Relations Coordinator**

**Phone: (406) 403-8146**

**#1 Helena routs Great Falls, 7-2 in final game of rivalry this season**

**By Kevin Scott**

<a href="#">Box Score</a>	<a href="#">Score Sheet</a>	<a href="#">League Scoreboard</a>	<a href="#">Americans Team Statistics</a>
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HELENA, Mont., February 17, 2024 — Both rivals met on the ice three times this week with two of them taking place at the Great Falls Ice Plex. In a rare Wednesday night (February 14) contest, Helena defeated Great Falls, 4-1 with four different Bighorns players getting in on the scoring action. Gavin Barr, Hunter Coulombe, Cai Robinson, and Owen Gruener putting in the goals. Sam Duehlmeier scored early for Great Falls in the first stanza with Austin Trout and Garrett Driscoll assisting. Helena's Jesse Schindel made 13 saves in the win and Great Falls' Noah Van Herik produced 57 saves in the loss ([game story](#)). During Friday's afternoon game in Great Falls, Jack Lambert and Patrick Crooks scored two goals apiece for a 7-2 victory for Helena and Ty O'Bey and Garren Narvaez each added a goal for the Americans ([game story](#)).

The top-ranked Helena Bighorns (41-2-0-0) dominated in all aspects of their junior hockey contest against the #5 Great Falls Americans (18-23-0-1) during Saturday's final head-to-head meeting of the season between these two rivaled NA3HL franchises.

The Bighorns, who have dominated on the scoreboard throughout the 2023-24 season, continued their dominance by leading 3-0 after the first period and outscoring the Americans, 4-2 over the final two periods for a 7-2 Saturday victory at Steed Arena in Helena, Montana.

Helena led 3-0 early in the contest with Jack Lambert, Finn Theriault, and Jason Hammett getting the puck by the Americans goaltender. Both offenses combined for just 23 shots-on-goal.

Great Falls trimmed Helena' lead to 3-2 with goals from Aiden Kennedy and Ty O'Bey within the first eight minutes of the second stanza. Hayden Grabas, Cal Laggis, Ty Brander, and Luke Pizzey added the helpers. Later in the period, Cai Robinson and Jason Hammett added two more tallies for the home team. Patrick Crooks assisted on both scoring drives while Jack Lambert and Tim Mattingly also acquired one assist each. Helena took a 5-2 advantage into the locker room for the second intermission.

In the third, Helena outshot Great Falls, 26-6 with two successful scoring opportunities going to Tim Mattingly and Camden Cunningham early in the final frame.

Eight total infractions were called by NA3HL officials during the sixty minute contest. Two of Helena's seven goal came while the Americans were in the penalty box with the host team going 2-for-3 on the power play. Five power play chances went unanswered by the Americans offense.

The Bighorns took 43 of their 68 shots after the first period. Great Falls finished with 13 of their 19 before the second intermission.

Tim Mattingly (1 goal, 3 assists), Jack Lambert and Cai Robinson (1 goal, 1 assist) and three assists by Patrick Crooks led the charge for Helena. Ty O'Bey and Aiden Kennedy each scored for the visiting squad.

Jesse Schindel (14-0-0-0) swatted away 17 shots for the winning side. Noah Van Herik started in the net for Great Falls creating nine saves in 12 minutes before Anyon Bennett took his place. Bennett had a busy night getting 52 saves in 47 minutes. Van Herik now has four losses in seven appearances.

**FRONTIER DIVISION UPDATE:** The #6 Sheridan (WY) Hawks (15-24-2-2) kept their Saturday contest against the #2 Gillette (WY) Wild (38-4-0-1) close through the first two periods, trailing 2-1. The third period came, and Gillette was determined to get their 38th victory of the season by outscoring their rivals, 4-1. Adam Severson and Isaac Young combined for four of the six goals for the playoff-bound Wild. Tanner Freed scored both goals for Sheridan preventing the shutout. Gillette's Cole Wheaton won his 13th game (13-3-0-1) by redirecting 34 shots. Aidan Knox saw his record drop to 2-6-0-0. Despite allowing six goals, he managed 53 saves ([Box Score](#)).

In the stat sheet, the #3 Bozeman Ice Dogs (28-14-0-1) and the #7 Butte Irish (16-26-1-0) each attempted 52 shots, but it was the Ice Dogs who topped the Irish on the scoreboard, 4-1. Bodie Shepardson (Ice Dogs) led both teams in scoring with two goals while Kazen Stineff tallied one for Butte. Isaac Weatherford (Bozeman) picked up his second win (2-1-0-0) in ten appearances for the visitors by gathering 51 saves. Nicholas Ulyanov (48 saves) is now 3-2-0-0 for the Irish in his first season with the team ([Box Score](#)).

The Badlands (SD) Sabres, fourth in the NA3HL Frontier Division standings, are separating themselves from the #5 Great Falls Americans this week as both teams look to take the final playoff spot in a few weeks. Following Great Falls' loss to Helena, Badlands had an easy chore taking care of the #8 Yellowstone (WY) Quake, 6-0. Zach Vockler and Alexander Petrotto ensured the Badlands victory by combining for four goals. Badlands outshot Yellowstone, 65-24 over three periods. Dawson Sellner (3-0-0-1) added another win to his resume by stopping all 24 shots sent by the Quake. Meanwhile, John Hughes (0-14-2-0) had 59 saves for the struggling Quake ([Box Score](#)).

**NOTES:** Forwards Dmitri Kuleshov and Sebe Perez received Honorable Mention honors for the weekly "NA3HL Stars of the Week" for the week ending February 11, 2024, for their play last week against the Badlands (SD) Sabres and Gillette (WY) Wild. [Click here](#) for more information.

This week, another episode of the "Americans Podcast with Jim Quick" was completed with his guest being forward Blake Komrofske, a first-year player from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Quick has done twelve podcasts this year featuring the history of the Americans, interviews with former American and now Associate Coach, Alex Leaf, and some current players. Fans can listen to the full podcasts by [clicking here](#).



The NA3HL released their all-new and updated App this week for the App Store and Google Play. Download and set your favorite team to the Great Falls Americans today and stay up to date with the NA3HL. [Click here](#) to download from the App Store (Apple) or [click here](#) to download from the Google Play Store (Android).

Check out all the Americans photos throughout the season including some taken by Americans photographer, Dustin Bauer. [Click here](#) to view all the photos from the 2023-24 season.



[Click here](#) to view the Americans online team store that features a variety of different souvenirs to purchase. A store is available at all home games. Fans can also buy game day tickets on the website prior to the game by [clicking here](#).

Please check out the Americans website at [www.greatfallsamericans.com](http://www.greatfallsamericans.com) for all your updated news, game summaries, rosters, photo galleries, etc.

**NEXT CONTEST:** #5 Great Falls will embark on a journey to Rapid City, South Dakota for three games this week. Roosevelt Park Ice Arena will be the site for their three contests against the #4 Badlands (SD) Sabres on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (February 23-25). This series will likely determine if the Americans or Sabres continue on to the postseason with a few points separating them. Join [NAHLTV](#) on Friday and Saturday at 7:05PM (MST) and Sunday's afternoon tilt starting at 12:00PM (MST) for all the action. To learn more about how to watch the Americans in action on NAHL TV, please [click here](#).

The Stadium Bar and Casino, located at 1121 5th Street South in Great Falls, hosts the "Americans Watch Party" this season when the Americans are on the road. Fans are invited to get food and drinks and watch the game.

[Click here](#) for the 2023-24 Great Falls Americans schedule and results.

**CONTACT:**

**Greg Sears**  
Great Falls Americans Head Coach/General Manager  
Cell Phone: 715-566-2811  
Email: [gsears@gfamericans.com](mailto:gsears@gfamericans.com)

Visit our website: <http://www.greatfallsamericans.com>  
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