



## BALDY'S PUCK DROP

Weekly E-Newsletter November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Dear Great Falls Americans Enthusiast:

I'll start with a quick update on Jase Troyer's Centerville High School 6-Man football team. Unfortunately, they dropped their state semi-final to Bridger 82-74 last Saturday, so their season is over and Jase is now ready to join us full time. Congrats on a good run and can only imagine what an 82-74 score for a High School Football game would look like. Sticking with HS Football, Coach Sear's neighboring community, Grantsburg, and my HS team, Baldwin Woodville, have both advanced to the Wisconsin State finals in Madison later today. Grantsburg is in the Division 6 final while Baldwin Woodville competes at the Division 4 level.

Now, to hockey. No one can say we are not at least entertaining. You have heard me say before and will say it again – sorry for all the cliches – It is about the process and not simply wins and losses; The coaching staff and I have very high expectations for this team; We can't allow ourselves to get too high or too low – we have to stay even keeled; We have to learn to be consistent and play a full 60 minutes; I can go on and on – but really what I am trying to reinforce is: ***"You don't get results by focusing on results. You get results by focusing on the habits and behaviors that produce results."***

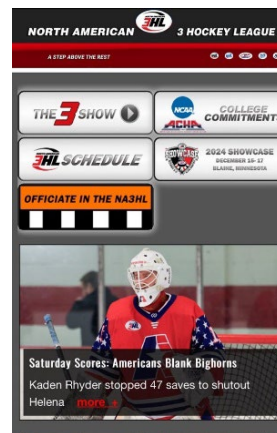
The Americans picked up the win on Friday – but for all practical purposes the collapse the last ten minutes of the game after going up 5-1 was an epic failure! The lack of situational awareness to allow Bozeman to get back into and then tie the game with 17 seconds left is inexcusable and NOONE felt good about it after the game. There was an extensive video session before the team hopped on the bus Saturday that was needed to correct some of those mistakes. As a result, our players did step up on Saturday night and ended Helena's 45-game home winning streak with an extremely hard-fought and impressive 1-0 win. With that being said – and some may disagree – I don't believe our guys would have been able to do that without the lesson learned Friday night – meaning if we would have rolled to the 5-1 or 6-1 win it should have been on Friday night, they probably do not respond the way they did Saturday. That is what is ironic about sports.

Saturday's win was impressive for a variety of reasons, some of which include the professional approach our players took to the game, the implementation of systems and strategies the coaches had laid out for them earlier in the day and the unwavering commitment to compete for the entire 60 minutes. Although they have the edge in the standings, that puts us at 2-2 against Helena this season with four to play plus, quite possibly, a playoff series at the end of the season. It should be a fun ride – but we have a lot of work to do the next two weekends at home to back up that win, starting with Bozeman and Butte on Friday and Saturday.

Before we move on to this weekend, we need to acknowledge our Frontier Division "Stars of the Week" for last



weekend. Goaltender Kayden Rhyder was recognized as the 1<sup>st</sup> Star for his two wins, including the shutout with 47 saves in Helena on Saturday night. Blayne Juszczak was recognized as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Star for his goal in each game, including his game winner with 14:00 left in the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Helena. Using my own editorial prerogative, I want to also recognize Sebe Perez for being an absolute warrior this past weekend with three assists (including



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carrying the mail with his effort on the assist for the game-winner on Saturday), winning key face-offs and simply being the leader by example since recently being named team captain.

Join us this Friday and Saturday for Military Appreciation Weekend - puck drop is 7:05 PM both nights – facing Bozeman on Friday night and Butte on Saturday. Both teams are right behind us in the division, so once again we find ourselves with an opportunity to cement our position in the standings. All military personnel will be able to purchase \$5 tickets and will also receive reduced pricing on beer and 25-30% discounts in our merchandise store. A special thanks goes out to the Malmstrom AFB Color Guard who will present the colors both nights as we honor our military. We will also welcome **Murphy Law** to our game on Friday night for a corporate outing as their staff and families join us for what should be some great hockey. Saturday night, we welcome the **"Think Pink For the Girls"** Committee members as we present them with their donation check.

This morning, our squad continues their community involvement as they unload Christmas Trees for the Great Falls Optimist Club annual Christmas Tree sale. A semi full of fresh cut Christmas Trees of all shapes and sizes arrives at 9:00 AM at the Expo Center with the Americans responsible for getting them unloaded and set-up.

Finally, we would like to welcome our newest partner to the American's family – **Croxford Funeral Home and Crematory** located at 1307 Central Avenue in Great Falls! Thank you for your support of the Great Falls Americans!

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**Player Profile – #6 Cole Molaski (Suamico, Wisconsin) 6'2" 175 lbs. FOR - Shoots Left DOB 04/22/2006**

**Favorite Team:** Detroit Red Wings **Favorite Player:** Pavel Datsyuk

**Favorite Movie:** Grown Up's **Favorite Actor/Actress:** Kevin James

**Favorite Food:** Steak **Favorite Pre-Game Meal:** Rice & Chicken

**If you were animal:** Bird– So I could fly!

**Musical Group You Won't Miss in Concert:** ColdPlay

**Music Guaranteed to get you hyped:** Anything

**Person stuck with on a deserted Island:** Coyote Petersoll

**Hobbies other than Hockey:** Golf, Fishing

**Three People you would invite to Dinner:**

Paul Bissonette, Wayne Gretzky, Tom Brady

**College/University of Choice:** Western Michigan University

**Like Most About Great Falls:** Just like home, but with mountains.

**How would you define a successful season:** Make Playoffs and win!



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Here are the upcoming events for you to mark your calendars:

- November 21<sup>st</sup> – 9:00 AM the Americans will assist the Great Falls Optimist Club with their Annual Christmas tree sale by helping to unload and set up 600 trees delivered that morning.
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> – Military Appreciation Weekend as we host Bozeman (Friday) and Butte (Saturday) and recognize those who have served our country.
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Great Falls Figure Skating Club Exhibition from 5:15-6:15 PM. Come out to our game early and cheer on the local figure skaters as they perform their routines for the first time.
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Presentation of donation to **"Think Pink For the Girls"**!



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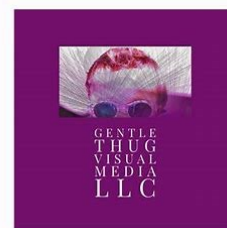


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- November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> – Home versus Sheridan with 7:05 puck drop both nights! Friday night is the return of the **Gils Point S Tire and Auto** “Tricycle Races” and Saturday night we recognize “Mental Health Awareness”.
- December 1<sup>st</sup> – Team Christmas Party hosted by the Booster Club!
- December 6<sup>th</sup> – Road game versus Bozeman at 7:30 PM. Official Watch Party at **Buffalo Wild Wings**.
- December 7<sup>th</sup> – Road game versus Helena at 7:05 PM. Official Watch Party at **Buffalo Wild Wings**.
- December 14-16 – NA3HL Showcase in Blaine, MN. Game times and opponents TBD.
- December 28<sup>th</sup> – The Americans will practice at the Havre Ice Dome and then conduct clinics with their youth teams.
- December 31<sup>st</sup> – Home game versus the Butte Irish – 6:05 PM Puck Drop!

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



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# TOYOTA



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3D International Restaurant and Lounge	All-State Signs	Annie's Taphouse
Companion Insurance-Todd Neighbor	Automotive Machine	Beacon Ice House
Eagle Mount Therapeutic Recreation	Benski Towing & Recovery	Big Sky Harley Davidson*
Floors & More Abbey Carpets	Big Sky Laboratory	Bravera Bank
Hoglund's Work and Western Wear	Cascade Electric	Central Avenue Meats
Hotel Arvon-Celtic Cowboy	Central MT Lock & Safe	Century Gaming
Life in Bloom Floral & Gift Boutique	Coca-Cola*	Craftmaster Cabinets
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She Bare Wax & Sugar Boutique	Great Falls Hospital	Hampton Inn & Suites
Stifel   Finnicum Financial Group	Highwood Creek Outfitters	Jersey Mike's
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Stockman Bank	TDS Fiber*	Teriyaki Madness
Traynor Capital	Visit Great Falls*	Westgate Repair Inc*
Mountain Title Company*	Croxford Funeral Home and Crematory*	

Thank you for being a part of our hockey family!

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