



## BALDY'S PUCK DROP

Weekly E-Newsletter February 27<sup>th</sup> 2025

Dear Great Falls Americans Enthusiast:

I will apologize in advance for the clichés you have heard me say before. One key to success is not allowing the “lows to get you too low” and to allow the “highs to become too high”. With a long season that is bound to have the peaks and valleys, maintaining an even keel is paramount to maintaining emotional health. I say this because it would be



way too easy to take the highs from last weekend and let them define this team – but we realize there is still a lot of work to do to accomplish what we set out to do. It did make for an interesting post-game celebration, a much more pleasant extra night in Rapid City and bus ride home – not going to lie.

The Americans likely played their best 60-minute team game from the last few seasons on Friday night in their 4-0 win and followed that up with a gritty 4-2 win, after trailing 2-0 after two periods, on Saturday night. Both games provided fast paced playoff intensity for the full 60 minutes and we would have expected nothing less than Badlands coming out Saturday night

with a must win approach and intensity. Our squad weathered that storm and used the fact they could not keep up that level of intensity for a full game to grab control of the game during the latter half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods. Our best players stepped up, after being challenged by our coaching staff, and scored the goals needed to pick-up the win and better our playoff position.

Kaden Rhyder earned NA3HL Frontier Division “2<sup>nd</sup> Star of the Week” for his efforts last weekend as he recorded two wins and his 3<sup>rd</sup> shutout of the season. Kaden currently stands 2<sup>nd</sup> in the NA3HL in wins, 2<sup>nd</sup> in saves, 4<sup>th</sup> in save percentage and 1<sup>st</sup> in games played. On Friday night, Kaden also surpassed the 2000 save total over the course of his two seasons with the Americans. Congratulations to Kaden who will need to play a critical role in the Americans playoff run.

So, what did this past weekend do for the playoff picture? Although 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> place are still not solved, it did provide a little separation and wiggle room. Sheridan currently stands in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 57 points as they finish with Helena this weekend and then a trip to Badlands to finish the season on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The tie-break is also too soon to determine if we were to finish tied with Sheridan. The Americans are currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 56 points and a weekend off before wrapping up with a home-home series with Butte. Badlands sits in 4<sup>th</sup> with 53 points and the weekend off before hosting Sheridan and Bozeman sits in 5<sup>th</sup> with 50 points heading into hosting Yellowstone this weekend before a home-home series with Helena. Sheridan has technically clinched a playoff spot as they do own the first tie-break with Badlands if they were to end up tied for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place. There are several different scenarios that could play out – the simplest is we need two points from our final two games to clinch a playoff spot and to guarantee home payoff game(s) sometime between the 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. You'll have to stay tuned to our social media channels for more information in the coming weeks.

With no Americans this weekend – you may be looking for something to do and I highly recommend stopping by the Ice Plex to check out the Great Falls Open Figure Skating Competition. They'll be competing from 8:30 AM-6:30 PM on Saturday and again Sunday morning with over 75 skaters from Montana and beyond – including our local Great Falls Figure Skating Club members. Admission is free, so stop by anytime and cheer on our local athletes as they participate in one of the highlights of their year!



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We had our best participation night of Sled Hockey with **Eagle Mount Therapeutic Recreation Center** this past Monday as Easton DeCampo, Pat Forsythe, Fisher Hannesson and Keegan Hanson stepped in to crate a great experience for the athletes. They are back on the ice this next Monday at 5:45 PM for anyone interested in seeing what Sled Hockey is about and support these amazing individuals who share our passion for the game.

Finally, we have two special promotions in the coming weeks through our Fan Activation partner DASH. Special team signed White and Red Jerseys will go up for auction starting on Saturday morning, March 1<sup>st</sup>. There is one Home (White) and Away (Red) jersey that will be signed by the 2024-25 Great Falls Americans players and staff auctioned off as part of our Toyota Fan Appreciation Night during our final home game on the 8<sup>th</sup>. In addition, there will be a limited number of Framed and Signed 8 x 10 Photos available for purchase through DASH starting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Scan the QR code below to get activated with DASH and participate in these special promotions.



**Player Profile – #40 Blake Komrofske (Colorado Springs, CO) 5'11" 155 lbs. FOR – Shoots Right DOB 09/27/2005**

**Favorite Team:** Colorado Avalanche **Favorite Player:** Nathan McKinnon

**Favorite Movie:** Happy Gilmore **Favorite Actor/Actress:** Adam Sandler

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

**If you were animal:** A Bear – No predators and can sleep half of the year!

**Musical Group You Won't Miss in Concert:** Morgan Wallen

**Music Guaranteed to get you hyped:** \$uicideboy\$

**Person stuck with on a deserted Island:** My Cousin Jaysen

**Hobbies other than Hockey:** Golf, Video Games.

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

My Mom and both my Grandpas!

**College/University of Choice:** University of Iowa

**Like Most About Great Falls:** The small town and close community.

**How would you define a successful season:** Winning the Division and making the Fraser Cup!



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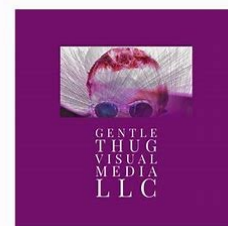
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Here are the upcoming events for you to mark your calendars:

- March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> - Great Falls Figure Skating Club "Great Falls Open" Figure skating competition at the Ice Plex. 8:30 AM-6:30 PM Saturday and 8:30 AM -10:30 AM Sunday – Admission is free!
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – Road game versus Butte at 7:30 PM. Official Watch Party at **Buffalo Wild Wings**.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – Home game versus the Butte Irish. 7:05 PM Puck Drop. Billet Appreciation and Fan Appreciation Night presented by Toyota!
- March 13<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> – First Round of Frontier Division Playoffs.
- March 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> – Final Round of Frontier Division Playoffs.
- March 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> – Fraser Cup Finals in St. Louis, MO.

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



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# TOYOTA



### Gold, Silver and Bronze Level Partners (\* new this season)

3D International Restaurant and Lounge  
Comparion Insurance-Todd Neighbor  
Eagle Mount Therapeutic Recreation  
Floors & More Abbey Carpets  
Hoglund's Work and Western Wear  
Havre Youth Hockey\*  
Hotel Arvon-Celtic Cowboy  
High Plains Wealth management\*  
Life in Bloom Floral & Gift Boutique  
Montana Air National Guard\*  
She Bare Wax & Sugar Boutique  
Stifel | Finnicum Financial Group  
Tilleraas Landscape & Nursery  
Red's Powersports\*  
Murphy Law  
Purvis Chiropractic\*  
Stockman Bank  
Traynor Capital  
Mountain Title Company\*  
Morse Construction\*

All-State Signs  
Automotive Machine  
Benski Towing & Recovery  
Big Sky Laboratory  
Cascade Electric  
Havre Ford\*  
Central MT Lock & Safe  
Patrick Construction\*  
Coca-Cola\*  
Culligan Water  
Great Falls Hospital  
Highwood Creek Outfitters  
Johnson Distributing  
Tilleman Motor Co\*  
Open Door Wellness\*  
Scheels  
TDS Fiber\*  
Visit Great Falls\*  
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Creative Coffee/Yogurt\*

Annie's Taphouse  
Beacon Ice House  
Big Sky Harley Davidson\*  
Bravera Bank  
Central Avenue Meats  
Independence Bank-Havre\*  
Century Gaming  
Shanty Bar-Havre\*  
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Jersey Mike's  
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Valley Furniture\*  
Play It Again Sports  
STARadio  
Teriyaki Madness  
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Thank you for being a part of our hockey family!

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