



BALDY'S PUCK DROP

Weekly E-Newsletter April 3rd, 2025

Dear Great Falls Americans Enthusiast:

Congratulations to the Louisiana Drillers for claiming the 2025 Fraser Cup Title as they defeated the West Bend Power in the championship game on Sunday. Helena lost both of their games, 2-1 to the West Bend Power and 4-2 to the New Mexico Ice Wolves, so they did not qualify for the semi-finals. All-in-all, it was a successful season for the NA3HL.

During the Fraser Cup, the NAHL also conducts a player combine for 05 thru 09 birth year players. That gave Coach Sears and Coach Leaf an opportunity to watch (and coach on the bench) these future players and identify a few potential Americans. It also gives them an opportunity to network with other coaches/scouts and lay the groundwork for next season. The next league combine is in Columbus in a week, and both will be attending to continue the process and represent the Americans at the league's Annual Owner's Meeting as I will be in Europe during that time.

I am happy to announce three more tenders for next season. A tender is an informal commitment between the player and the team for the next season and it allows the team to protect the player during the draft and throughout the following season. Each season, we have roughly 12-15 tenders and it is a critical part of putting together the team for next season. The players who have signed tenders, so far, are:



Player	Position	Year	Hometown	2024-25 Team
Reid Lezubski	Forward	2008	Chestermere, ALB	Calgary Rockies U17
Logan Mese	Forward	2007	Kenai, AK	KPHA Ice Hawks U18
Riley Hattan	Forward	2008	Kalamazoo, MI	Biggby Coffee AAA 16U
Easton Kennedy	Forward	2007	Detroit Lakes, MN	GFA / Detroit Lakes HS

You may recognize a few of the names. Logan Mese is the younger brother of Levi Mese who played 90 games with the Americans during the 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons where he accumulated 67 points. Riley Hattan is the younger brother of former American Goalkeeper (and current respected member of the GFPD), Zac Hattan, who played during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons. Easton Kennedy is Aiden's younger brother who accumulated 22 points in 16 games with the Americans over the past two seasons while working around his high school schedule. You may remember that Easton also tendered with Fairbanks of the NAHL while playing for us last Fall. He'll be joining Fairbanks for the end of their season and will try to make their team next season, but if not, he will play HS Hockey again with the plan to play before and after his HS season with the Americans. Tendering with us also protects Easton from being drafted by another NA3HL team where he is not interested in playing.



A quick shout-out goes out to Kaden Rhyder who is currently skating with the Watertown Shamrocks of the NAHL. The Shamrocks are in their first year of the NAHL and are located in Watertown, South Dakota. They are currently in 7th place in the Central Division and have two weekends of games remaining in the regular season.



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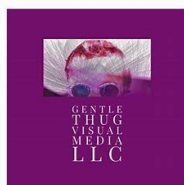
It is not too late to get your tickets for the Great Falls Sports Foundation Mixer on April 9th at the Exhibition Hall at Montana ExpoPark. This event is an annual event that raises funds to support athletic competitions that take place in Great Falls and supports a specific cause in Great Falls. This year, they have committed to donate half of the funds raised to the Ice Plex for continuing improvements. The event runs from 5:30 PM-8:00 PM and includes food, a No-Host Bar, silent auction, door prizes and games and features guest speaker, Bob Green, former head football coach at Montana Tech. It is a great night of fun and networking with fellow sports fans. Individual tickets are available for \$25 or you can buy a table and a book of ten for \$200. Contact Matt (MattL.GFAmericans@gmail.com) if interested in attending to purchase your tickets.

Baldy's Puck Drop will take a brief hiatus and will be back in early May. In the meantime, enjoy a wonderful Spring – hopefully the weather will cooperate.

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

- March 26th-30th – Fraser Cup Finals in St. Louis, MO.
- April 9th – Great Falls Sports Foundation Mixer at the Exhibition Hall at Montana ExpoPark. 5:30-8:00 PM with proceeds going towards the IcePlex for continued improvements. Contact Matt for individual tickets or a Table of 10.
- June 21-22 – Great Falls Americans Prospects Camp.
- August TBD – 3rd Annual Cornhole Extravaganza
- August 18th – Start of Great Falls Americans Pre-Season Main Camp!
- August 23rd – 3rd Annual Red/White Game 7:05 Ice Plex.

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



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