



## BALDY'S PUCK DROP

Weekly E-Newsletter May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear Great Falls Americans Enthusiast:

I hope your Spring and soon to be summer has gotten off to a great start. Coaches Greg and Alex have been busy building next season's team while I have been fulfilling my obligations with the International Ice Hockey Federation at various events in Italy and Mexico. There is no end to the work that needs to be done.

I am happy to announce all our tenders and draft picks 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 (those highlighted were previously announced):

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
Duke Pingrey	Goalkeeper	2006	Colorado Springs, CO	Rampart HS
Kiefer Lundmark	Forward	2006	Detroit Lakes, MN	Detroit Lakes HS
Jarod Lemieux	Forward	2005	Geraldton, ONT	Okanagan Lakers
Tallen Caron	Forward	2006	Kenora, ONT	Sioux Lookout Bombers
Jaxen Savage	Forward	2006	Kenora, ONT	Kenora Islanders
Cooper Anderson	Defenseman	2006	Thief River Falls, MN	Mercer Chiefs
Colton Bacon	Forward	2008	Billings, MT	Billings HS
Kale Witt	Goalkeeper	2006	Detroit Lakes, MN	Great Falls Americans
Kaden Lynch	Forward	2006	Anchorage, AK	Valley Thunder 18U AA

In addition, we did draft the following three players during the NA3HL entry draft on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Although both tenders and draft picks are not fully obligated to report to our team, it does provide us with exclusive rights to the player if they intend to play at the USA Hockey Tier III level of play. Of course, they are always encouraged to try out and play for teams at the Tier II level.

Cole Bies	Defenseman	2006	East Grand Forks, MN	East Grand Forks HS
Jaden Valentine	Defenseman	2007	Fairbanks, AK	Pittsburgh Pens Elite 18 AAA
Zidane Dietz	Defenseman	2006	Palmer, AK	Team Alaska 18U AAA

Greg and Alex have some more scouting events upcoming, and we are taking registrations for our Open Prospects Camp on June 21-22. They are excited for the team we are building and look forward to seeing what the prospects camp will unveil. They'll be scouting in Fargo, Minneapolis, Calgary and Las Vegas all before our camp. We will also have some scouts checking out the Air Force Academy Showcase the same weekend as our camp.



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I am delighted to announce some other exciting events coming up, as well. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cornhole Extravaganza has been scheduled for the Beacon Ice House for Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> and will be part of an Alumni weekend where several of our past players will be attending to catch up and meet the 2025-26 version of the Great Falls Americans. As usual, the Cornhole event will include a live band at 7:00 PM. Registration for Cornhole is now open at [www.greatfallsamericans.com](http://www.greatfallsamericans.com) or by scanning the QR code. The alumni weekend will culminate with an alumni game (open to the public) on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> will be the start of our training camp and will include media day.

Another exciting activity taking place is we have introduced "Baldy's Shooting Club" that will run over the summer and includes local youth players who would like to hone their shooting skills. Membership in the club includes access to our Skill Development/Shooting Center throughout the summer, some instruction from our coaching staff, an exclusive Baldy's Shooting Club T-Shirt and prizes/awards for meeting various milestones. Thus far, eight local youth players have signed up and have started taking shots to reach their goal of becoming the next GR8 (For those not familiar, the "Great 8" (GR8) is in reference to the NHL's new all-time scoring leader Alex Ovechkin who is known for his shooting ability). Studies suggest it takes 10,000 repetitions to master specific skills and the shooting club gives local kids a way to get those 10,000 reps during the off season and at minimal cost. Incentives have been created where each member will be awarded prizes when they achieve 1000, 5000 and 10,000 shots.

It is time to start gearing up for next season on the business side of things, as well. I will start contacting our various partners in the coming weeks to renew their support and introduce additional avenues to maximize the value received by our partners. Our corporate partners play such a critical role in our programming and keep the cost down for our players, so we truly appreciate their support. I look forward to meeting with everyone in the coming weeks and creating flexible and practical partnerships that benefit all involved.

Finally, the Ice Plex is currently closed through May 25<sup>th</sup> to conduct some ice and building maintenance prior to opening back up for the summer. As part of this maintenance, they have scheduled "Volunteer" Work parties on each Tuesday and Thursday night from 5:30 -8:00 PM. Projects will include painting the temporary dressing rooms, general cleaning of the dressing rooms and bleachers and other projects that will allow the Ice Plex facility to continue to improve. All volunteers are welcome and it would be much appreciated if you can find your way to the rink for one of these sessions.

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

- June 21-22 – Great Falls Americans Prospects Camp.
- August 15-17 - Great Falls Americans Alumni Weekend. All former players are welcome to attend various activities culminating with an alumni game on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- August 16<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cornhole Extravaganza. Beacon Ice House with live band at 7:00 PM.
- August 18<sup>th</sup> – Start of Great Falls Americans Pre-Season Main Camp!
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Red/White Game 7:05 Ice Plex.
- September 5<sup>th</sup> – Likely Home opener for start of 2025-26 season.
- September 6<sup>th</sup> – Likely annual GFA Tailgate party prior to the game.



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



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### 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\*  
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Stockman Bank  
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Cascade Electric  
Havre Ford\*  
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Culligan Water  
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Highwood Creek Outfitters  
Johnson Distributing  
Tilleman Motor Co\*  
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Scheels  
TDS Fiber\*  
Visit Great Falls\*  
Croxford Funeral Home and Crematory\*  
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\*  
Craftmaster Cabinets  
Ferrin's Furniture  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
Jersey Mike's  
Karma Coffee\*  
Valley Furniture\*  
Play It Again Sports  
STARadio  
Teriyaki Madness  
Westgate Repair Inc\*

Thank you for being a part of our hockey family!

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