



# BALDY'S PUCK DROP

Weekly E-Newsletter May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Dear Great Falls Americans Enthusiast:

Spring has arrived (with a few winter days still mixed in because it is still Montana) and we are looking forward to the summer months and introducing you to the 2026-27 version of the Great falls Americans. We currently have 32 players on our prospective list, which includes 20 potential returning players, four draft picks and eight tenders. Many of these players will be at our Prospects Camp in June and will be making their final decisions during the coming months. We encourage our younger players to pursue higher levels and will support them in this effort as much as we can. At the same time, they are on our protected list, and they know they will have a place to play in Great Falls.



We have a couple of special announcements since our last newsletter. Forward Cooper Clouse (Fargo, ND) and Goaltender Kaden Rhyder (Elizabethtown, PA) were acknowledged with 1<sup>st</sup> Team Frontier Division and 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-NA3HL honors in mid-April. Cooper led the Frontier Division in scoring with 23 goals and 65 assists which was good enough for 8<sup>th</sup> in the entire league. He added another six points in the playoffs on a goal and five assists and a goal and assist during the Top Prospects Tournament for a season total of 96 points while finishing the season with a



38 consecutive game scoring streak. Kaden led the Frontier Division with a Goals Against Average of 2.106 (Good for 5<sup>th</sup> of the 64 qualified goalkeepers in the league), save percentage (.940 -2<sup>nd</sup> in the league) and 17 wins (good for 7<sup>th</sup> in the entire NA3HL). They accomplished two very special seasons, and I am very proud to see them properly recognized by the league coaches with these honors.

I am also very pleased to announce that Cooper has also finalized his college commitment. Cooper will be



attending Hope College located in Holland, Michigan. **Hope College** is a private Christian liberal arts college founded in 1851 as the Pioneer School by Dutch Immigrants, four years after the community was first settled. The first freshman college class matriculated in 1862, and Hope received its state charter in 1866. Hope College offers 90+ majors, all of which lead to a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Engineering, or Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. It has a student population of about 3,200, with a student-to-



faculty ratio of 11:1. The "Flying Dutch" hosts both a ACHA Division I Men's and Women's Hockey

Programs. Cooper becomes our second college commit (Kaden Rhyder to University of Jamestown) and we are excited to follow both of their continuing careers at the collegiate level.



In addition, Great Falls' very own Owen Cronk (pictured left) has committed to attend and play for the local University of Providence ACHA Div II team. Owen spent parts of three seasons with the Americans and worked his way up from the practice squad to play in 20 NA3HL games collecting a goal and an assist. Congratulations to Owen and I know many of our fans will look forward to seeing him play live for the Argos in the coming years.



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As mentioned previously, we have secured a total of eight tenders and four draft picks since the last edition. A tender is an informal commitment between the player and the team, and it allows the team to protect the player during the draft and throughout the season. The players who have signed tenders are (highlighted were previously announced):

Player	Position	Year	Hometown	2025-26 Team
Xander Troyer	Forward	2007	Great Falls, MT	Wasatch Renegades 18U AAA
Shaun Lerner	Forward	2007	Calgary, ALB	Bow River Bruins U21
Zach Bohan	Goalkeeper	2008	Rochester, MN	Rochester Century HS
Logan Knowles	Defenseman	2009	Spokane, WA	Spokane Jr. Chiefs 18U AA
Ayecen Mcleslie	Forward	2008	Spokane, WA	Spokane Jr. Chiefs 18U AA
Jacob Piccioni	Forward	2008	Billings, MT	Team Wyoming 18U AA
Jarrett Parker	Forward	2007	Des Moines, IA	Des Moines Capitals 18U AAA
Paxon Sacre	Forward	2008	Des Moines, IA	Des Moines Capitals 18U AAA

The 2026 NA3HL Draft was also recently conducted, and the Americans selected four players. The draft can be used for a variety of reasons – in our case we try to identify players we have a connection with or have spoken to previously and there is a mutual interest to play for the Americans. The players who were a drafted by the Americans include:

Player	Position	Year	Hometown	2025-26 Team
Parker Juszczak	Defenseman	2007	North Pole, AK	Belle Tire 18U AAA
Lucas Garatti	Forward	2008	Thunder Bay, ONT	SFSS 18U AAA
Matthew DiPalma	Forward	2008	Boise, ID	Idaho Steelheads 18U AA
Charlie Sinclair	Goalkeeper	2007	Jackson Hole, WY	Northwest Express 20U

Here is a quick update on other activities the Americans are currently involved with. Our partnership with **Eagle Mount Therapeutic Recreation Center** continues with our Sled Program running on Wednesday evenings. The Americans have also partnered with **Play It Again Sports** to sponsor Pond Hockey on Tuesday evenings during the Spring. The purpose of the pond hockey environment is to simply have kids of all ages and skill levels show up, divvy up teams and have fun playing the game with minimum structure. The players are encouraged to try new things and simply develop skills by playing creatively. It is a great way to unwind in a non-competitive environment at the end of the season while nurturing one's passion and love for the game. In essence, we are allowing kids to be kids with the Pond Hockey experience and we have consistently had 20 kids participating. Season two of **Baldy's Shooting Club** will run from mid-April through mid-September and provides youth players access to our off-ice skill center. Long Term Athlete Development principles suggest it takes 10,000 repetitions to master a skill, so **Baldy's Shooting Club** encourages youth players to use the off-ice center to perfect their shooting skills and challenges them to take 10,000 shots over the summer. Our coaching staff will also spend some time with them to ensure proper technique is used and the result is a core group of youth hockey goal scorers ready to hit the ice running next season.



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Our Prospects Camp will be in mid-June and is open to all players from the 2006-2010 birth years. The camp includes three ice sessions and many of our current players have gotten their first exposure to our program during this annual event. We'll provide more info on the Prospects Camp and a daily schedule in the early June Edition. Those interested in participating in any of the above programs can register at [www.greatfallsamericans.com](http://www.greatfallsamericans.com).

The 2026-27 season schedule is in the works, and we hope to be able to announce our full season schedule in late June. A few key dates to keep in mind include opening weekend on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the NA3HL Showcase on December 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and the regular season will conclude March 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cornhole Extravaganza is set for August 22<sup>nd</sup> with our pre-season training camp starting on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The Blue-White Game is scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Look for a special **Mystery Monday activation through DASH on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**. We will have some mystery packages available for sale along with some team clearance items as we refresh our inventory for next season. Stay tuned to our social media channels as we get closer for more information.

Finally, we are starting to prepare for next season and want to recognize **Murphy Law** for being the first to renew their partnership with the Americans for the 2026-27 season. I'll be reaching out to our other partners in the coming weeks and look forward to continuing to raise the bar with our team on the ice and with our community partners off the ice.

### Here are the upcoming dates to add to your calendar:

- May 25<sup>th</sup> – Mystery Monday Sale through DASH
- June 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> – Great Falls Americans Annual Prospects Camp
- June 24<sup>th</sup> – 2026-27 Season Schedule Announced
- July 4<sup>th</sup> – Great Falls 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and GFA Enter to Win Contest
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cornhole Extravaganza. Beacon IceHouse
- August 24<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> – Great Falls Americans Main Camp
- August 29<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual GFA Blue-White Game.
- September 12<sup>th</sup> – Regular Season Begins
- December 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> – NA3HL Showcase, Blaine, MN.

Thank you to our corporate partners for their continued support.

### Eagle's Club Level



**TOYOTA**



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## Diamond Level



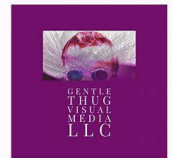
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## Platinum Level



Tammy Quintrell-Stubbs



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Thank you for being a part of our hockey family!

Matt Leaf

Great Falls Americans HC Inc

MattL.GFAmericans@gmail.com



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