



BALDY'S PUCK DROP

Weekly E-Newsletter August 20th, 2026

Dear Great Falls Americans Enthusiast:

This time of the year is a special time for us hockey folks. The excitement and anticipation for the start of the new season is ramped up as we welcome returning and new players to the start of what is planned to be a very successful season. Of course, our expectations are high as our staff feels they have skilled hockey players who are quality human beings arriving in Great Falls this week and who have put their trust in our program. The unknown is how quickly these talented young men can gel as a team, buy on to the organizational, team and community culture we have worked so hard to build and their willingness to put in the work to compete at a high level. The first step is 10:00 AM next Monday and I am pretty sure I can speak on behalf of our staff and say we can't wait!

Most of the players are arriving during this week and getting settled into their billet homes and acclimated to the Great Falls area. A huge thank you goes out to our billet families for opening their homes and welcoming these players to the Americans' family. We can't do this without them, and I sense they share the same anticipation level for the start of the season.

The weekend starts with our 4th Annual Cornhole Extravaganza this Saturday at the **Beacon IceHouse**. It is always a great time for our players to get to know each other before an intense week of camp while their families and our fans also interact in a fun and informal atmosphere. This year, the **Melissa Lynn Band** will be taking the stage at 6:00 PM and will help us closeout our competition with live music. The Cornhole Tournament starts at 1:00 PM and all two person teams are encouraged to register before so we can quickly establish the schedule. Register by clicking on the QR code to the right.



Our Main Camp will officially start on Monday with two practice sessions each day and a bevy of off-ice training including classroom, physical activities and some fun. All our players will be in attendance plus a few other players who are on our radar for the future. The camp week culminates with our **Annual Blue-White Game** at 7:00 PM on Saturday the 29th which is free to the public.

I would like to recognize those partners who have been renewed for the coming season, since the last edition, they are; **Benski Towing and Recovery, Comparion Insurance-Todd Neighbor, Kubota-Johnson Distributing, Triple Truck Repair, Westgate Repair Inc** and our newest partner **Rowdy Mood Hat Company**. The next few weeks will be busy as we finalize our promotional schedule and get all our materials produced and ready to go.

Hard to believe it is only 22 days until our **Toyota** Opening Night versus the Yellowstone Quake followed by our annual Tailgate Party with the band "**After Five**" on Saturday. We are planning a special Magnet Schedule give-away – presented by **Slabtek and AJ Concrete** - for those in attendance and we are excited to show off some new merchandise,



beer specials and activations. The **Montana Air National Guard** "Chuck-A-Puck" is back for its second season with special prizes awarded from **Teriyaki Madness, Play it Again Sports, Fire Pizza** and **The Sip-n-Dip Lounge** during each home game. Our "Lucky Program" continues with prizes given out to fans with specially signed programs from **Scheel's, Howard's Pizza** and **Annie's Taphouse**. Some exciting new merchandise options include T's, Hoodies and Hats as well as limited edition specialty items during each of our themed weekends. There is a lot to like about the Great Falls Americans 2026-27 season. Scan the QR Code to purchase your tickets and don't miss out on any of the live action this season.



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Although there is always a chance for some late add-ons, our roster for the start of the season is pretty much set and we want to welcome the following ten returning players plus and an additional 17 new players to our family for the 2026-27 season (previously announced highlighted):

Player	Position	Year	Hometown	2025-26 Team
Jarret Averett	Forward/Def	2007	Sidney, MT	Great Falls Americans
Colton Bacon	Forward	2008	Billings, MT	Great Falls Americans
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
Jarrett Parker	Forward	2007	Des Moines, IA	Des Moines Capitals 18U AAA
Jacob Piccioni	Forward	2008	Billings, MT	Team Wyoming 18U AA
Paxon Sacre	Forward	2008	Des Moines, IA	Des Moines Capitals 18U AAA
Shaun Lerner	Forward	2007	Calgary, ALB	Bow River Bruins U21
Isaac Algyer	Defenseman	2007	Rochester, MN	Rochester Century HS
John Gue	Defenseman	2009	Peyton, CO	Wilkes Barre/Scranton Knights
Jaxon Kruzich	Goalkeeper	2008	Ramsey, MT	Billings HS
Reid Lezubski	Forward	2008	Chestermere, ALB	Great Falls Americans
Riley Hattan	Forward	2008	Plainville, MI	Great Falls Americans
Jace Lane	Defenseman	2009	Owatonna, MN	Owatonna HS
Wilson Giles	Forward	2007	Fairfield, MT	Great Falls HS
Matthew DiPalma	Forward	2008	Meridian, ID	Idaho Jr. Steelheads 18U
Emanuel Brogin	Defenseman	2008	Vancouver, BC	Thunder Huskies 18U
Jordan Antar	Forward	2008	Juliet, TN	Nashville Jr. Predators 18U
Kiefer Lundmark	Forward	2007	Detroit Lakes, MN	Great Falls Americans
Gordon Jennings	Defenseman	2007	Anchorage, AK	Great Falls Americans
Gunnar Bergo	Goalkeeper	2007	Anchorage, AK	Great Falls Americans
Keifer Lundmark	Forward	2006	Detroit Lakes, MN	Great Falls Americans
Wyatt Rust	Defenseman	2007	Anchorage, AK	Great Falls Americans
Jacob Weber	Forward	2008	North Pole, AK	GFA/Yellowstone Quake
Austin Gibson	Defenseman	2007	Rochester, MN	North Iowa Bulls
Cooper Palazzolo	Forward	2007	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis JR Blues



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Here are the upcoming and special dates to add to your calendar:

- August 22nd – 4th Annual Cornhole Extravaganza. Beacon IceHouse. Live music from the **Melissa Lynn Band** at 6:00 PM. Cornhole starts at 1:00 PM.
- August 24th -28th – Great Falls Americans Main Camp
- August 29th – 4th Annual GFA Blue-White Game 7:05 PM.
- September 11th – **Toyota** Home and Season Opener versus Yellowstone Quake. Magnet Schedule Give-Away presented by **Slabtek** (Concrete Lifting) and **AJ Concrete**. 7:05 PM Puck Drop.
- September 12th – Home game versus Gillette Wild. 4th Annual Tailgate Party Featuring the Live Band “**After Five**” starting at 5:00 PM. Puck drop at 7:05 PM.
- September 18th – Home game versus Butte Irish presented by **Northwestern Energy**. 7:05 PM Puck Drop.
- September 19th – Home game versus Sheridan Hawks. Puck drop at 7:05 PM.
- September 25th – Come meet the Americans at OKTOBERFEST at **Annie's Taphouse and Homestead 1909**. 5:00-10:00 PM.
- September 26th – Away game at Helena. 7:05 PM with Official Watch Party at **Buffalo Wild Wings**.
- October 23rd-24th – “Think Pink” Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend-Presented by **Benefis Health-Sletten Cancer Institute**
- November 6th-7th 2026 – Military Appreciation Weekend-Presented by **1st Liberty Federal Credit Union**
- December 12th – 2nd Annual **Russell Country Federal Credit Union** “Teddy Bear Toss”.
- December 20th-22nd – NA3HL Showcase, Blaine, MN.
- January 8th and 15th – Rodeo/Rancher Appreciation.
- February 12th and 13th – Local Business Appreciation presented by **Comparion Insurance- Todd Neighbor** and **Great Falls Chamber of Commerce**.
- March 12th – Home game versus Badlands Sabres – Billet Appreciation presented by **Toyota**.
- March 13th = Home game versus Bozeman – Fan Appreciation presented by **Toyota**.



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Thank you to our corporate partners for their continued support.

Eagle's Club Level



TOYOTA

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**GREAT FALLS
COLLEGE**
MONTANA STATE
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Gold, Silver and Bronze Level Partners (*new this season)

3D International Restaurant & Lounge*
 Annie's Taphouse
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 Central Avenue Meats
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 Croxford Funeral Home
 Ferrin's Furniture
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 Coca-Cola
 Floors & More Abbey Carpets
 Hampton Inn & Suites
 Jersey Mike's
 Open Door Wellness
 Scheels
 Slabtek* (Concrete Lifting)
 TDS Fiber
 Westgate Repair Inc.

Thank you for being a part of our hockey family!

Matt Leaf

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