



BALDY'S PUCK DROP

Weekly E-Newsletter September 17th, 2026

Dear Great Falls Americans Enthusiast:

The season is underway and if we learn anything, it is that the Frontier Division is going to be very competitive this season. Of the eight games played, seven of the results were within two goals (not counting our empty net goal Friday) and three of the four games on Saturday went into overtime. That is good for the game and for the league as not all divisions will have that luxury. Expect most of our games to be as competitive as they were this past weekend, which is also ideal for development. I am confident our players and staff are up to the challenge.



The Americans started the season with a 3-0 win over Yellowstone. Xander Troyer started the scoring in the 1st period with Reid Lezubski adding a goal in the second period. Xander Troyer added an empty net goal for the final score while JD Stephens made his first Junior Hockey start in goal and collected 29 saves for the shutout. A very special thank you goes out to the Great Falls Police Department Color Guard for presenting the colors prior to the game and for our special 9/11 remembrance. We welcomed first responders from Great Falls Fire and Police Departments; Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention and long-time hockey advocate Mike McIntosh and Police Officer Justus and former Americans Goaltender and Senior Police Officer Hattan.



Saturday started with our 4th Annual Tailgate Party prior to the game. The weather held off enough for our fans to enjoy some food provided by the Booster Club and some live music from the band "**After Five**". The Americans fell 3-2 in a shootout to Gillette after firing 59 shots on goal and running into a hot goaltender. Paxton Sacre and Jarrett Parker collected their first goals for the Americans while Austin Gibson added two assists on the weekend and JD Stephens collected another 40 saves. Although we would love to have held onto the 2-1 lead in the 3rd period, the team competed hard all weekend and we learned a lot about our young team while they got a taste of what their season will be like. Overall, the staff is happy with the collection of skilled players we have and look forward to building a championship caliber team.



The good news is our jerseys are on the way, they were released from customs late last week, I paid the necessary Tariffs on Tuesday morning, and they are scheduled to arrive later this morning. Let's keep our fingers crossed – as much as our players love to wear the specialty jerseys, there is also nothing quite like starting a season with your new jerseys and the amount of pride that takes place for wearing the team colors for the first time. The Americans are home for two more games this weekend – hosting Butte on Friday Night- Presented by **Northwestern Energy** while Saturday will have Sheridan coming to town and the return of the **Gils Point S Tire & Auto** tricycle races.



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The countdown to the **Toyota** Opening Night through **DASH** was a huge success. It was a fun activation with several different unique packages, and we very much appreciate all of those who participated. Here is a full list of the winners of each package.

- Day 10 – A Signed and Framed Photo with you and your favorite Americans player – Alyssa Blair
- Day 9 – A bench Experience (Pre-game warm-ups) for a designated home game – Robin Leaf
- Day 8 – “Brunch for Two” with your favorite player at the world-famous **Sip-n-Dip Lounge** – Kylie McCullough
- Day 7 – Your very own personalized and customized Americans’ hoodie – one of a kind – John Gue
- Day 6 – The Americans’ “First Goal Puck” signed by the player scoring the season’s first goal – Donovan Whitfield
- Day 5 – A specialty themed T-Shirt Collection - Toni Roope-Quick
- Day 4 – Americans’ Glassware collection - Shawna Lane
- Day 3 - A specialty themed Hat Collection – Shawna Lane
- Day 2 – A VIP experience for you and three of your friends for a designated home game – Jody DiPalma
- Day 1- An Americans ‘game jersey signed by the opening night Americans’ roster – Mike McLeslie

We are welcoming two new players to our team this week. They are:

Player	Position	Year	Hometown	2025-26 Team
Parker Juszczak	Defenseman	2007	North Pole, AK	Belle Tire 18 AAA
Kaleb Wood	Goalkeeper	2008	Salt Lake City, UT	Wasatch Renegades 18 AAA

Player Profile – #17 Austin Gibson (Rochester, MN) 6’3” 195 lbs. DEF– Shoots Left DOB 05/10/2007

Favorite Team: Minnesota Wild **Favorite Player:** Quinn Hughes

Favorite Movie: Step Brothers **Favorite Actor/Actress:** Will Ferrell

Favorite Food: Tater Tot Casserole

Favorite Pre-Game Meal: Chipotle Bowl or Jimmy Johns

If you were animal: Turtle – I would be free to do my own thing

Musical Group You Won’t Miss in Concert: Travis Scott

Pre-Game Hype Music: House Music

One Person to be stuck with on a deserted Island: Gordy Jennings

Hobbies other than Hockey: Golf

Three People you would like to invite to Dinner:

Robby Berger, Tiger Woods, Anthony Edwards

College/University of Choice: Jamestown or Augustana University

Like Most About Great Falls: Taco Tuesdays at Café Rio and the scenery

How would you define a successful season: Playing in the Fraser Cup Finals



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If you still need to purchase your season **Montana Air National Guard** Chuck-a-Pucks at a discounted rate, scan the QR code to the left and get into the action. 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. You can purchase your pucks at a discounted rate for the season in advance through DASH – simply choose the number of pucks (1-2-3 or 5) you would like to "chuck" and stop by the merchandise table to pick them up. The season chuck-a-pucks can be purchased until the end of September.

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

- 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. Return of the **Point S Tire & Auto** Tricycle Races.
- September 25th – Come meet the Americans at OKTOBERFEST at **Annies 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 2nd - OKTOBERFEST at Malmstrom AFB. 4:00 PM-8:00 PM
- October 2nd-3rd – Away games at Badlands. 7:00 PM with Official Watch Party at **Buffalo Wild Wings**.
- October 9th - Away game at Butte. 7:30 PM with Official Watch Party at **Buffalo Wild Wings**.
- October 10th – Home Games versus Butte – **Bue Cross Blue Shield of Montana Night**.
- October 16th – Away game at Helena. 7:05 PM with Official Watch Party at **Buffalo Wild Wings**.
- October 17th – Home Game versus Bozeman presented by **Toyota**. 7:05 PM
- 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.

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Voices of Hope

Thank you for being a part of our hockey family!

Matt Leaf

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