

2016-17 Great Falls Americans Hockey Roster



No.	Name	Pos.	Shot	Height	Weight	Hometown
1	Nick Nast	G		5'11"	175	Oxnard, CA
2	Isaac Vincent	F	R	6'4"	215	Anchorage, AK
3	Kody Thomas	F	L	5'9"	165	Boise, ID
4	Danny O'Donnell	D	L	6'2"	185	Ventura, CA
5	Trevor Checketts	D	R	6'0"	185	Peoria, AZ
6	Nathan Margeson	D	L	5'8"	185	Ventura, CA
7	Shawn Mitchell	D	R	6'1"	220	Wasilla, AK
8	Tegan Harrington	F	L	6'0"	185	Wasilla, AK
9	Kyler Mack	F	R	5'9"	155	Anchorage, AK
10	Jesse Johnson	D	R	6'0"	165	Anchorage, AK
14	Quinn Stuebner	D	R	6'0"	188	Boise, ID
15	Sandis Mezharauks	F	L	5'10"	178	Jekabpils, Latvia
16	Cameron Cunningham	F	L	5'10"	160	Boise, ID
18	Matt Larson	F	R	5'10"	170	Anchorage, AK
19	Matt Janke	F	R	5'10"	175	Weston, WI
21	Dustin Truex	F	R	5'8"	165	Boise, ID
22	Tanner Congdon	F	R	5'9"	165	Anchorage, AK
23	Braxton Lorenz	D	R	5'11"	150	Great Falls, MT
24	Mitchell Ramstad	F	R	6'0"	185	Red Wing, MN
25	Adam Vandebos	F	L	5'6"	160	Anchorage, AK
26	Hayden Moistner	F	L	5'5"	140	Anchorage, AK
27	Malachi Bushey	F	L	5'9"	185	Tucson, AZ
28	Normunds Vibans	D	R	6'1"	180	Jekabpils, Latvia
30	Michael Hughes	G		6'2"	193	St. Paul, MN
31	Caleb Anderson	G		5'7"	175	Fargo, ND
35	Kyler Ayers	G		6'1"	180	Boise, ID
61	Brendan Jester	F	R	5'11"	190	Anchorage, AK

Team Owner	Jim Keough (6 th Season)
Head Coach/General Manager	Jeff HeimeL (5 th Season)
Associate Coach/Director of Player Personnel	Erik Gatson (2 nd Season)
Assistant Coach/Defensive Coach	Mike Walsh (2 nd Season)
Assistant Coach/Director of Recruiting	Blake Page (5 th Season)
Public Relations/Media Coordinator	Kevin Scott (4 th Season)
Billet Coordinator	Vikki Bertelson (2 nd Season)
Education Coordinator/Academic Advisors	Ryan and Angel Turoski (6 th Season)
Team Doctors	Gregory Tierney, M.D., Paul Johnson, M.D. & Michael A. Dube, M.D.
Team Chiropractor	Jerald D. Wiley, B.S., D.C.
Team Dentist	Dr. Kenneth Small
Team Optometrist	Dr. Pat Stibel

2016-17 Great Falls Americans Hockey Schedule

Day/Date	Game	Time	Location
Fri. Sept. 16	vs. Glacier Nationals	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Sat. Sept. 17	@ Glacier Nationals	7:30PM	Havre Ice Dome, Havre, MT
Fri. Sept. 23	vs. Bozeman Ice Dogs	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Sat. Feb. 24	vs. Billings Bulls	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Sept. 30	vs. Yellowstone Quake	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Sat. Oct. 1	vs. Yellowstone Quake	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Oct. 7	@ Missoula Jr. Bruins	7:30PM	Glacier Ice Rink, Missoula, MT
Sat. Oct. 8	@ Bozeman Ice Dogs	7:30PM	Haynes Pavilion, Bozeman, MT
Fri. Oct. 14	@ Missoula Jr. Bruins	7:30PM	Glacier Ice Rink, Missoula, MT
Sat. Oct. 15	vs. Missoula Jr. Bruins	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Oct. 21	@ Gillette Wild	7:05PM	Spirit Hall Ice Arena, Gillette, WY
Sat. Oct. 22	@ Gillette Wild	7:05PM	Spirit Hall Ice Arena, Gillette, WY
Fri. Oct. 28	vs. Helena Bighorns	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Nov. 4	vs. Gillette Wild	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Sat. Nov. 5	vs. Gillette Wild	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Nov. 18	vs. Glacier Nationals	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Sat. Nov. 19	vs. Missoula Jr. Bruins	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Nov. 25	vs. Billings Bulls	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Sat. Nov. 26	@ Helena Bighorns	7:05PM	Helena Ice Arena, Helena, MT
Thurs. Dec. 1	vs. Glacier Nationals	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Dec. 2	@ Glacier Nationals	8:00PM	Havre Ice Dome, Havre, MT
Fri. Dec. 9	@ Helena Bighorns	7:05PM	Helena Ice Arena, Helena, MT
Sat. Dec. 10	vs. Helena Bighorns	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Dec. 16	NA3HL Showcase		Schwan Super Rink, Blaine, MN
	vs. TBA	0:00PM (MST)	
Sat. Dec. 17	NA3HL Showcase		Schwan Super Rink, Blaine, MN
	vs. TBA	0:00PM (MST)	
Sun. Dec. 18	NA3HL Showcase		Schwan Super Rink, Blaine, MN
	vs. TBA	0:00AM (MST)	
Fri. Dec. 30	@ Glacier Nationals	8:00PM	Havre Ice Dome, Havre, MT
Sat. Dec. 31	vs. Missoula Jr. Bruins	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Thurs. Jan. 5	@ Missoula Jr. Bruins	7:30PM	Glacier Ice Rink, Missoula, MT
Fri. Jan. 6	vs. Missoula Jr. Bruins	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Sat. Jan. 7	vs. Glacier Nationals	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Jan 13	@ Yellowstone Quake	7:30PM	Victor J. Riley Arena, Cody, WY
Sat. Jan. 14	@ Yellowstone Quake	7:30PM	Victor J. Riley Arena, Cody, WY
Fri. Jan. 20	vs. Gillette Wild	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Sat. Jan. 21	vs. Gillette Wild	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Jan. 27	@ Billings Bulls	7:30PM	Centennial Ice Arena, Billings, MT
Sat. Jan. 28	@ Bozeman Ice Dogs	7:30PM	Haynes Pavilion, Bozeman, MT
Fri. Feb. 3	@ Helena Bighorns	7:05PM	Helena Ice Arena, Helena, MT
Sat. Feb. 4	vs. Helena Bighorns	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Feb. 10	@ Missoula Jr. Bruins	7:30PM	Glacier Ice Rink, Missoula, MT
Sat. Feb. 11	@ Helena Bighorns	7:05PM	Helena Ice Arena, Helena, MT
Fri. Feb. 17	@ Glacier Nationals	8:00PM	Havre Ice Dome, Havre, MT
Sat. Feb. 18	vs. Helena Bighorns	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex
Fri. Feb. 24	@ Billings Bulls	7:30PM	Centennial Ice Arena, Billings, MT
Sat. Feb. 25	vs. Bozeman Ice Dogs	7:30PM	Great Falls Ice Plex

Sun. Feb. 26	NA3HL Top Prospects Tournament		USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth, MI
	TBA vs. TBA	0:00PM (MST)	18U Selects Black Roster South Roster
	TBA vs. Frontier	0:00PM (MST)	Frontier Roster 18U Selects Red Roster
Mon. Feb. 27	NA3HL Top Prospects Tournament		USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth, MI
	TBA vs. TBA	00:00AM (MST)	18U Selects Black Roster Midwest Roster
	TBA vs. Frontier	00:00AM (MST)	Frontier Roster West Roster
Tues. Feb. 28	NA3HL Top Prospects Tournament		USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth, MI
	TBA vs. Frontier	00:00AM (MST)	Frontier Roster South Roster
	TBA vs. TBA	00:00AM (MST)	18U Selects Black Roster 18U Selects Red Roster
Fri. Mar. 3	@ Yellowstone Quake	7:30PM	Victor J. Riley Arena, Cody, WY
Sat. Mar. 4	@ Yellowstone Quake	7:30PM	Victor J. Riley Arena, Cody, WY

2016-17 Great Falls Americans Address/Ice Plex Location

Mailing Address:

Great Falls Americans Hockey
417 Central Avenue, Suite #303
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Great Falls Ice Plex Address:

4001 29th Street SW
Great Falls, Montana 59405
[Great Falls Ice Plex Information/Directions](#)

2016-17 Great Falls Americans Media List

Media Contact Information:

Kevin Scott
Great Falls Americans Public Relations/Media Coordinator
Phone: 406-403-8146
Email: kevymt@live.com

Newspaper:

Great Falls Tribune: Sports Department

Phone: 406-791-1470 or 406-791-1444

Website: <http://www.greatfallstribune.com/sports>

General Sports Desk: tribsports@greatfallstribune.com



Sports Editor: Scott Mansch (smansch@greatfallstribune.com)

Phone: 406-899-8811

Sports Writer: Steven Schreck (sschreck@greatfallstribune.com)

Phone: 847-513-2541

Local Television Stations:

KRTV: (CBS-TV, Great Falls)

Phone: 406-791-5455

Website: <http://www.montanasports.com>
(Montana Sports News and Scores)

General Sports Desk: sports@krtv.com

Sports Director: Tom Wylie (tom@krtv.com)

Weekend Sports Anchor: Benji Cohen (bcohen@krtv.com)



KFBB-TV: (ABC-TV/FOX Network, Great Falls)

Phone: 406-540-2100 or 406-453-4370

Website: <http://www.swxrightnow.com/category/284372/swx-home-montana>
General Sports Desk: sports@kfbb.com

Sports Director: Alexis Hatfield
(alexis.hatfield@cowlesmontana.com)

Weekend Sports Anchor: Kurt Schroeder
(kurt.schroeder@cowlesmontana.com)

Sports Reporter: TBA (TBA@cowlesmontana.com)



KTVH/KBGF-TV: (NBC-TV, Helena/Great Falls)

Phone: 406-750-6257

Website: <http://www.montanasports.com> (Montana Sports News and Scores)

Sports Director: Richie Melby (richie@ktvh.com)



2015-16 Great Falls

Americans Hockey

Schedule/Results

Please click on "Results/Story" for Stats/Game Story for each game.

Day/Date	Game	Results/Story	Record
Fri. Sept. 18	vs. Glacier Nationals	12-1 W	1-0 (Home) / 0-0 (Road)
Fri. Sept. 25	@ Yellowstone Quake	4-3 W (OT)	1-0 (Home) / 1-0 (Road)
Sat. Sept. 26	@ Yellowstone Quake	5-1 W	1-0 (Home) / 2-0 (Road)
Fri. Oct. 2	@ Glacier Nationals	5-1 W	1-0 (Home) / 3-0 (Road)
Sat. Oct. 3	vs. Billings Bulls	4-1 W	2-0 (Home) / 3-0 (Road)
Fri. Oct. 9	vs. Yellowstone Quake	2-1 L	2-1 (Home) / 3-0 (Road)
Sat. Oct. 10	vs. Yellowstone Quake	2-1 L	2-2 (Home) / 3-0 (Road)
Fri. Oct. 16	@ Billings Bulls	7-2 W	2-2 (Home) / 4-0 (Road)
Thurs. Oct. 22	@ Gillette Wild	4-1 W	2-2 (Home) / 5-0 (Road)
Fri. Oct. 23	@ Gillette Wild	5-2 W	2-2 (Home) / 6-0 (Road)
Sat. Oct. 24	vs. Bozeman Ice Dogs	4-3 W (SO)	3-2 (Home) / 6-0 (Road)
Fri. Oct. 30	vs. Helena Bighorns	3-2 W	4-2 (Home) / 5-0 (Road)
Sat. Oct. 31	@ Helena Bighorns	3-2 L	4-2 (Home) / 6-1 (Road)
Fri. Nov. 6	vs. Gillette Wild	5-2 W	5-2 (Home) / 6-1 (Road)
Sat. Nov. 7	vs. Gillette Wild	4-2 L	5-3 (Home) / 6-1 (Road)
Fri. Nov. 13	@ Helena Bighorns	3-2 W	5-3 (Home) / 7-1 (Road)
Sat. Nov. 14	vs. Billings Bulls	5-0 W	6-3 (Home) / 7-1 (Road)
Fri. Nov. 20	@ Bozeman Ice Dogs	2-1 L	6-3 (Home) / 7-2 (Road)
Sat. Nov. 21	vs. Glacier Nationals	8-2 W	7-3 (Home) / 7-2 (Road)
Wed. Nov. 25	@ Billings Bulls	3-2 W (SO)	7-3 (Home) / 8-2 (Road)
Fri. Nov. 27	@ Glacier Nationals	5-2 W	7-3 (Home) / 9-2 (Road)
Sat. Nov. 28	@ Bozeman Ice Dogs	4-3 L	7-3 (Home) / 9-3 (Road)
Fri. Dec. 4	vs. Helena Bighorns	5-1 W	8-3 (Home) / 9-3 (Road)
Fri. Dec. 11	vs. Glacier Nationals	10-0 W	9-3 (Home) / 9-3 (Road)
Thurs. Dec. 17	@ NA3HL Showcase		Schwan Super Rink, Blaine, MN
	@ Eules Jr. Stars** (League Press Release)	7-0 W	10-3 (Home) / 9-3 (Road)
			Game Schedule
Fri. Dec. 18	@ NA3HL Showcase		Schwan Super Rink, Blaine, MN
	vs. NA3EHL East (League Press Release)	3-2 L (OT)	10-3 (Home) / 9-3-1 (Road)
			Game Schedule
Sat. Dec. 19	@ NA3HL Showcase		Schwan Super Rink, Blaine, MN
	vs. Toledo Cherokee** (League Press Release)	3-2 L (OT)	10-3-1 (Home) / 9-3-1 (Road)
			Game Schedule
Fri. Jan. 1	@ Gillette Wild	6-1 W	10-3-1 (Home) / 10-3-1 (Road)
Sat. Jan. 2	@ Gillette Wild	4-2 L	10-3-1 (Home) / 10-4-1 (Road)
Fri. Jan. 8	vs. Helena Bighorns	5-1 W	11-3-1 (Home) / 10-4-1 (Road)
Sat. Jan. 9	@ Glacier Nationals	7-1 W	11-3-1 (Home) / 11-4-1 (Road)
Fri. Jan. 15	vs. Bozeman Ice Dogs	3-2 W	12-3-1 (Home) / 11-4-1 (Road)
Sat. Jan. 16	vs. Gillette Wild	2-1 W	13-3-1 (Home) / 11-4-1 (Road)
Sun. Jan. 17	vs. Gillette Wild	4-0 W	14-3-1 (Home) / 11-4-1 (Road)
Fri. Jan. 22	@ Yellowstone Quake	5-3 L	14-3-1 (Home) / 11-5-1 (Road)
Sat. Jan. 23	@ Yellowstone Quake	3-0 L	14-3-1 (Home) / 11-6-1 (Road)
Fri. Jan. 29	@ Bozeman Ice Dogs	3-2 W (OT)	14-3-1 (Home) / 12-6-1 (Road)
Sat. Jan. 30	vs. Bozeman Ice Dogs	2-1 L	14-4-1 (Home) / 12-6-1 (Road)
Thurs. Feb. 4	vs. Billings Bulls	7-2 W	15-4-1 (Home) / 12-6-1 (Road)
Fri. Feb. 12	@ Billings Bulls	6-1 W	15-4-1 (Home) / 13-6-1 (Road)
Sat. Feb. 13	@ Helena Bighorns	2-1 W	15-4-1 (Home) / 14-6-1 (Road)

Mon. Feb. 15	@ NA3HL Top Prospects Tourney	Website	USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth, MI
	&Frontier vs. South	6-4 W Frontier	Frontier WINS 6-4 (Box Score) Frontier Roster South Roster
	>> NA3HL 18U Selects Black vs. West	3-2 W (SO) Selects Black	NA3HL 18U Selects Black WINS 3-2 in shootout (Box Score) 18U Selects Black Roster West Roster
Tues. Feb. 16	@ NA3HL Top Prospects Tourney	Website	USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth, MI
	&Frontier vs. West	5-1 W Frontier	Frontier WINS 5-1 (Box Score) Frontier Roster West Roster
	>>NA3HL 18U Selects Black vs. East	7-3 W East	East WINS 7-3 (Box Score) 18U Selects Black Roster East Roster
Wed. Feb. 17	@ NA3HL Top Prospects Tourney	Website	USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth, MI
	&Frontier vs. >>18U Selects Black	4-3 W Frontier	Frontier WINS 4-3 (Box Score) Frontier Roster NA3HL 18U Selects Roster
Fri. Feb. 19	@ Helena Bighorns	3-2 W	15-4-1 (Home) / 15-6-1 (Road)
Sat. Feb. 20	vs. Helena Bighorns	5-1 W	16-4-1 (Home) / 15-6-1 (Road)
Fri. Feb. 26	vs. Billings Bulls	7-1 W	17-4-1 (Home) / 15-6-1 (Road)
Sat. Mar. 5	@ Billings Bulls	9-2 W	17-4-1 (Home) / 16-6-1 (Road)
Fri. Mar. 11	vs. Yellowstone Quake	6-4 W	18-4-1 (Home) / 16-6-1 (Road)
Sat. Mar. 12	vs. Yellowstone Quake	5-4 L	18-5-1 (Home) / 16-6-1 (Road)
End of Regular Season			

2016 NA3HL Playoffs: Frontier Semi-Finals

Best-of-3

2016 NA3HL Divisional Semifinals: Americans win the best-of-three series 2-0

#3 Bozeman Ice Dogs (29-12-8) vs. #2 Great Falls Americans (36-11-2)

<u>Day/Date</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Results/Story</u>	<u>Location/Record</u>
Thurs. Mar. 17	vs. Bozeman Ice Dogs	2-1 W (2 OT)	Great Falls leads series 1-0 19-5-1 (Home) / 16-6-1 (Road)
Fri. Mar. 18	@ Bozeman Ice Dogs	2-1 W	Great Falls WINS SERIES 2-0 19-5-1 (Home) / 17-6-1 (Road)

2016 NA3HL Playoffs: Frontier Finals

Best-of-3

2016 NA3HL Divisional Finals: Americans win the best-of-three series 2-0

#2 Great Falls Americans (38-11-2) vs. #1 Yellowstone Quake (37-11-4)

<u>Day/Date</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Results/Story</u>	<u>Location/Record</u>
Thurs. Mar. 24	vs. Yellowstone Quake	4-1 W	Great Falls leads series 1-0 20-5-1 (Home) / 17-6-1 (Road)
Sat. Mar. 26	@ Yellowstone Quake	5-4 W	Great Falls wins series 2-0 20-5-1 (Home) / 18-6-1 (Road)

2016 NA3HL Silver Cup Tournament: Round Robin Format

March 30 – April 3, 2016 (Wed – Sun.), [Canlan Ice Arena](#), Romeoville, IL

[2016 NA3HL Silver Cup Championship Tournament](#): Americans record is 2-2

2015-16 NA3HL Playoff Record (GF): 6-2-0

2015-16 Overall Record (GF): 40-13-2 (Home: 20-5-1, Road: 18-6-1, Neutral (Silver Cup Tourney): 2-2)

Pool A: #1 North Iowa Bulls, #4 Point Mallard (AL) Ducks, #5 Great Falls Americans Lumberjacks, Yellowstone (WY) Quake (2nd Wild Card)

Pool B: #2 Metro (MI) Jets, #3 St. Louis (MO Jr. Blues, #6 Twin City (MN) Steel, Texas Jr. Brahmas (1st Wild Card)

Tournament Pool Play Records

#2 Metro (MI) Jets: 4-0 (Pool B)

#1 North Iowa Bulls: 3-1 (Pool A)

#4 Point Mallard (AL) Ducks: 2-1

#5 Great Falls Americans: 2-2 (Pool A)

#3 St. Louis (MO) Jr. Blues: 1-2

#6 Twin City (MN) Steel: 1-3 (Pool B)

Wild Card #1: Texas Jr. Brahmas: 1-2

Wild Card #2: Yellowstone Quake: 0-3

Wednesday, March 30th:

<u>Time (MST)</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Results/Story</u>
6:30PM (MST)	#5 GF Americans (1-0) vs. #4 Point Mallard (AL) Ducks (0-1)	Great Falls WINS 2-1

Thursday, March 31st:

<u>Time (MST)</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Results/Story</u>
6:30PM (MST)	#5 GF Americans (1-1) vs. #1 North Iowa Bulls (2-0)	North Iowa WINS 4-1

Friday, April 1st:

<u>Time (MST)</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Results/Story</u>
6:30PM (MST)	(#2 Wild Card) Yellowstone Quake (0-3) vs. #5 GF Americans (2-1)	Great Falls WINS 8-1

Saturday, April 2nd: (Semifinals)

<u>Time (MST)</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Results/Story</u>
4:00PM (MST)	(#2 Pool A) GF Americans (2-2) vs. (#1 Pool B) Metro (MI) Jets (4-0)	Metro WINS 5-4

2015-16 Great Falls Americans Season Summary

	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Road</u>	<u>Neutral</u>
Regular Season	34-11-2	18-5-1	16-6-1	0-0
Playoffs	6-2	2-0	2-0	2-2
Season Total	40-13-2	20-5-1	18-6-1	2-2

2016-17 Great Falls Americans Season Preview

Great Falls Americans Hockey marches on after back-to-back Frontier Division titles

By Kevin Scott

GREAT FALLS, Mont., September 20, 2016 — The Great Falls Americans Junior A Hockey team is trying for three consecutive Frontier Division championships after winning the two previous seasons (2014-15, 2015-16). The Great Falls squad is entering their third season in the North American 3 Hockey League (NA3HL) after having played in the now defunct American West Hockey League (AWHL) for three seasons. During the 2015-16 season, the Americans posted an overall record of 34-11-2 with 18 wins coming at home at the Great Falls Ice Plex.

In 2015-16, Great Falls made their third playoff appearance after returning to the ice in 2011. The Americans swept the Bozeman Ice Dogs in two games in the best-of-five divisional semifinals last season. Great Falls then faced the regular season champion, Yellowstone (WY) Quake and they won the best-of-five series in two games for the automatic berth in the 2016 Silver Cup Hockey Tournament in Illinois. They went 2-2 in the round robin national tournament with wins over the Point Mallard (AL) Ducks and a rematch with the Yellowstone Quake. The Americans made it to the national semifinals before falling to the Metro Jets, a Michigan-based NA3HL team, 5-4. It was their best finish as a junior hockey franchise.

In 2016, the Missoula (MT) Bruins were formed and will join the Great Falls Americans in the Frontier Division along with the Bozeman Ice Dogs, Billings Bulls, Helena Bighorns, Glacier Nationals, Yellowstone (WY) Quake and the Gillette (WY) Wild.

Head Coach and General Manager, Jeff Heimel, will have nine returning players from last year's talented team that won the Frontier Division championship and made it to the national semi-finals at the Silver Cup Tournament.

Training camp for all players for the new season began in September competing for a roster spot. The team also spent a week (September 5-8) conducting their third annual youth camp with emphasis on fundamental skating techniques in Great Falls.

The Great Falls Americans will start out the year with a core group of returning players including Tegan Harrington, Jesse Johnson, Matt Larson, Tanner Congdon, Mitchell Ramstad, Hayden Moistner, Malachi Bushey and Brendan Jester. In addition to leadership, these veterans are looked upon to provide depth and experience throughout the year and they know what it is like to win at a high level. A few key players who won't be returning due to college commitments and eligibility requirements include Great Falls native Connor Barta, Reed Link, Josh Larson, Arseny Ivanov, Ricards Bernhards, Miles Giorgione and goaltender Jake Stephan. Danny O'Donnell, Quinn Stuebner, Sandis Mezharaps, Matt Janke and Michael Hughes are newcomers that should give the team an immediate impact on the ice.

All of the coaching staff remain intact from last year's squad. Assistant Blake Page serves as the Director of Recruiting on coach Jeff Heimel's team while Mike Walsh returns as Defensive Coach and former American player Erik Gatson begins his second season as Associate Coach and Director of Player Personnel.

The upcoming schedule for this season looks to be very challenging as every Frontier Division team looks to be much improved from the 2015-16 season. For the second straight season, Great Falls opens the season at home against the Glacier Nationals, a team from neighboring Havre, Montana on September 16th. The following night they make their first road appearance against the Nationals in Havre. The team finishes the month of September with four home games in two weeks.

Great Falls will once again participate in the NA3HL Showcase Tournament in Blaine, Minnesota in December. All 48 NA3HL teams will compete against other squads outside of their division in the three-day tournament that will count in the standings. The Americans play their final home game of the season on February 25th against the Bozeman Ice Dogs. Great Falls will end their regular season on the road against the Yellowstone Quake in Wyoming but not before selected league players will participate in the 2017 NA3HL Top Prospects Tournament in Plymouth, Michigan at the end of February. The three-day all-star format event features many college scouts in the NCAA, junior leagues, and the NHL in attendance.

The Americans remain optimistic and excited for the new season and a chance to three-peat as Frontier Division champions. They hope to make the playoffs and get another chance at the Silver Cup National Tournament again this season.

CONTACT:

Kevin Scott
Great Falls Americans Public Relations/Media Coordinator
Cell Phone: 406-403-8146
Email: kevymt@live.com

Visit our website: <http://www.gfamericans.com>

Join Us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/greatfalls.americanshockey>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/@gfamericans>



“North American 3 Hockey League: <http://www.na3hl.com>