



COLORADO GRIT HOCKEY GAME PROGRAM



A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Colorado Grit Fans,

Welcome to the Colorado Grit's inaugural season! We're thrilled to have you join us as we kick off an exciting journey together in Greeley. Our mission here is clear: to grow hockey in our community by fostering a culture of excellence. Our decision to be in Greeley stems from a strong desire to contribute to local businesses and embrace the community. Central to our vision is a commitment to culture. We're seeking players who not only excel on the ice but also exhibit strong character, hard work, and a desire to be their best selves every day. That starts in our locker room.

For me, what got me into hockey was being a kid and loving the game. What gave me success was learning to be on time, be hardworking, and be a good person – and those are the fundamental skills that we want to lay into these kids. These principles are at the heart of what we aim to teach our players; it's why we call ourselves "The Grit."

Our team's presence here is about giving local talent the chance to shine at home.

Our goal is to offer a junior hockey experience that propels players towards Division 1 kinds of opportunities.

I am honored to be part of this journey. Your support and enthusiasm make us even more excited to be in Greeley. Let's make this season unforgettable, both on and off the ice.

Thank you for being a part of the Colorado Grit family!

*Sincerely,
David Clarkson*

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BILLET FAMILIES

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible billet families who open their homes and hearts to our team's players. Your unwavering support and hospitality are the backbone of our success in the North American Hockey League (NAHL). You provide a nurturing environment that allows our players to thrive. We couldn't do it without you!

Maureen Bray

Wesley & Tammi Patch

Heather & David Payne

Shelby & Brett Marcum

Jennifer & Patrick O'Connell

Kylie & Cody Jasinski

Nick Kenny

Mike & Danita Gruber

Chris & Lora Bureau

Libby Triolo

Kristy & Travis Lourance

Ian Mickells & Darci Hata

Kim & Troy Weber

Daniella Hernandez

Dani & Erik Pritchard

Shiri & Heath Tee

Cindy Kurtz

Bryn & Branden Salisbury



**WHO'S READY TO
GET GRITTY?**



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



RICHMARK



A NAHL team is only as strong as the community that supports it. Colorado Grit is fortunate to call Greeley home – especially thanks to fans who sponsor players, local restaurants that nourish them, and corporate sponsors who understand the value of local pride. Your support drives our success, and we're forever grateful. As a new team in its startup phase, this list is ever growing! If we missed you because of printing deadlines in this edition, we'll be sure to include you in the next one.

BE A DREAM MAKER

Every Kid Needs To Dream ... Don't They?

There never has been a NAHL team in the state of Colorado, or even this region. That means local hockey kids seldom, if ever, saw this next level of amateur hockey, even though such exposure is a pathway for nearly every hockey player moving up to NCAA and beyond.

The fact that local kids can now get to their downtown rink and see firsthand what Tier II Hockey is really about – see the grit and determination up close – and then chase the players after the game for their autographs, a smile and a pat on the head, well, it can start a fire in a young man. And, before long, these young gladiators on ice become hometown heroes to not only their younger fans, but the community as a whole, boosting civic pride and building community.

Support the Colorado GRIT with whatever you can, and know you are helping local kids dream. It's why we call our sponsors DREAM MAKERS. If you're interested in talking further, please call me or stop one of us at our next game. We would love to share the dream with you.

Bob Bowden
Co-Owner
(970) 948-7000





COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Colorado Grit is proud to stand hand-in-hand with our incredible community partners who have warmly embraced us in Greeley. Our bond with Greeley grows stronger every day – from the fun at Friday Fests to the meaningful collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, from summer days at the Greeley Stampedel to indoor ball hockey with the Boys & Girls Club. Together, we're building a legacy of unity and support that fuels our community to success.



YOUTH HOCKEY PARTNERS



At the heart of the Colorado Grit lies a deep commitment to inspiring the next generation of hockey players. We proudly partner with many local youth hockey organizations, nurturing talent and fostering a sense of statewide pride right here at the Greeley Ice Haus. Our journey in the NAHL is fueled by the belief that every young athlete deserves a chance to dream big. Through collaborations with local youth hockey organizations, we provide aspiring players with unparalleled opportunities to learn, grow, and excel in the sport they love.



**GREELEY BEARS PLAYER PARTICIPATING IN
MINI GAME AT GRIT INTERMISSION**

MEET THE TEAM



Gaven Bickford

General Manager

Gaven is a native of Crosslake, MN and has been working in junior hockey for the past five seasons. Before joining the Grit, Gaven was the the Madison Capitols in the USHL where he served as Assistant General Manager and Associate Head Coach. In the 2021-22 season, Gaven was part of the Capitols staff that went to the Clark Cup Finals. Prior to Madison, Gaven was in the NAHL with the Minnesota Magicians as a General Manager and Associate Head Coach.

During his tenure in junior hockey, Gaven has overseen over 100 Division 1 commitments and seven NHL draft picks. Gaven currently resides in Madison, WI with his wife Emily and their chocolate lab Penny.



Steve Haddon

Head Coach

Steve is a native of Sarnia, Canada and has been a Head Coach and General Manager at the junior 'A' level for the past eleven seasons.

With an overall earned record of 330-185-80, Haddon

has helped more than 200 players move on to the NCAA and professional levels. Prior to coaching, Haddon played nine years of professional hockey with the ECHL Colorado Eagles. He has won championships at every level: junior, collegiate, and professional.

Steve resides in nearby Windsor, CO with his wife and four children.



Levi Weber

Assistant Coach

Levi, a native of Eaton, CO, began his hockey journey just miles from the Greeley Ice Haus. Levi signed with the Northern Colorado Jr Eagles for their inaugural season during his junior year of high school and became the Jr Eagles' points leader and

captain for three consecutive seasons, maintaining the franchise's all-time scoring record to this day. He briefly joined the Colorado Eagles (ECHL) before pursuing coaching alongside Steve Haddon with the Northern Colorado Jr Eagles, and now the Tier II Colorado Grit.



Jack Erickson
Goalie

Jersey #: 1
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 165
Previous Team:
Hill-Murray High
School Varsity



Bowen Burke
Defense

Jersey #: 4
Height: 5'10"
Weight: 175
Previous Team:
Shattuck St.
Mary's Prep



Jordan Gudridge
Defense

Jersey #: 5
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 170
Previous Team:
Madison Capitols
USHL



Marek Thompson
Defense

Jersey #: 6
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 185
Previous Team:
Lawrence Academy
Spartans



Brayden Fryfogle
Forward

Jersey #: 7
Height: 5'10"
Weight: 175
Previous Team:
Northern Colorado
Eagles



Payton Miller
Forward

Jersey #: 8
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 210
Previous Team:
Maryland Black
Bears NAHL



Alex German
Defense

Jersey #: 9
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 185
Previous Team:
Northern Cyclones
NCDC



Caleb Bendell
Defense

Jersey #: 13
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 160
Previous Team:
Provo Predators
NCDC



Hunter Cooke
Defense

Jersey #: 15
Height: 6'6"
Weight: 220
Previous Team:
Boston Jr. Rangers



Duncan Shin
Forward

Jersey #: 16
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 175
Previous Team:
Fort McMurray Oil
Barons AJHL



Nolan Shaw
Forward

Jersey #: 17
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 185
Previous Team:
Pelham Panthers



Marek Thompson
Defense

Jersey #: 6
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 185
Previous Team:
Lawrence Academy
Spartans



George Poirier
Forward

Jersey #: 19
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 181
Previous Team:
Long Island Gulls
U18



Noah Grolnic
Forward

Jersey #: 21
Height: 5'10"
Weight: 175
Previous Team:
Chippewa Steel
NAHL



Tomáš Vlček
Forward

Jersey #: 22
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 175
Previous Team:
Johnstown
Tomahawks NAHL



Quinn Bowden
Forward

Jersey #: 24
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 170
Previous Team:
Maine Nordiques



Landon West
Forward

Jersey #: 25
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 181
Previous Team:
Detroit Catholic



Braden Junker
Defense

Jersey #: 26
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 175
Previous Team:
Janesville Jets
NAHL



Will Hadrick III
Defense

Jersey #: 27
Height: 5'10"
Weight: 170
Previous Team:
Rocky Mountain
Roughriders 18U



Christopher Graves
Forward

Jersey #: 28
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 161
Previous Team:
Phoenix Coyotes
U18



Wilder Jacober
Forward

Jersey #: 29
Height: 5'10"
Weight: 170
Previous Team:
Provo Predators
NCDC



Aden Gariepy
Goalie

Jersey #: 30
Height: 6'4"
Weight: 209
Previous Team:
Biggby Coffee AAA
Hockey 18U



Peter Sterling
Goalie

Jersey #: 33
Height: 6'5"
Weight: 180
Previous Team:
New Hampshire
Mountain Kings
NAHL

**LET'S GET
GRITTY!**



Jersey #: 92
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 155
Previous Team: 16U
 AAA Thunderbirds

Sheldon Rioux

Forward



Jersey #: 94
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 160
Previous Team: 18U
 AAA Thunderbirds

Christian Carter

Forward

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Colorado Grit is more than just a hockey team; it's a family. Beyond our talented players, it's the billet families who open their homes, the dedicated sponsors and community partners, and a devoted team of volunteers who make game days special. From ticket scanning to merchandise tables, our volunteers play a crucial role in our success. Want to be part of the Grit family? Join us as a volunteer! Reach out to Mary Bowe at marybowe@coloradogrit hockey.com and get involved today.

OUR STAFF

David Clarkson, ***Director of Hockey***

Eric Lacroix, ***Hockey Development Consultant***

Mary Bowe, ***Director of Operations***

Tasia Munger, ***Director of Merchandise***

Andrew Rush, ***Equipment Manager***

Kylie Jasinski, ***Team Trainer and Billet Coordinator***

Kim Weber, ***Billet Coordinator***

Ethan Sinclair, ***Assistant to Managing Partner***

Bob Bowden, ***Managing Partner***

Chris Stewart, ***President***

TEAM ROSTER

#	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Year</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Position</u>
1	Jack Erickson	2004	White Bear Lake, MN	Goalie
4	Bowen Burke	2005	Scottsdale, AZ	Defense
5	Jordan Gudridge	2005	Greenwood Village, CO	Defense
6	Marek Thompson	2004	Fort Collins, CO	Defense
7	Brayden Fryfogle	2003	Wyoming, ONT	Forward
8	Payton Miller	2003	Flemington, NJ	Forward
9	Alex German	2004	Colorado Springs, CO	Defense
13	Caleb Bendell	2005	Chanhassen, MN	Forward
15	Hunter Cooke	2003	Highlands Ranch, CO	Defense
16	Duncan Shin	2005	Chandler, AZ	Forward
17	Nolan Shaw	2006	Breslau, ONT	Forward
19	George Poirier	2005	Arvada, CO	Forward
21	Noah Grolnic	2005	Arvada, CO	Forward
22	Tomas Vleck	2004	Plzen, CZE	Forward
24	Quinn Bowden	2004	Aspen, CO	Forward
25	Landon West	2004	Plymouth, MI	Forward
26	Braden Junker	2004	Elk River, MN	Defense
27	Will Hadrick	2004	Denver, CO	Defense
28	Chris Graves	2005	Howell, MI	Forward
29	Wilder Jacober	2003	Carbondale, CO	Forward
30	Aden Gariepy	2005	Munising, MA	Goalie
33	Pete Sterling	2004	Manassas, VA	Goalie
92	Sheldon Rioux	2007	Val-d'Or, QC	Forward
94	Christian Carter	2005	Littleton, CO	Foward

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Weld Elves Present Wrapping
Colorado Grit Players helped wrap hundreds of presents for Weld Elves, a local non-profit that provides a wonderful holiday experience to underprivileged children.



Weld Food Bank Volunteering

Grit Players spent two hours at the Weld Food Bank in January & made an impact in the best way possible! They packed 404 pounds of onions, nearly 800 emergency food boxes, and 180 senior food boxes.



WHALE Respite Center
In February, Grit Players moved furniture & build storage sheds at the new Respite Center in town!



The Colorado Grit invites all of Greeley to join us for the remainder of our Inaugural Season at the Greeley Ice Haus. For more information about the team, visit ColoradogritHockey.com

STAFF HIGHLIGHT: NICK KENNY VOICE OF THE COLORADO GRIT



Nick Kenny
In Game Host

Nick Kenny, a native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones Investments and is proud to be the voice of in-game entertainment for the Colorado Grit. Nick moved to Greeley in 2011 where he earned his master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado. A musician of 20 years and host/co-host of two radio shows (Nick's Knacks and The Nerd Show on 103.1 & 1310 KFKA – or wherever you stream your podcasts), Nick isn't shy behind a microphone.

Nick began his practice with Edward Jones in early 2023 and has nearly a decade of experience in finance. The former CEO of the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, Nick oversaw existing and new programs, making the 100+ year organization vibrant and thriving in the community. His accomplishments range from creating a youth orchestra to commissioning an orchestral storytelling of the history of Weld County. Nick has earned recognition as a BizWest 40 Under Forty honoree, the 2019 Greeley Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year, and Manchester University's Young Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award in 2022.

Nick's financial practice is built upon creating long-lasting and trusting relationships. His vision is to create deep and meaningful relationships to provide the foundation of a long-term partnership to deliver today's financial needs and tomorrow's dreams for every client. Nick works toward long-term value for his clients through his values of communication, trust, respect, and commitment. Nick serves clients of all asset levels and is currently accepting new clients.

An active member of the Greeley & Northern Colorado community, Nick is a member of the Greeley Satellite Rotary Club, serves as Treasurer for the Northern Colorado Young Professionals, and holds leadership positions within the Greeley Area Chamber of Commerce. He also hosts trivia at various locations throughout town and emcees events and fundraisers for local non-profits. When Nick isn't out and about in the community, you can find him tending the pipes in several ice hockey leagues in Northern Colorado, volunteering in the National Park Service, or tweaking his sourdough bread creations.

Nick is proud to live in, and serve, the Greeley community.



NOW LEASING

2025 50th AVE, GREELEY, CO
ALPINEFLATSGREELEY.COM





Bring in this ad for 20%
of any size pizza!

Monday

- \$3.50 BEER PINTS

Tuesday

- ALL YOU CAN EAT SPAGHETTI

- TOM COLLINS/GIN & TONIC

WEDNESDAY

- \$15 TWO TOPPING 16" PIZZA

- WET WILLIES

THURSDAY

- TRIVIA!

- 25% OFF CAROLIS

- JOSE SHOTS

FRIDAY

- \$1 OFF FULL SANDWICHES -
PURPLE HAZE LATE NIGHT

SATURDAY

- \$9 10" TWO TOPPING PIZZA

- LONG ISLAND ICED TEA

- LATE NIGHT

SUNDAY

- BRUNCH

- \$5 MIMOSA & BLOODY MARYS



THE COW
SALOON & EATERY



SERVING LUNCH AND DINNER
APPETIZERS
GOURMET SANDWICHES
HOMEMADE SOUPS
FRESH SALADS
SWEETS

FULL BAR WITH DAILY DRINK SPECIALS!

GET A FREE DRINK
(draft beer, house wine, well liquor)

WHEN YOU USE THE CODE

GRIT

DURING THE '23-'24 SEASON.

800 9TH Street

GREELEY, CO 80631

970-356-5520

DOWNTOWN GREELEY WWW.THECOWGREELEY.COM



GO GRIT!

Change a Life Today. Give!
www.unitedway-weld.org
Call for more information at 303.426.1234

CHANGE?
We invest in local programs who work together to help people in Weld County realize their full potential. Without your contribution none of this would be able to happen.

WILK, MOO!
COFFEE COW
WELLS, CO.

HOME SCHEDULE

 SEPTEMBER 8 7:15PM EL PASO, TX	 NOVEMBER 4 3:45PM NEW MEXICO	 JANUARY 20 3:45PM NEW MEXICO
 SEPTEMBER 9 3:45PM EL PASO, TX	 NOVEMBER 24 7:15PM CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	 FEBRUARY 16 7:15PM OKLAHOMA
 SEPTEMBER 10 1:15PM EL PASO, TX	 NOVEMBER 25 3:45PM CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	 FEBRUARY 17 3:45PM OKLAHOMA
 SEPTEMBER 29 7:15PM ODESSA, TX	 DECEMBER 29 7:15PM EL PASO, TX	 MARCH 15 7:15PM AMARILLO, TX
 SEPTEMBER 30 3:45PM ODESSA, TX	 DECEMBER 30 3:45PM EL PASO, TX	 MARCH 16 3:45PM AMARILLO, TX
 OCTOBER 13 3:45PM LONE STAR, TX	 DECEMBER 31 1:15PM EL PASO, TX	 MARCH 17 1:15PM AMARILLO, TX
 OCTOBER 14 3:45PM LONE STAR, TX	 JANUARY 5 7:15PM AMARILLO, TX	 MARCH 22 7:15PM NEW MEXICO
 OCTOBER 27 5:45PM SHREVEPORT, LA	 JANUARY 6 3:45PM AMARILLO, TX	 MARCH 23 3:45PM NEW MEXICO
 OCTOBER 28 3:45PM SHREVEPORT, LA	 JANUARY 7 1:15PM AMARILLO, TX	
 NOVEMBER 3 7:15PM NEW MEXICO	 JANUARY 19 7:15PM NEW MEXICO	

*Doors open 1 hour before gametime. All games played at Greeley Ice Haus.

Fri doors 6:15 pm Puck 7:15pm
Sat doors 2:45 pm Puck 3:45 pm



SOUTH DIVISION

- 1: Colorado Grit
- 2: New Mexico Ice Wolves
- 3: Amarillo Wranglers
- 4: Oklahoma Warriors
- 5: Shreveport Mudbugs
- 6: Lone Star Brahmas
- 7: Odessa Jackalopes
- 8: El Paso Rhinos
- 9: Corpus Christi Ice Rays