

**NEWS RELEASE FROM: MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY ICE BEARS  
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**Missouri State Hockey Management Changes**

The Missouri State University Ice Bears, a Division 1 member of the American Collegiate Hockey Association, announce today that General Manager and club co-founder Stan Melton will end his day-to-day duties with the organization effective immediately.

Assistant General Manager, Curt Bussen, will assume the General Manager position and three staff members will accept additional duties. Rhonda Ashlock, Operations assistant and team photographer, is named Team Manager with Jeremy Hill, Game Day Operations Manager, and Steve Casson, Director of Broadcasting and Media, named as Assistant Team Managers.

Melton, who leaves the organization to spend more time with family, has been the driving force behind the successful operation and achievements of the hockey club since its inception in 2001. The outstanding reputation the Ice Bears have enjoyed in the local community and throughout the ACHA is a result of Melton's tireless efforts.

"My work with Curt and our other club co-founders to start, begin and continue operations of our Missouri State Hockey Club has always been an honor for me. It's an accomplishment I consider to be one of the best I have ever been associated with in terms of what has been done and the great people I have worked with," Melton said in an email to staff, parents and players.

"I definitely feel our hockey club leadership, now in coaches and management, is the best it has ever been and our players' talent levels continue to rise particularly with our move to ACHA Division 1 this coming season," Melton said.

Melton will help the trio throughout the summer to create a smooth transition in preparation for the 2015-16 hockey season. Ashlock, will also handle team financials, marketing and merchandising. Hill adds ticketing for both the Division 1 and Division 3 teams and Casson, adds public relations, scheduling and broadcast coordination.

Bussen, a former player and a co-founder of the Missouri State Hockey Club, said the thought of not having Melton "at the helm" is daunting but the organization is positioned well for the transition.

"As we say at the orientation meeting every year, family is at the top of our list of priorities. The fact that [Melton] has assembled such a dedicated group of staff and volunteers is one of the many legacies that lets me know we're in a good place to keep this train rolling," Bussen said.

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