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Great Falls Americans Press Release

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Americans hockey announces new owner ahead of 2023-24 season

By Kevin Scott



GREAT FALLS, Mont., June 22, 2023 — The [North American 3 Hockey League's \(NA3HL\)](#) has announced that its Board of Governors has approved the application and transfer of membership of the Great Falls Americans to Matthew Leaf, who purchased the team from Robert and Kandi Rasmussen effective for the 2023-24 season.

Leaf, who most recently was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Officiating Education Program for USA Hockey in Colorado Springs, Colorado, bought the Montana-based Great Falls Americans of the NA3HL. Matt is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin located in Madison, Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science. He has over 40 years of on-ice officiating and off-ice officiating experience in USA Hockey and International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF).

“First off, I want to acknowledge and thank Rob and Kandi Rasmussen for transitioning the Americans out of the difficult COVID period and working with Head Coach/General Manager Greg Sears in creating the culture that allowed my sons (Aaron and Alex) to have a great experience playing for the Americans,” said Leaf.

He acknowledged the hockey support already in place from the Great Falls community. “The Great Falls business community has always supported the Americans and I look forward to continuing to partner with the people of Great Falls to provide family friendly hockey entertainment at a reasonable price,” continued the new owner of the Americans.

“It is important that youth hockey continues to grow in the area and the Great Falls Community Ice Plex also has success as they continue to make improvements in the facility. I very much look forward to working with those entities and hope that my experience with USA Hockey will bring valuable resources to Great Falls that will allow all of us to prosper.”

Greg Sears will continue his role as Head Coach and General Manager of the team. Sears, also a Wisconsin native, just finished up his fifth season on the bench for Great Falls. Greg has experience in both the NA3HL, and the North American Hockey League (NAHL) having spent time as an assistant coach with the Yellowstone Quake (NA3HL Frontier Division) and the NAHL's Coulee Region Chill.

“We are very excited that the Leaf family will be taking over the Americans,” said the Americans mentor. “We are happy to be on board moving forward and excited about the future of Americans hockey!”

About Great Falls Americans Hockey

The Great Falls Americans are proud members of the North American 3 Hockey League (NA3HL) and the Frontier Division and is sanctioned by the USA Hockey as one of their Tier III leagues that serve as a training ground that provides the best coaching, exposure, and development available for student athletes. The primary mission of the NA3HL is to provide a structured developmental environment for student-athletes who have aspirations of playing in the North American Hockey League (NAHL), the United States Hockey League and eventually the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) or American College Hockey Association (ACHA).

Additional Links: [Great Falls Americans](#)

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