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For Immediate Release

Six Pittsburgh Viper Stars Named to NAPHL “Top Prospects” Game

Pittsburgh, PA – The Pittsburgh Viper Stars AAA Tier I amateur hockey club has had six of its players named to the North American Prospects Hockey League (NAPHL) Top Prospects Tournament, which will be held from May 6 – 8, 2011, at the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka, KS..

Each “Top Prospects” team (four teams) is comprised of 20 of the top midget major players in the league, with the participants chosen by the league’s Top Prospects Tournament Selection Committee.

Selected to represent the U18AAA Pittsburgh Viper Stars were: Senior goaltender Tyler Stepke, Mars Area,; senior, forward Brett Oldaker, Canon-McMillian; post-grad defenseman Derek Belke, Ross Township; junior forward, Heinz Koster, Kittanning High School, junior forward Elliott Tisdale, Mars Area; and senior forward, Robert Tritschler, Greensburg Central Catholic. (Tritschler will not be able to participate because of a prior commitment.)

Stepke (5’10”, 165 lbs.) posted a 33-14-1-3 record for the Viper Stars (including 5 shutouts), this past season. He compiled a .935 save percentage and sported a 1.93 goals against average, helping lead the 18U AAA team to a final record of 51-21-3-6 record, second best in the nation.

Oldaker, (5’10” 160 lbs.), scored 78 points in 76 games (39 goals, 39 assists) for the Viper Stars during the 2010 – 2011 season.

Belke (6’2”, 175 lbs.) scored 50 points in 80 games (12 goals, 38 assists) for the Viper Stars during the 2010 – 2011 season.

Koster (5’10”, 180 lbs.) scored 81 points in 74 games (39 goals, 42 assists) for the Viper Stars during the 2010 – 2011 season.

Tisdale (5’10”, 180 lbs.) scored 45 points in 49 games (19 goals, 26 assists) for the Viper Stars during the 2010 – 2011 season.

Tritschler (5’10”, 180 lbs.) scored 70 points in 77 games (35 goals, 35 assists) for the Viper Stars during the 2010 – 2011 season.

The Viper Stars are proud to offer western Pennsylvania and the tri-state area the only Tier I AAA full-season travel ice hockey program that encourages participation on both the travel and interscholastic levels.

“We are delighted to have placed so many of our players in the NAPHL’s Top Prospects game,” says Dave Kosick, AAA Coordinator for the Pittsburgh Viper Stars and head coach of the

program's 18U AAA team.

"This is another great opportunity provided to participants of the Viper Stars program to be showcased for collegiate and junior level programs."

Held in conjunction with the NAHL's Robertson Cup Championship Tournament, the NAPHL Top Prospects Tournament will consist of a three-game round robin followed by a championship game and a third-place game.

The NAPHL, which will begin its third season in 2011-12, has already established itself as the premier Midget and Bantam league in North America. With junior, college and professional scouting presence at all of its events, coupled with a first-class organizational staff, the NAPHL offers unparalleled exposure and opportunity for every participating program.

The Pittsburgh Viper Stars, a member of the North Hills Amateur Hockey Association (NHAHA), western Pennsylvania's premier amateur ice hockey organization, have provided a memorable hockey experience to hundreds of area youths since 1984. Devoted to promoting the growth of amateur ice hockey on a local and national level, the Viper Stars are a proud member of the NAPHL (North American Prospect Hockey League) and USA Hockey and offer competition at the Tier I (AAA) level.

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