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For Immediate Release

Two Pittsburgh Viper Stars Named to Post Gazette Stellar Six

Pittsburgh, PA – The Pittsburgh Viper Stars AAA Tier I amateur hockey club has two of its players named to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette's "2010-11 Hockey Stellar Six."

Senior goaltender Tyler Stepke, Mars Area, and senior, forward Brett Oldaker, Canon-McMillian, members of the 18U Viper Stars, were both named to the list.

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.

He also appeared in 17 games for the Planets, posting a goals against average of 1.52 and a save percentage of .909 while compiling a 13-1-0 record. Stepke, helped guide the Planets to a third straight Penguins Cup Championship and second consecutive Class A Pennsylvania State Championship.

Oldaker, (5'10" 160 lbs.), a senior, scored 78 points in 76 games (39 goals, 39 assists) for the Viper Stars. On the high school level, he tallied 54 points in 20 games (20 goals, 34 assists) and helped lead the Big Macs to the Penguin Cup Finals. Oldaker has accepted a tender from the NAHL's Chicago Hitman and will skate for them next season.

In addition to Stepke, junior forward Elliott Tisdale, (5',10", 180 lbs.), Mars Area, and senior Forward Jacob Friedland, (5'7", 160 lbs.), Fox Chapel High School, were named to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette's "2010-11 Hockey North Stellar Six." Stepke was named player of the year for the Post Gazette's "2010-11 Hockey North Stellar Six."

In addition to Oldaker, junior defenseman Alex Baskakov, (6',1", 180 lbs.), Canon-McMillian, was named to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette's "2010-11 Hockey South Stellar Six."

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 have worked diligently with the member teams of the PIHL to ensure that many of the area's top players get a chance to play for their respective high school teams, as well as for top flight AAA travel teams," says Dave Kosick, AAA Coordinator for the Pittsburgh Viper Stars and head coach of the program's 18U AAA team.

"We understand the value of high school students getting to wear a sweater with their respective school logo, and playing in front of fans, peers, classmates and school supporters," Kosick added.

“The Viper Stars have a proud tradition of working with the area high school teams and would never consider asking them to forego that experience as the area’s other full-season travel teams mandate.”

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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