



PITTSBURGH VIPER STARS

North Hills Amateur Hockey Association

Incorporated 1964

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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 "2009-10 Hockey Stellar Six."

Sophomore defenseman Alexander Baskakov, Canon-McMillan, a member of the Viper Stars 16U AAA team, and senior, forward Erik Manetta, Serra Catholic, member of the 18U Viper Stars, were both named to the list.

Manetta (5'8", 155 lbs.) who scored 84 points (34 goals and 50 assists) in 73 games for the Viper Stars, helped lead the 18U AAA team to a final record of 42-27-7, sixth best in the nation. He won the scoring title for the second consecutive year in the A Division of the PIHL, also with 84 points (32 goals and 52 assists). Over the last two seasons Manetta tallied 161 points to lead the Eagles.

Baskakov, (5'10" 165 lbs.), scored 48 points in 51 games (13 goals, 35 assists) for the 16U Viper Stars. On the high school level, he led all AAA defenseman in scoring with 29 points in 25 games for the Big Macs. He added four points during Canon Mac's run to the high school state championship game.

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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