



PITTSBURGH VIPER STARS

North Hills Amateur Hockey Association

Incorporated 1964

For more information:

Marissa Doyle

(724) 745-8601 x206

For Immediate Release

Pittsburgh Viper Stars Shine at National High School Tournament

Pittsburgh, PA – The Pittsburgh Viper Stars AAA Tier I amateur hockey club was well represented at the recently completed “Americas Showcase High School Tournament” held in Pittsburgh, April 14 – 18, 2010 at the RMU Island Sports Center.

Representing the Viper Stars on Team Pittsburgh Black in the 18 team tournament were Michael Amelio defenseman, junior, Peters Township, a member of the Viper Stars 16U AAA team; Matthew Batis, forward, junior, Latrobe Area; John Miller, defenseman, senior, Franklin Regional; and Kaleb Schwab, defenseman, senior, Seneca Valley, members of the 18U Viper Stars.

Team Pittsburgh Black went 2 – 1 – 0 in round robin, defeating team Philadelphia 7 – 5 and Team Massachusetts 5 – 1, and falling 3 – 1 to eventual tournament champion New Jersey Red. in round robin play. In quarterfinal play, Team Pittsburgh Black was eliminated from the tournament with a tough 5 – 4 loss in a rematch with Team Philadelphia.

Representing the Viper Stars on Team Pittsburgh Gold team were Erik Manetta, forward, senior, Serra Catholic, and Travis Lisowski, goaltender, junior, Mt. Lebanon, both members of the 18U Viper Stars.

Team Pittsburgh Gold also went 2 – 1 – 0 in round robin, defeating Team Washington 6 – 0 and Team Oregon 9 – 0, and falling 4 – 3 to Team New Jersey White in round robin play. In quarterfinal play, Team Pittsburgh Black was eliminated from the tournament with a 6 – 2 loss to Team Northern New England.

Batis (5’10”, 165 lbs.) who led the 18U Viper Stars in scoring with 90 points (31 goals and 59 assists) in 73 games for the Viper Stars and helped lead the 18U AAA team to a final record of 42-27-7, sixth best in the nation, tallied a goal in the quarter-final loss for Team Pittsburgh Black. Schwab (5’11”, 165 lbs.), two assists, and Miller (5’11”, 180 lbs.), one assist, and Amelio (5’11”, 175 lbs.), helped anchor Team Pittsburgh Black’s defense.

Manetta (5’8”, 155 lbs.), who scored 84 points (34 goals and 50 assists) in 73 games for the Viper Stars and 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), scored 3 goals and 2 assists in four games for Team Pittsburgh Gold ... including 1 goal in Team Pittsburgh Gold’s quarter-final loss. Lisowski (5’9”, 155 lbs.), appeared in 3 games, posting a 1-1-0 record, while stopping 54 of the 61 shots he faced (.885 save percentage).

The five-day tournament, formerly known as the Chicago Showcase, gives more than 300 players a chance to perform in front of scouts from major college and junior teams from across the country.



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“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 (NHAA), 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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