

For more information:
Wm. David Kosick
(724) 745-8601 x206

For Immediate Release

Pittsburgh Viper Stars to Skate in NAPHL for 2011-12 Season

Pittsburgh, PA – The North American Prospects Hockey League (NAPHL), an affiliate of the North American Hockey League (NAHL), has announced that the Pittsburgh Viper Stars AAA Tier I amateur hockey club is one of the 19 programs (48 total teams) from across the United States that will participate in NAPHL play for the 2011-2012 season.

The Viper Stars will field teams in each of the league's three divisions of play for the 2011-2012 season: Midget Major U18 (players born between 1993 – 1996), Midget Minor U16 (players born between 1995 – 1996) and Bantam U14 (players born between 1997 – 1998).

The Viper Stars fielded Midget Major U18 and Midget Minor U16 teams in the NAPHL during the 2010-2011 season.

Beginning its third season in 2011-12, the NAPHL has already established itself as the premier amateur 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.

Sanctioned by USA Hockey, the NAPHL utilizes the USA Hockey Officiating Development Program and is designed to maximize the exposure of all the Midget and Bantam participants through the NAHL's high-profile recruiting events, attracting hundreds of college, junior and professional scouts.

"We are very excited to return to the NAPHL for the 2011-2012 season," offered 18U AAA Pittsburgh Viper Stars head coach Dave Kosick.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for the top players from the tri-state area to increase their exposure to junior, collegiate and professional opportunities tenfold, without having to leave Pittsburgh to play hockey," he continued.

Celebrating its 36th anniversary, the NAHL, uses its extensive marketing and media reach to promote the NAPHL programs and players. All league games are broadcast live on the NAPHL league partner Fast Hockey website and player statistics are updated live through league partner Point Streak.

– More –

The NAPHL will open the 2011-2012 season with the North American Hockey League Future Prospects Tournament, held in conjunction with the NAHL Showcase Tournament, Sept. 15 – 18, 2011 at the Schwan Super Rink in Blaine, MN.

Teams in the NAPHL for the 2011-2012 season, include:

Midget Major (U18) - California Titans; Carolina (NC) Jr. Hurricanes; Detroit (MI) Falcons; Lansing (MI) Capitals; New Jersey Jr. Titans; Oakland (MI) Jr. Grizzlies; Omaha (NE) AAA; Orange Co. (CA) Hockey Club; Phoenix (AZ) Firebirds; Pikes Peak (CO) Miners; Pittsburgh Vipers Stars; Pursuit of Excellence (Okagen Valley, Ont.); San Jose (CA) Jr. Sharks; St Louis (MO) Selects; Texas Tornado; TPH (TN) Thunder; Wenatchee (WA) Wild; and West Michigan Hounds (MI).

Midget Minor (U16)- California Titans; Carolina (NC) Jr. Hurricanes; Detroit (MI) Falcons; Lansing (MI) Capitals; Las Vegas (NV) Storm; New Jersey Jr. Titans; Oakland (MI) Jr. Grizzlies; Omaha (NE) AAA; Orange Co. (CA) Hockey Club; Phoenix (AZ) Firebirds; Pikes Peak (CO) Miners; Pittsburgh Vipers Stars; Pursuit of Excellence (Okagen Valley, Ont.); San Jose (CA) Jr. Sharks; St Louis (MO) Selects; Texas Tornado; TPH (TN) Thunder; and West Michigan Hounds (MI).

Bantam (U14)- Detroit (MI) Falcons; New Jersey Jr. Titans; Oakland (MI) Jr. Grizzlies; Orange Co. (CA) Hockey Club; Phoenix (AZ) Firebirds; Pittsburgh Vipers Stars; Pursuit of Excellence (Okagen Valley, Ont.); San Jose (CA) Jr. Sharks; St Louis (MO) Selects; Texas Tornado; and West Michigan Hounds (MI).

The Pittsburgh Viper Stars AAA program, the only member of the NAPHL in the Tri-State area (western Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia and eastern Ohio), have offered the region's top amateur ice hockey players an opportunity to showcase their skills on a national and international level over the past 27 years.

The Viper Stars 18U AAA team's final 2010-2011 season record (51 – 21 – 3 – 6) placed them second in the nation in wins. Also Included among the highlights from the past season were the signing of Alex Baskakov (Michigan Warriors), Robert Tritschler (Jansville Jets) and Brett Oldaker (Chicago Hitman) NAHL tenders for the 2011-2012 season.

Included among the highlights from the 2010-11 season, the Viper Stars 16U AAA team's final season record (53 – 19 – 6 – 6) placing them fourth in the nation in wins.

For more information on the Pittsburgh Viper Stars or tryout information, call the Viper hot-line at (724) 335-9005 or visit www.pittsburghvipers.com.