



PITTSBURGH VIPERS STARS

North Hills Amateur Hockey Association

Incorporated 1964

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For Immediate Release

Viper Stars Player, Matt White, Ranked by NHL's Central Scouting

Pittsburgh, PA – Matt White, center, a member of the 2009-2010 Pittsburgh Viper Stars 18U AAA Hockey Team, made the final rankings of skaters as released by the National Hockey League's Central Scouting as he was ranked #106 in the final report released by the NHL on Wednesday, April 7, 2010.

White, a 6'2", 195 lbs. center, who posted 78 points (36 goals and 42 assists) in 45 games, has verbally committed to the University of Vermont next season and is expected to formally sign in April.

"Playing with the Viper Stars gave me the chance to have Central Scouting evaluate my game," said White. "I wasn't sure what would happen after leaving the USHL, but I am glad to have made the final list and hope this will give me an opportunity to take my game to the highest level."

White, a senior at Peters Township High School, previously skated for the United States Hockey League's Des Moines Buccaneers, a Junior A level hockey team located in Urbandale, Iowa. He also skated for Peters Township High School team this past season. White was also a member of Team USA in the 2008 World Junior A Challenge. Team USA claimed the gold medal after a 7-1 victory over Canada West.

"I am so very proud of and happy for Matt," said Dave Kosick, Head Coach of the Pittsburgh Viper Stars. "Being ranked among the best of the best in North America, after not being on the list at the mid-term report, is quite an accomplishment."

"In terms of skills and raw ability, at this point in his career, Matt is certainly on the same level, if not ahead, of the Pittsburgh kids who have moved onto the NHL," Kosick added. "If he continues to work hard and refine his talents and skills ... the skies the limit."

White helped lead the Viper Stars 18U AAA team to a final season record of 42-27-7-1 during the 2009-10 season, placing them tied for sixth in the nation with wins.

The University of Vermont, coached by Kevin Sneddon, is a Division I school in the Hockey East conference. They finished the season 17-15-7 overall, 9-11-7 in Hockey East, and advanced to the NCAA's "Western Regional" where they were eliminated by the University of Wisconsin, 3-2. The Catamounts attained their highest-ever final ranking in 2008-09, finishing No. 3 in the USCHO.com/CBS College Sports Poll with a 22-12-5 overall record, and advancing to the NCAA's Frozen Four.

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In its 35th year of operation, NHL Central Scouting was established prior to the 1975-76 season as a service for the NHL member clubs. Today, along with the Director of Central Scouting E.J. McGuire, the department consists of staff at the NHL offices in Toronto, along with eight full time scouts, and fifteen part-time scouts throughout North America. The NHL employs the services of Goran Stubb and his staff of six scouts at European Scouting Services based in Finland. All twenty-nine scouts reporting for Central Scouting will combine to see approximately 3,000 games this season.

NHL Central Scouting Service provides leagues and team directories, schedules and rosters for dozens of leagues and tournaments in North America and Europe that have NHL prospects participating in them. A focus is placed on the CHL, U.S. College and US Junior leagues and as a result, the department provides NHL scouts a weekly injury update and player movements report for those leagues. Along with these reports, Central Scouting provides NHL teams with video footage of top prospects and two player ranking lists during the season. These lists are used by NHL clubs as a second opinion and as an aid in making their own prospect evaluations. Over the last few years Central Scouting has been inviting approximately 100 of the top prospects from around the world to Toronto for Medical and Fitness testing. This event allows NHL teams to view these top players prior to the entry draft during medical and physical tests and gives them an opportunity for one on one interviews with the players.

The North Hills Amateur Hockey Association (NHAHA), western Pennsylvania's premier amateur ice hockey organization, has provided a memorable hockey experience to thousands of area youths since 1964. The organization provides top instruction to boys and girls of all skill levels through its Pittsburgh Vipers and Pittsburgh Viper Stars programs. Devoted to promoting the growth of amateur ice hockey on a local and national level, NHAHA is a proud member of the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League, Great Lakes Hockey League and USA Hockey and offers competition at the Tier I & Tier II (AAA, AA, A and B) levels, as well as in-house program and the USA Hockey Initiation Program (for beginner hockey players).

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