



Contact Paula Krimsky
The Gunnery
99 Green Hill Road
Washington, CT 06793
(860) 868-7334, ext. 251

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UPDATE:

The Gunnery recently learned that Alex Vazzano '10 has been ranked 9th among the 30 goaltenders being watched by NHL Central Scouting in their midterm rankings. Five of the 30 goaltenders were from prep schools: Hotchkiss 7th, Belmont Hill 17th, Taft 25th, and Northfield-Mt. Herman 27th. The final CSB rankings come out in a few months.

The National Hockey League's Central Scouting Bureau recently identified The Gunnery's Alex Vazzano '10 and Michael Garlasco '09 as players to watch for the 2009 NHL Draft. Central Scouting graded Vazzano and Garlasco as C level prospects, a rating that denotes "a potential late round selection in the upcoming NHL Entry Draft." Highlander alums Pat Street '06 and John Vazzano '08 also found themselves on Central Scouting's radar heading into their respective senior years. The elder Vazzano currently plays with the Vermont Catamounts (Hockey East), while Street has become an All-League player at SUNY Fredonia (SUNYAC).

Alex Vazzano arrived at The Gunnery following a successful season at Fairfield Prep. The Trumbull, CT native in 2006 as a wide eyed freshman was excited to be part of a Division I program as a goaltender. He spent his first year adjusting to the league, and although he saw limited action, Vazzano made the most of practicing everyday with incredibly skilled teammates such as NHL draft pick Austin Smith '07 now at Colgate. As a sophomore, the athletic net minder saw even more time and made the most of it. The rising junior finished the season with a 7-2 record while registering an impressive 2.67 GAA and .912 save percentage. He entered his junior season in 2008 as the starter and is expected to see time in most of the games. More importantly, Alex stands as a solid student-athlete on The Gunnery's campus. He has been an Honor Roll student (most recently on the high honor roll), three-sport varsity athlete, Residential Advisor and a key component to the Red and Grey Tour Guide Program during his time in Washington, CT. NHL scouts tracked the 6'2" netminder through last season as well as subsequent summer tournaments such as the Beantown Classic, where Vazzano finished second of twelve goaltenders in all major statistical categories. He committed to Union College in August and plans to arrive there in September 2010 to begin his career as a college-level student-athlete. After learning of his recognition by the league, the rising junior commented, "The last six months have been amazing. I feel very fortunate. My Gunnery experience provides me the opportunity to play in front of top level scouts most every game with our competitive schedule. I also have to thank Gunnery goaltending coach Pete Whitney for his daily work. Although this accomplishment is humbling, I am most focused on our team and helping the guys achieve the best results possible."

Mike Garlasco set foot on The Gunnery's campus in September 2007 ready to build on an already impressive past. Garlasco attended Don Bosco Prep in New Jersey while playing with the New Jersey Devils Youth Program. He served as an integral component of the Devils' team which finished 2nd and 4th in the country during the 2006 and 2007 seasons. Known for his speed, competitiveness, and uncanny touch around the net, Garlasco turned heads this past summer after finding success during his first season at The Gunnery. The rising senior finished the 2007-2008 season with 23 (9g, 14a) points in 25 games. Upon learning of his achievement, Garlasco said "This is a great honor, and I hope that it can

serve to springboard my game to another level. My first year at The Gunnery playing prep school hockey forced me to play at a higher level. The competition was higher than ever, and the need to be great everyday was something that made me a better player.”

The Gunnery’s community congratulates Mike and Alex on their accomplishment and looks forward to continued success in the classroom, community, and on the ice.