

WICHITA JUNIOR THUNDER PRESS RELEASE

WICHITA JUNIOR THUNDER HOCKEY CLUB

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Two More Junior Thunder Players To Attend College

(July 26th, 2017) - The Wichita Junior Thunder would like to congratulate Tyler Crites and Alec Risser on their commitment to play college hockey.

The Wichita Junior Thunder now have 7 players from last years championship team attending college this fall. Zach Balodis (Lebanon Valley NCAA III), David Good (New England College NCAA III), Adam Conkling (Trine University NCAA III), Jack McClelland (Acadia University Canadian University), Alex Smith (Missouri State ACHA D I), Tyler Crites (Robert Morris University ACHA D II) and Alec Risser (Missouri State ACHA D III)



Tyler Crites was acquired at the trade line during the 2015-16 season and made an immediate impact on the Junior Thunder blue line. “Although Crites registered just one assist in 9 regular season games and 4 play-off games, he was a great addition to our team late in 2015, we lost Zach Balodis to the NAHL and big Tom Lindstrom went back home to Sweden in November so we needed some help on the back end. Tyler stepped right in and did a fantastic job for us as a shut down defenseman, at our end of the year meetings I let him know if he came back he would be one of our captains and would be a major factor in us winning the cup. His commitment to that role was second to none, each night facing the other teams top forwards, Crites did a great job, he was also a major part of our penalty kill”, commented coach Weingartner. Last season Tyler finished with 4 goals and 15 assists while racking up 74 penalty minutes, he also scored one goal and added 3 assists during the Thorne Cup Finals. Tyler will be attending Robert Morris University in Illinois, playing for the ACHA DII team (Team Maroon) this fall. RMU open their season against the University of Michigan September 30th.

<http://www.rmueagles.com/schedule/0/34.php>

Alec played in 44 games for the Junior Thunder over the last two years and played one game during the 2014-15 season. Risser didn't manage a goal over that span, but added 2 assists and 12 penalty minutes. Prior to joining the Junior Thunder, Risser suited up in 46 games for the Wichita Warriors in the Mid American High School Hockey League notching 12 goals and 12 assists for 24 points and 10 penalty minutes over a two year span. Alec is slated for the ACHA DIII program in hopes of joining former teammate and roommate, Alex Smith, at Missouri State on the DI team. “Alec has improved a lot over the past couple years, both as a player and as a young man. Although he didn't see as much ice time as he would have liked, he made the best of his opportunities and was a great example of a team player”, commented coach Weingartner. Missouri State opens up their season this weekend versus the University of Nebraska in Springfield.

<http://missouristatehockey.com/msu-d1/>

