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Former Elite League Defenseman Thomas Fallen Commits to Yale

2009 Armstrong Grad Will Join No. 1 Ranked Bulldogs for 2011-12 Season

January 21, 2011 – Defenseman Thomas Fallen of Plymouth, Minn has committed to Yale University and will join the Bulldog hockey program next season. The graduate of Robbinsdale Armstrong High School (Plymouth, Minn.) was a participant in the 2009 Upper Midwest High School Elite League and has played the past two seasons for the Cedar Rapids Roughriders of the United States Hockey League.

Fallen chose Yale after receiving offers from several Division I programs following his recent decision to step away from a verbal commitment to the United States Air Force Academy, made prior to beginning his senior season in high school.

The 5-foot-9, 170 pound defenseman serves as a captain on the Roughriders where he has tallied three goals and seven assists this season. In November, Fallen was one of 22 USHL players selected to represent the United States in the 2010 World Junior A Challenge in Penticton, British Columbia. He notched two assists in four games to help lead Team USA to the gold medal in a come-from-behind 6-4 victory against Team Canada.

An all-conference selection his senior year, Fallen finished as one of Armstrong's all-time leading blueliners and was named to its 40th Anniversary Team along with former Falcon defenders Jordan Leopold, Derek Peltier, Dennis Vaske, David Jensen and current Minnesota Wild Head Coach Todd Richards.

Yale is ranked #1 in both national hockey polls, sporting a 15-2-0 overall record, 10-1-0 in the East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC). They have only one other Minnesotan on their current roster, Bloomington native Nick Jaskowiak.