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LIGHTNING ACQUIRE THE RIGHTS TO DEFENSEMAN MICHAL SERSEN

TAMPA BAY SENDS FIFTH-ROUND DRAFT PICK IN 2009 TO PITTSBURGH

TAMPA BAY – The Tampa Bay Lightning have acquired the rights to defenseman Michal Sersen from the Pittsburgh Penguins today in exchange for a fifth-round selection in the 2009 NHL Entry Draft, executive vice president of hockey operations Brian Lawton announced.

Sersen, a 6-foot-1, 200-pound native of Gelnica, Slovakia, played in 54 games with HC Slovan Bratislava last season, recording nine goals and 18 points. He led all defensemen on the team in goals and was third in points. Sersen also played in 18 playoff games with HC Slovan as they won the Extraliga's championship. He recorded a goal and three points during the post season. He has played in 96 games with Bratislava during the previous two seasons, recorded 10 goals and 23 points.

Before returning to Slovakia, Sersen played his junior hockey in the QMJHL, playing in 175 games in three seasons with the Rimouski Oceanic and the Quebec Remparts. During that time he amassed 38 goals and 146 points with 180 penalty minutes. He had his best season with Quebec in 2005-06 when he recorded 22 goals and 79 points in 63 games. Sersen led all Rempart defensemen in goals and points while being tied for the lead in assists. He went on to be awarded the QMJHL Plus/Minus Award with a plus-56 rating and was named to the second all-star team and to the Memorial Cup All-Star team.

Sersen, 22, was originally drafted by Pittsburgh in the fifth round, 130th overall, at the 2004 NHL Entry Draft.

Michal Sersen's Career Statistics

Season	Team	League	Regular Season							Playoffs				
			GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	GP	G	A	P	PIM	
2002-03	HC Slovan	Slovakia	17	0	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	
	Slovakia	WC-U18	7	0	1	1	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	
2003-04	Rimouski	QMJHL	45	7	18	25	-	30	9	1	5	6	6	
2004-05	Rimouski	QMJHL	67	9	33	42	-	74	13	0	8	8	18	
2005-06	Quebec	QMJHL	63	22	57	79	-	76	23	3	18	21	36	
2006-07	HC Slovan	Slovakia	42	1	4	5	-	28	14	0	1	1	2	
2007-08	HC Slovan	Slovakia	54	9	9	18	-	58	18	1	2	3	6	

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