

ATTENTION

Before Opening Rules and Preparing Your Contest Entries,
Read **CAREFULLY** to be certain your entries qualify!!

Packaging Instructions:

Proper packaging of entries will help the contest judges, and Quierston will appreciate it, too.

- Each entry shall be enclosed in a separate manila file folder with the provided **Contest Entry Label** affixed to the front. Do **NOT** use paperclips. Use only labels provided with the contest rules. **The label should be fully completed.** Judges cannot read your entry when labels are stapled through the entire issue. **ENTRIES WITHOUT LABELS ATTACHED WILL BE ELIMINATED.**
- In categories that require the entry of three issues (such as General Excellence), the three issues count as ONE entry. Put all three issues in one manila folder and follow directions as outlined above. Do **NOT** staple all three issues together.
- Indicate the material you are entering by **clearly outlining** with a heavy felt-tipped pen.



DEADLINE AND FEES:

Friday, March 19, 2010

Make sure that you properly account for each entry and correctly calculate your entry fees.



**2009 Minnesota Associated Press
Sports Association
Contest Entry**

Name of Entrant (where appropriate):

Entry Title:

Date of Publication:

Name of Newspaper:

Category:

Division:

(Please print clearly or type- - Thanks!)

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2009 Sports Writing Contest

ELIGIBILITY

Material produced by a regular staff member of a Minnesota AP Association member newspaper and published in that newspaper during the **2009** calendar year is eligible. (Check the General Excellence and Design & Editing rules for specific dates for these entries.)

DEADLINE

Entries must be **postmarked no later than midnight March 19, 2010.**

Send Entries to:

The Associated Press

Attn: Quierston Shepherd

511 11th Ave. South, Suite 460

Minneapolis, MN 55415

DIVISIONS

There are two circulation divisions:

Division I Below 20,000

Division II 20,000 and up

A newspaper may enter a higher division, but all entries must go into that division.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented at the annual Minnesota AP Sports Editors' meeting on June 17, 2010; time and location to be determined.

- First-place winners receive plaques.
- Second- and third-place winners receive certificates.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

Each newspaper is permitted a maximum of three entries in each category except column writing. A newspaper may submit three columns from each of three columnists (or 9 total). Columnists will be judged on bodies of work rather than three separate columns; meaning that no columnist may win more than one award.

ENTRY FEES

Each newspaper submitting entries shall pay a \$40 entry fee, regardless of the number of entries.

ENTRY IDENTIFICATION

Each entry shall be enclosed in a separate manila file folder with the provided **Contest Entry Label** affixed to the front. Headlines, bylines, art, etc., need not be obliterated.

JUDGING

Entries will be mailed to an out-of-state newspaper not affiliated with Minnesota or North Dakota newspapers for judging. Judges shall select winners for three places when enough entries exist and the entries meet category criteria.

CATEGORIES

COLUMN: Any sports column published during the contest period.

Each newspaper may submit the work of up to three columnists.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING: A story or series of stories, on the same subject, going beneath the surface by one or more writers. Example: Reporter uncovers or obtains police and related documents proving football owner, at first believed accidentally drowned, was murdered. Story not based purely on quoted sources, but reporter's own initiative in obtaining proof.

SPOT NEWS STORY: A single story. Example: Source tells reporter "yesterday" that police believe football owner was murdered. This is a one-day story with basic facts.

FEATURE STORY: A story on the light or unusual side of sports. Also personality profile or focus, non-game story.

GAME STORY: Single articles only; no series; no sidebars.

ENTERPRISE: A story or series of stories on the same subject, dealing with trends, issues, original ideas, that shed new light on issues and personalities in the news. More than a feature but less than investigative work. Example: Reporter develops additional information supporting criminal source material on death and produces in-depth story on murder, impact, family struggle for control of team, etc. This develops an idea that is self-conceived rather than material emanating from a source.

SPECIAL SECTION: Any special section dealing with sports or recreation, such as a special supplement on the high school hockey tournament, a professional football season preview or a look-ahead to the hunting season.

DESIGN & EDITING: Judges will select as winners the entries which show the best overall layout and design. Entries **must include three dates from the following list**, plus one day of choice between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009. Non-complying entries will not be submitted for judging:

Monday, February 2

Friday, March 13

Sunday, September 13

Wednesday, October 7

Saturday, November 14

GENERAL EXCELLENCE -- Judges will examine the entire sports product - excellence of pictures, excellence of layout, play of stories. Entries **must include three dates from the following list**, plus one day of choice between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009. Non-complying entries will not be submitted for judging:

Thursday, March 19

Friday, July 31

Saturday, September 26

Tuesday, October 6

Sunday, November 1

2009 Sports Writing Contest Entry Form

Member: _____

Division (check one):

I _____ II _____

Number of entries per category

Column	_____
Investigative Reporting	_____
Spot News Story	_____
Feature Story	_____
Game Story	_____
Enterprise	_____
Special Section	_____
Design & Editing	_____
General Excellence	_____
Total number of entries	_____

Total Entry Fee Amount Due \$ 40.00 _____

Total Entry Fee Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Check here if payment will be sent separately

Contact Information

Please provide a name and email address of someone who can be contacted if questions arise.

Name

E-mail

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