

# ALABAMA SPORTS WRITERS ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

All members in good standing of the Alabama Sports Writers Association are eligible to compete in all categories.

1. No limit on number of entrants from same publication.
2. No limit on entries per category entrant.

All entries must have been published between **January 2, 2009** and **January 2, 2010**.

Deadline for submitting material is **March 12, 2010** (Absolutely No Exceptions).

Entry must be made to the Contest Chairman.

**\$8.00 per entry** must accompany each article to 1) defray costs of the competition, and 2) encourage selective entries.

All entries must be pasted on **8 1/2 x 11** sheets of white paper (except layout entries). **NO FOLDING!** Xerox copies are submitted at the risk of entrants, or internet copies may be submitted as long as all identifying marks are removed (see #2).

1. Use more than one sheet if necessary and clip or staple together.
2. All identifying marks should be removed (bylines, headlines, logos, folios, pictures, etc.) \*\*Not merely marked out with a pencil, but removed \*\*Subheads within the body of the story may remain.
3. Accompanied by a cover sheet listing category of entry, sportswriter's name and publication, date of publication and subject of entry (except layout).
4. Four pages for page layout should be clipped together, folded to quarter page size and accompanied by cover sheet. Headlines, logos, bylines, etc., may remain.

## **I. CATEGORIES**

**A. Best sports story, Writing on a Deadline** (must be published within 24 hours of event and written by an individual).

1. Involving professional or college event.
2. Involving prep or other amateur (except college) event.

**B. Best Column**

1. Entrant will be judged on 3 columns written in a seven-consecutive issue period of his or her choice and one At-Large Column.
2. Two (2) from a seven-day period, two (2) at large.

**C. Best story or series writing without a deadline (feature)**

1. On Football
2. On Basketball
3. On Baseball
4. On Track and Field or Cross Country
5. On Tennis
6. On Golf
7. On Swimming and Diving
8. On Wrestling and Boxing
9. On Auto Racing
10. Outdoors
11. General Sports (when there are fewer than three entries in categories C-1 through C-10 entries in category will be entered in C-11).

## **D. Special Category**

### **1. Best Enterprise Story**

Single article or series with only one entry per paper; entries should be predominantly the work of a sports writer or sports staff and written by a member or members of the sports department. By definition, enterprise stories focus on trends, issues or original ideas, and shed new light on issues and personalities in the news. They are more than a feature and less than an investigative piece.

### **2. Best Investigative Story**

Single article or series with only one entry per paper; entries should be predominantly the work of a sports writer or writers, and written by a member or members of the sports department.

Judging should be based on initiative; documentation, resourcefulness and original reporting in uncovering newsworthy and significant facts and details that might not have been reported. Investigative reporting relies on reporting the facts discovered and uncovered by the writer rather than reports from anonymous sources. True investigative reporting is rare.

## **E. Best story or series writing - Non Daily**

1. Best Column and/or Feature
2. Best Game Story

**PLEASE NOTE:** Judges of the ASWA contest are instructed by the Contest Chairman that entries in the Enterprise and Investigative categories should adhere strictly to the stated criteria. This means there may or may not be a winner in either category, but particularly the investigative category, in a particular year.

## **F. Sweepstakes Award (Herby Kirby Memorial Award)**

1. Best story from all categories above.

## **G. Headlines**

1. Four headlines with first six paragraphs of story submitted.

## **H. Best Sports Layout**

1. Each layout entry should be submitted in triplicate.
2. Layout entry dates can be any dates. All entries must include consecutive Saturday, Sunday and Monday papers plus one other of your choosing. Papers not having Sunday Edition should submit Saturday, Monday and Tuesday editions.

## **I. Best Supplement or Special Edition**

1. Four originals should be submitted.

## **II. JUDGING**

### **Contest Chairman**

1. Appointed by the president of Alabama Sports Writers Association
2. Makes contest information available to association members  
Charged with having entries judged
  - a. by another state's Sports Writers Association
  - b. by a school of journalism in another area

**Officers and Board members of Alabama Sports Writers Association to serve as standing committee on judging to resolve any protests or questions.**

## **III. AWARDS**

- A. To be made at summer meeting of Alabama Sports Writers Association.
- B. No winners will be announced prior to awards.

Contest Chairman to be charged with securing awards.

Make checks payable to:  
ASWA (\$8.00 per entry)

All entries should be mailed to:  
Chuck Gallina  
Auburn Athletic Complex  
P.O. Box 351  
Auburn, AL 36831-0351

Federal Express address:  
Chuck Gallina  
Auburn Media Relations  
392 South Donahue Drive  
Auburn, AL 36849  
334-844-9800