

2018-2019 Trivia Questions for Athletic Website

Question #1 (to be published August 22)

Which former or current athletic director has held that position at the same school for the longest period of time?

David Mergens is beginning a record 23rd year as athletic director at Humboldt this fall. He had shared the record with Jim Landis, Harding athletic director for 22 years (1950-1971).

Question #2 (to be published August 29)

When was the first ever football game involving a St. Paul Public School team played?

On Saturday, November 7, 1891, Central defeated Mpls. Central 38-0 in its first organized football game.

Question #3 (to be published September 5)

Who is the former or current varsity coach that has coached the same sport at the same school for the longest period of time?

Highland Park's boy's golf coach Gary Podas completed his 40th year of coaching last spring. In second place is Central's Wardell Warren, who has coached Central's wrestling team for 36 years.

Question #4 (to be published September 12)

Has there ever been a death directly related to playing in a St. Paul City Conference athletic event?

Tragically, there is one known instance where a player died from playing in a football game. David Johnson was a member of the 1912 Humboldt football squad. The day after a non-conference game with Stillwater on Friday, November 1, he took ill. He died the following Monday from blood poisoning. It was later determined that a nail in his football shoe had caused it. He was 18 years old.

Question #5 (to be published September 19)

What is the most lopsided loss ever in a non-conference football game involving a St. Paul Public School team?

On Friday, October 23, 1903, Mpls. North walloped Mechanic Arts 102-0. It wouldn't be until 1919 when Mechanic Arts would schedule another game with Mpls. North.

Question #6 (to be published September 26)

When was the first football game ever played at Central Stadium?

On September 27, 1939, Harding beat Central 25-0 in the first game held at Central Stadium. It was renamed Griffin Stadium in 1988 after long-time St. Paul Police Captain and football and basketball official James Griffin.

Question #7 (to be published Oct. 3)

During a previous football season, numerous non-conference games were cancelled. In what year did this occur and what was the reason?

In the fall of 1918, an influenza pandemic (also known as the Spanish Flu) occurred world-wide. Several Minnesota communities were affected causing cancelled games statewide, including with our conference teams.

Question #8 (to be published Oct. 10)

Which male or female cross-country runner has won the most individual championships at the annual Conference Meet?

Central's Sophie Hartshorn won the individual title five years in a row (from 1989-1993). Two-time defending champion Molly Moening from Highland Park still has four years of eligibility remaining and could tie or break the record.

Question #9 (to be published Oct. 17)

The Central boy's and girl's soccer teams won the city championship this fall with perfect undefeated records (no ties or losses) in the conference. How many times has this happened in the past?

Only three times have the same schools won the City Conference championship in the same year without so much as a tie or loss in conference play. In 1993, Cretin-Derham Hall and Central did it twice (2003, 2004).

Question #10 (to be published Oct. 24)

With the volleyball playoffs beginning this week, when, if ever, has a City Conference school won the state championship?

Twice St. Paul schools have won the state championship. Highland Park, after finishing runner-up in 1975 and 1976, won the title in 1977. Two years later, Johnson captured the state title.

Question #11 (to be published Oct. 31)

Which past or present conference football coach has the most overall career wins?

Ken Mauer, who coached at Humboldt and Harding from 1955-1989, won 176 games in his coaching career in St. Paul. The most wins by a current conference coach is Central's Scott Howell, who won his 100th career game in September.

Question #12 (to be published Nov. 7)

Has a city conference school ever been banned from playing sporting activities?

Prior to the start of conference play in 1917, Mechanic Arts had a football player that the other three conference schools disputed his eligibility. M.A. refused to drop the player so the other three schools chose not to play them. Mechanic Arts only played non-conference football games that season. It wasn't until the spring of 1918 that Mechanic Arts was allowed to once again participate in conference activities.

Question #13 (to be published Nov. 19)

With Johnson's recent success in the football playoffs, has there ever been a St. Paul Public School that won the state football title?

In 1973, in only the second year that there was a state tournament, Harding finished runner-up to Rochester John Marshall. That's the only time one of our schools appeared in a championship game.

Question #14 (to be published Nov. 26)

What stopped all conference schools from participating in sporting activities late in 1947?

From Monday, November 25 through Friday, December 27, a St. Paul teacher's strike did not allow practicing or the playing of games.

Question #15 (to be published Dec. 3)

Humboldt recently won the state championship at the PI Adapted Soccer tournament. It was the Hawks fourth PI title, matching the four they have won at the CI level. Have they ever won a state championship in any other sport?

In 1949, led by All-State center Jim Fritsche, Humboldt won the state championship in boys basketball. They would win a school-record 20 games that year.

Question #16 (to be published Dec. 10)

The St. Paul Public Schools had, at one time, two girls hockey co-op teams. What was the nickname of the team that existed for the shortest period of time?

For four years (2000-2003), the St. Paul Stars (consisting of girls mainly from Central and Highland Park) played and were members, along with the Blades, in the Tri-Metro Conference. They were dropped after the 2003 season because of insufficient numbers to field a team.

Question #17 (to be published Dec. 17)

Which sporting activity was played during the Depression that is no longer played?

Water polo was played by our conference schools from the late 1920's until the late 1930's. It was dropped as a sport for financial reasons and due to the dwindling number of participants.

Question #18 (to be published Dec. 24)

What was different about the Christmas holiday break in December of 1973?

In a move to save energy, the State High School League banned all practices and games during Christmas Vacation and ruled that any contests could not be made up.

Question #19 (to be published Dec. 31)

Excluding Arlington High School, which public high school in St. Paul was a member of the conference for the shortest amount of time? (Extra credit – what was their school nickname?)

In 1924, Marshall Junior High School was opened. Named after former governor William Marshall, it converted to a high school in the fall of 1937. Two years later, they began competing with the other high schools in St. Paul until the school ceased to exist as a senior high school in the spring of 1953. They were known as the "Greyhounds."

Question #20 (to be published Jan. 7)

What is the record for the most points scored by an individual in a conference boy's basketball game from a St. Paul Public School?

Humboldt's George Duncan, on January 28, 1910, scored a whopping 53 points in the Indians 84-6 drubbing of Cleveland. Cleveland High School would become Johnson the following year. On February 4, 1964, Monroe's Hank Riehm came within a basket of the record when he tallied 51 points in the Green Wave's 67-63 victory over Humboldt.

Question #21 (to be published Jan. 14)

Which St. Paul school's girl's basketball team holds the record for the most consecutive conference wins?

Central won 78 straight conference games from 2003-2010. Currently, Como Park has won 40 in a row (fourth longest streak ever in the conference).

Question #22 (to be published Jan. 21)

What is the record for the most goals scored in a conference hockey game by an individual from a St. Paul Public School?

On January 28, 1916, Mechanic Arts' Milton Bach scored ten goals in the Trainers 13-1 win over Johnson. Central's Willard Falk would duplicate that feat in a game, also against Johnson, on January 27, 1922 (a 13-2 win for the Minutemen).

Question #23 (to be published Jan. 28)

With the conference boys swim meet to be held this week, what are the two longest standing records and who is the individual that owns them?

During the 1984 season, Como Park's Mark Gronovsky set the record in the 200 freestyle (1:45.09) and a time of 4:42.46 in the 500 freestyle. After 34 years, those record times have not been beat.

Question #24 (to be published Feb. 4)

The conference gymnastics meet is Thursday. What is the highest All-Around score ever achieved at the Conference Meet and who holds the record?

Cretin-Derham Hall's Courtney Norman recorded an All-Around score of 37.825 at the 1998 Conference Meet.

Question #25 (to be published Feb. 11)

Which St. Paul school has won the most conference wrestling championships?

Johnson has 17 city championships in which they have won outright or tied. The next closest is Humboldt with 15 shared or outright championships.

Question #26 (to be published Feb. 18)

What did Harding boy's basketball player Jeff Reck accomplish in January and February of 2002?

Jeff made a conference record 62 consecutive free throws during nine straight games from January 8 through February 8. At that time, it was a state record. In 2008, it was eclipsed by LeSueur-Henderson's Tyler Schmidt with 72 straight from the charity stripe. Jeff's 62 straight remains the second longest ever in Minnesota.

Question #27 (to be published Feb. 25)

The annual State Wrestling Tournament is this week. How many City Conference wrestlers have won individual State Championships and who was the most recent?

Humboldt's Devon Bond captured the Class AA State Championship in 2009 at 130 lbs. He is one of eight St. Paul City Conference wrestlers that won state titles. For the complete list, visit our Archives: <https://saintpaulsports.org/archives/wstatechamps.html>

Question #28 (to be published Mar. 4)

What was unique about Johnson's hockey team that played in the 1946 State Tournament?

That Johnson team was the only state tournament team ever that did not have a senior on it's squad (11 juniors and one sophomore). They must have gained a lot of state tournament experience because the following year, they won the state title. For more State Hockey Tournament trivia, visit our sister website (Results, Records and Rarities of the State Hockey Tournaments): <https://rrr.hockey>

Question #29 (to be published Mar. 11)

Central has won four State Championships in girls basketball, something no other St. Paul School has accomplished even once. Which schools lost in the State Championship Games, thus preventing them from joining Central?

In 1981, Harding lost to Coon Rapids, 60-42. Highland Park would lose to St. Louis Park in 1986 by a 62-55 score. Lastly, Harding lost to Burnsville in overtime 59-54 in 1991.

Question #30 (to be published Mar. 18)

How many City Conference boys basketball teams have won a State Championship?

Six times our conference public high schools have claimed State Championships. Mechanic Arts won it in 1925 and duplicated that feat in 1930. Washington would win it all in 1943. In 1949, Humboldt was the state champ. Highland Park would win the 1999 AAA title. Most recently was in 2010 when Johnson capped an undefeated season (32-0), winning the Class AAA crown.

Question #31 (to be published Apr. 8)

Since its inception as a State Tournament in 1996, how many St. Paul schools have won the state championship in badminton?

In 18 of those 23 years, St. Paul has claimed the state crown. Johnson has done it nine times followed closely by Harding with eight. Central won it once. Since 2002, only St. Paul teams have won the state title!!

Question #32 (to be published Apr. 15)

Which male or female St. Paul City school golfer has won the most individual championships at the annual Conference Tournament?

Central senior Iyanna Hutchinson has been medalist at the past four City Tournaments, tying her with Highland Park's Blair Bonner with the most for a female golfer. Iyanna probably would have had five, but the City Tournament was rained out in 2016. She'll get her shot at number five on May 22 at Phalen. Como Park's Tom Fritts is the only male to have won four titles.

Question #33 (to be published Apr. 22)

Has there ever been a four-way tie for the City Championship in any conference sport?

In the spring of 1954, Johnson, Mechanic Arts, Washington and Wilson tied for the baseball title with identical 6-2 records in the conference. It's the only time in conference history that this has occurred.

Question #34 (to be published Apr. 29)

What is the lowest boy's golf score to ever win an individual city championship?

Harding's Gary Miler shot a 66 on the second day of the city tournament in 1966, allowing him to share medalist honors with Paul Schubring from Murray. Both tied with 36 hole totals of 142.

Question #35 (to be published May 6)

Which St. Paul school has won the most city titles in boy's tennis?

Central has won or tied for the title 37 times since tennis was first introduced in 1923. Harding and Highland Park are tied for second with 15 city championships each (Harding has won ten of the past eleven titles).

Question #36 (to be published May 13)

When is the last time a city softball team qualified for the state tournament?

In 2011, Johnson won the sectionals to make it to state, the fourth time the Governors played in the state tournament. They had previously played in the tournament in 1990, 2000 and 2005. Harding is the only other city school to play in the state softball tournament, having done so in 1980, 1985 and 1986. The Knights finished second in the state in 1980 and 1986.

Question #37 (to be published May 20)

What boy's track event record has not been broken at the City Meet in 63 years?

Central's Bob Blakley, Sr., threw the discus a record 172'3" in 1955. No one has ever beat this throw.

Question #38 (to be published May 27)

Here's our final trivia question of the year: Johnson golfer Stan Clasen gained state notoriety for doing what?

In 1928, he won the first MSHSL sponsored state golf tournament. There have been four other state individual champions: John DeYoung from Mechanic Arts in 1936; Central's Louis Lick did it in back-to-back years in 1940 and 1941; and in 1955, Jim Haxton from Central was medalist. By the way, Central has won four team championships at the state tournament, the only St. Paul school to achieve this honor.
