

# Over a century of high school hockey tradition

## The Birth of High School Hockey in Minneapolis

Around the turn of the century, Minneapolis schools were among the first high schools in the state to form a varsity team. By 1914, the Minneapolis High School conference formed.

**1950 – 1960**, The Alm Family (Gary, Larry, Rick, Mike, Tim & Tony) led Minneapolis South for a decade where each earned All-City honors for their play and appeared in the 1954, 1955 and 1957 State Tournaments.

**In 1980**, Minneapolis Roosevelt alum Mike Ramsey wins the "Miracle on Ice" gold medal at the Lake Placid Olympics.

**In 1995**, after Minnesota becomes the first state in the country to sanction girls hockey as a varsity sport, Minneapolis forms its first girls high school varsity team. Original member, 3x captain, 2x All-State Hockey, Minneapolis South's Gretchen Anderson Hansen goes on to play D1 hockey on the first womens' University of Wisconsin Badgers Hockey Team.

**In 1948**, Minneapolis West's Arnie Oss was All-City basketball, baseball, and football. Because hockey was not played by the Minneapolis schools during the war, Oss settled for basketball in the winter. Post high school, he became an All-American hockey player at Dartmouth and went on to lead the USA to a Silver Medal in the 1952 Olympics.

**In 1950 – 1955**, The Westby's (Dick, Jim & Jerry) led Minneapolis South to three State Tourney's ('50, '54, '55). Jim later plays for the 1964 Olympic team.

**In 1968**, Minneapolis Southwest's Jeff Rotsch becomes the first Minneapolis High School player to be drafted by the NHL. Rotsch would star for the Wisconsin Badgers and captain the 1975 USA Olympic Team.

**In 1990**, Minneapolis Edison's Joe Dziedzic is named "Mr. Hockey." Dziedzic goes on to star for the Gophers and play for the NHL (Penguins). Since 2012, Dziedzic has led the Minneapolis Boys High School hockey team as head coach.

**In 2020**, Minneapolis hosts the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Hockey Day Minnesota. Minneapolis Boys play against Warroad and Minneapolis Girls take on Academy of Holy Angels.

1900

**In 1936**, Minneapolis West's Phil Labatte becomes the first Minneapolis High School hockey alum to play on a USA Olympic team (Bronze Medal).

**In 1949 and 1950**, Minneapolis South's Gene Campbell led the Tigers to two State Tourney appearances. He would later go on to captain the 1956 Silver Medal USA Olympic Team.

1950

**In 1960**, Minneapolis Southwest alum Dick Meredith wins the Silver Medal (1956) and Gold Medal (1960) skating for the USA.

**In 1970**, Minneapolis wins the State Tournament against Edina in overtime with Brad Shelstad making one of the most meaningful saves in Minnesota hockey history.



**In 2005 – 2010**, Minneapolis consolidated its seven high schools to form cooperatives between the schools, first establishing two "East" & "West" teams and then one city-wide team to represent all of Minneapolis.

2000

**In 2022**, under head coach Joe Dziedzic's leadership, Minneapolis returns to the State Tournament after a 28 year hiatus.



*There is more hockey history to be made in Minneapolis*

**In 1938**, Minneapolis South's Cully Dahlstrom and Minneapolis North's Virgil Johnson are the first Minneapolis High School alums to win the Stanley Cup (Chicago Blackhawks).

**In 1954**, Minneapolis Central's Dick Burg is All-City for three years. He later goes on to be an All-American at the U of MN and played on several USA National Teams.

**In 1985**, Minneapolis Southwest's Tom Chorske becomes Minnesota's first "Mr. Hockey." He later goes on to star for the Gophers and wins the Stanley Cup (1995 New Jersey Devils).

**From 1946 – 2022 Minneapolis has made 38 State Tournament Appearances**

