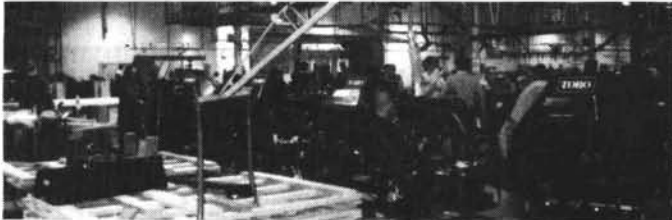


A Trip to Toro

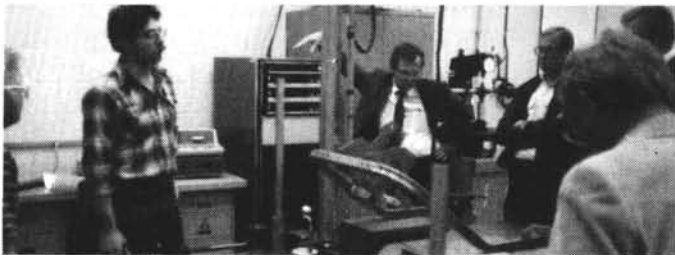
by Fred Opperman

In late April, I had the opportunity to tour the Toro plant and offices in Bloomington, MN. I was impressed with the overall commitment that Toro is taking to give us very well designed and tested pieces of equipment. The CAE, CAD, and CAM computers (computer aided engineering, design and machine) are being used to design our equipment. Everything from the simple bolt to a complex pump or frame can be simulated on this system. The parts can then even be stress tested on the computer screen to determine if there is any weakness or fault. The testing department and the parts warehouse were two other areas that really stood out and made an impression. Toro has just moved into a new parts building with 100,000 square feet of space and they have started a same day delivery if received by 3:00 P.M.

If you ever get a chance to tour one of the plants that make our turf equipment, don't pass it up for you will come away with an education.



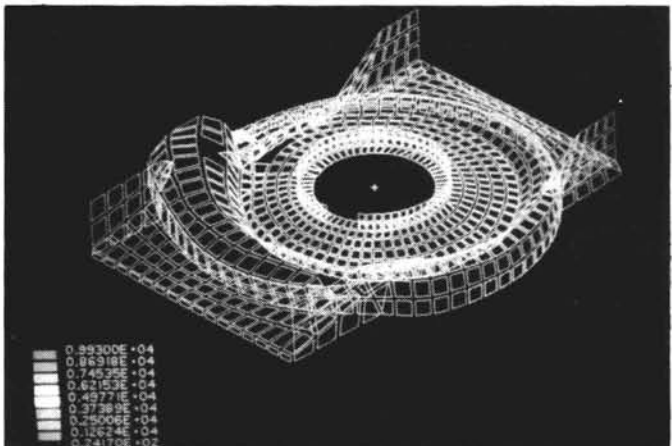
End of the assembly line for the Turf Pro 84



Part of a frame being tested for accuracy



Part of the 100,000 square feet of parts department



CAD/CAM Design on a screen

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