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by much. But I’m
surprised by
this fungicide.”

—Bob McIntosh—
Tourney Believer

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FUNGICIDE
Seeing is Believing®

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The Company Line

■ PRODUCTS & SERVICES



▲ Hose connection device

HoseTap, a new hose connection device that facilitates hand watering on golf courses, is now available from Underhill International. HoseTap can be used anywhere on a course where a Toro or Rain Bird electric valve-in-head sprinkler is installed and quick couplers or hose bibs are not available. Course crews can tap into an irrigation line by removing the Toro or Rain Bird sprinkler internal assembly and setting the HoseTap directly into the snap ring. *For more information, contact www.underhillinternational.net.*

► Herbicide

Syngenta Professional Products introduces Tenacity herbicide, which recently received registration from the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency for use on golf courses and sod farms. The selective pre- and post-emergence herbicide controls 46 broadleaf weeds and undesired grasses in several cool- and warm-season turf types. In addition to weed control in established turf, Tenacity can be applied at seeding to reduce weed competition for improved seedling development. Tenacity was granted reduced-risk status by the EPA due to its active ingredient, mesotrione, which has a favorable environmental profile. *For more information, contact www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com.*

► Insecticide

DuPont Professional Products offers Acelepryn insecticide, a new insecticide with a new class of chemistry and mode of action. It's the first insecticide in the new anthranilic diamide class of chemistry. Acelepryn is for control of white grubs and other key insects. It contains the new active ingredient DuPont Calteryx insecticide, and offers consistent performance, low application rates plus

► Blender option

Dakota Peat & Equipment has introduced a blender option for the 440 Turf



Tender that allows superintendents to blend materials on site. Featuring an 8-cubic-foot hopper and a 1.5-inch gate opening, the blender can mix a 90:10 topdressing mix or a variety of other materials including colored mixes with the sprayer option. The blender can mix at speeds as low as 1 ton per hour for small jobs or as high as 60 tons per hour for bigger jobs.

For more information, contact www.dakotapeat.com.

an excellent environmental profile, according to the company. Acelepryn is classified as a reduced-risk insecticide by the EPA.

For more information, contact www.dupont.com/ag.

► Fertilizer

Agrium Advanced Technologies is launching its first new product for the golf industry — XCU fertilizer. XCU combines polymer- and sulfur-coating technologies. A new dimension on polymer sulfur coating technology, XCU fertilizer delivers more nitrogen while adding durability and consistency, according to the company. It has 93 percent coated slow-release nitrogen.

For more information, contact www.agriumat.com.

► Water-dispersible fungicide

A new water dispersible granule formulation containing the active ingredient triticonazole, called Chipco Triton 70 WDG fungicide, is now registered for disease control, Bayer Environmental Science recently announced. The new product provides broad-spectrum, systemic, residual disease control of key turf diseases, such as anthracnose, brown patch and dollar spot. Triticonazole is a sterol biosynthesis inhibitor from the demethylation inhibitor (DMI) class of chemistry. As its mode of action, triticonazole disrupts membrane function and disease growth.

For more information, contact www.backedbybayer.com.

► Fertilizer with bifenthrin

Lebanon Turf has added 16-0-8 43 percent MESA, .069 percent bifenthrin to its product line. Bifenthrin is labeled to control chinchbugs and other surface-feeding insects. The company says its MESA nitrogen gives quick response and consistent, brilliant color. The product is ideal where zero phosphorus is desired, Lebanon says.

For more information, contact www.lebturf.com.

► Fungicide for pythium

Valent Professional Products offers Stellar fungicide for pythium disease control. Stellar combines propamocarb with fluopicolide, a new active ingredient, for even more powerful pythium control. The dual active ingredients in Stellar also allow superintendents to use one product to control pythium.

For more information, contact www.valent.com.

► Controller

Rain Bird offers the MI Series Mobile Controller for monitoring and controlling irrigation systems. Unlike radio-based remote controls, the MI Series Mobile Controller's range of usefulness is not limited by radio frequencies licensed for use only on the golf course. Instead, the MI Series Mobile Controller utilizes the Internet over cellular networks, allowing superintendents the freedom to control and monitor the systems.

For more information, contact www.rainbird.com.



▲ Mowers

John Deere's new line of PrecisionCut Fairway Mowers (including models 7500, 7700, 8500 and 8700) provide superintendents a precise cut and straight line, according to Deere. The double-acting steering cylinders equalize left and right pressure to hold a straight line. The patented adjustable hydraulic down pressure keeps cutting units in close contact with the turf. This line, redesigned from the ground up, provides a host of benefits based on customer requests, according to Deere.

For more information, contact www.deere.com.


Golfdom

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opening day

I should have been in Shakespeare class. Instead, I was parked in the sun in between my dear friends Mike and Paul. We swigged beer, gorged down hot dogs and cracked peanuts that afternoon in the Kaufman Stadium bleachers.

My beloved and soon-to-be-really-bad Royals were battling the Oakland Athletics that April afternoon. Despite all-around superman George Brett in the lineup, the home team took it on the chin, 6-1.

While I would have preferred the win, it was the participation in opening day — granted, a home opener — that gave the day more magic than just another trip to the ballpark. From the slight chill in the air, the sea of blue jerseys and seeing Kaufman Stadium full of 39,428 folks, everything screamed community and fun.

There might be no better first day in all of sports. In 15 cities around the country, stadiums take in streams of fans who still believe there's a hope — no matter how remote — that in six months and 161 games their teams will be in the playoffs.

As a Royals fan, of course, that playoff drought has lasted almost 23 years now, with little relief in sight. However, that has never kept me from the ballpark; unfortunately, being a teacher makes it a little harder to play



hookey on opening day. As a kindred spirit, though, I always turn a blind eye toward the inevitable student absences on that afternoon.

There's nothing quite so distinctly American than the implicit promise of a first day. Nothing's gone wrong yet. The lines are still crisp, the field's manicured, the uniforms pressed, the bats not broken and the goat's horns not yet given. Of course, all of these things will be marred in the process of a season, but on that singular day, hope springs seemingly eternal.

It sprung eternal for Teddy Baseball Williams, the best hitter ever. He not only got a hit in every single opening day game, but batted a whopping .449 on first days.

It sprung eternal for Bob Feller, a man I once had the pleasure of meeting in Cooperstown, who twirled a no-hitter on opening day in 1940.

It sprung eternal for Hammerin' Hank, who tied Babe Ruth's home

NOTHING IMBUES THE PROMISE
OF A NEW DAY LIKE THE
BEGINNING OF A SEASON

BY MARK LUCE

run record on opening day in 1974. And, even more impressively, Aaron did it on the first pitch he saw.

But nothing speaks more to me than the correcting of baseball's biggest sin — the institutional racism that stained the game for its first 70 years. On the afternoon of April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers, and to me, simultaneously moved civil rights to the forefront of American consciousness.

Now, of course, the game has been rocked with the fallout from the steroid era, as the two most dominant players of the last 15 years — Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds — take on new reputations as fallen heroes. While those off-the-field exploits taste bitter, baseball will survive. And on opening day, that implicit promise will return — even for a Royals fan.

Mark Luce lives in Kansas City, Mo., where he still hasn't met George Brett.

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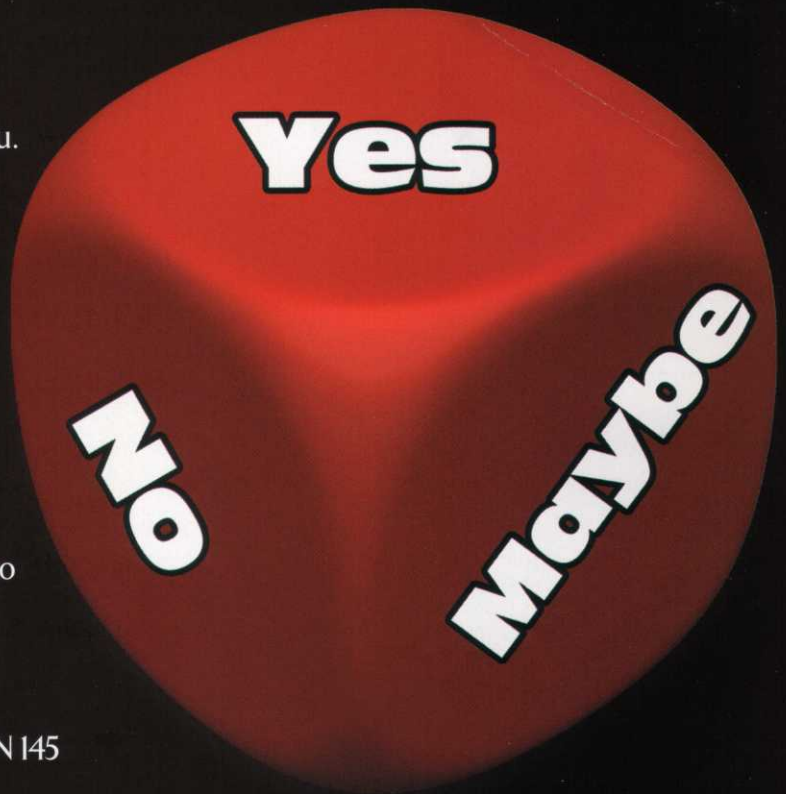


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