

clubs surveyed) and it does create a more pleasing, "tighter" lie surface which will survive stress periods quite well. One interesting fact extrapolated from the data was that the percentage of bentgrass increase did not change whether clippings were removed all season or just a portion of the season. No one yet knows if a bent increase can be realized on turf where clippings are not removed at all. Another key fact noted was that the bentgrass population increased considerably more on turf cut at 1/2" or under than that cut at over 1/2".

We're rather impressed with the results the program is showing and are sure there are several clubs in Minnesota who are candidates for the program. We might point out that if a club in the area decides to initiate the program, they might consider a year or two of experimentation and a comprehensive evaluation as to the "total" cost for these beautiful, "tight lie", bentgrass fairways. There are many unanswered questions about the program. It appears to be working very well in Ohio, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Illinois; but, will it work as well in Minnesota? Will we get as much bentgrass

increase in an area that nurtures Poa annua so well respectively? We'll have many more answers in a year from now, so stay tuned and best of luck in '83.

## THE VIKINGS' WINTER PARK

by

SAM MONSON  
 GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT  
 MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Winter Park, named for Max Winter, President, has been the new home of the Minnesota Vikings for the last three years. Included in the fifteen acre complex are the corporate headquarters and training center, 200' x 200' covered artificial field, two full turf football fields, and a maintenance building. The work I handle would be all grounds upkeep, the air structure, and the mechanical portion of the headquarters. The fields being the primary concern at Winter Park, we had some help to start them correctly.

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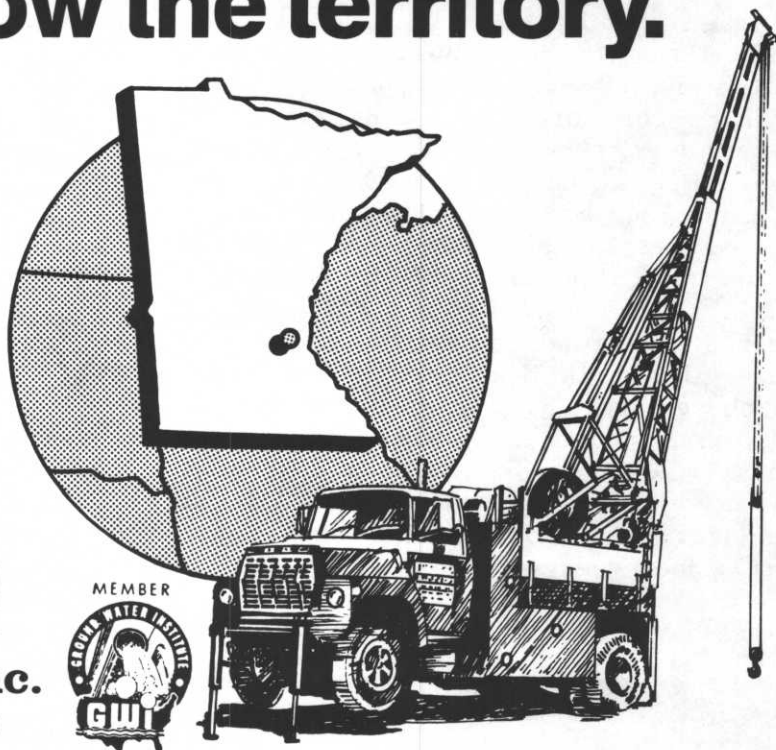
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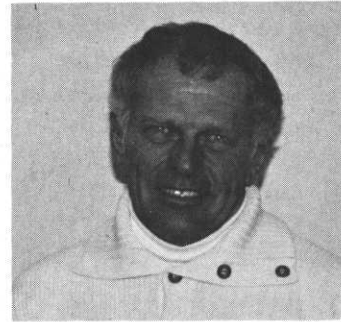


The two football fields were formulated for us by Dr. White and Dr. Blake upon a soil mixture of 92% sand and 8% peat. The seed we use is Athletic Pro Mix with Delray substituted for NK200 which is watered by an automatic irrigation system and mowed with a reel mower at 1 1/2" height. As for feeding the turf we use a slow release nitrogen firm at 9 lbs./exr/1000 sq. ft. with once a month application of potassium at 1 lb/1000 sq. ft. rate. We have had a high P.H. problem (which is monitored by soil tests once a month) that has been controlled by sulfur applications every four weeks. We have two major fungus problems being pythium rust. We are on a preventative program for pythium. Rust is sprayed as needed. If other disease problems come up, we spray as needed. So far no herbicides have been needed to control weeds because it has been done by hand. In the fall the two fields are lined and numbered with white paint upon need or every week. Along with the fields the air structure is inflated in the spring. Maintaining the bubble includes glueing the carpet and vaccuuming after each use. There also have been times when the bubble has to be hand sewn to repair tears. The one big job in the fall is removing snow from the fields with a bobcat or sweeper. Also snow has to be removed by hand from around the bubble base. The remaining grounds also call for care.

Around the main building we mow with a 21" two cycle mower for appearance. The remaining turf area is mowed with a 52" rotary mower. We fertilize those areas three times a year at 1 lb/1000 sq. ft. The plant beds are sprayed as needed with roundup. We also have 1200 bulbs planted for spring color and add perennials and annuals to the beds for color. The staff receives cut roses from two dozen rose bushes placed in a couple of the beds. The above area has it's own automatic irrigation system to cover it from low rainfall. When the rain turns to snow I also have one other important job to watch for. That being sure that Coach Grant's deer feeder is well stocked.



## EDITOR'S CORNER



by

BOOTS FULLER  
EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN - M.G.C.S.A.

As I sit here pondering my thoughts, it becomes relatively easy to really get discouraged about this weather. From all indications, it would appear that we are probably looking at our latest opening date in recent memory at Mankato. Those of you who were in Mankato on Monday, April 11 would agree that the weather was nothing short of spectacular, but our course was so water-logged that there was no way we could play golf.

In the days immediately following that nice day, we have seen much more rain, some snow, and generally miserable conditions so that even thoughts of opening here seem quite remote. I surely hope other parts of the M.G.C.S.A. area are having better luck than South Cenral Minnesota. We are now beginning to have some hope that everything will dry out enough so that we can get in some golf at Sundance on May 9. I wished Gary Peterson good luck on having the opportunity to host our first golf outing of the season. Today I'm not so sure he'll get that opportunity. We'll continue to hope that the weather will break pretty soon.

I was really quite pleased with the entire program at Mankato on April 11. Over 100 people attended. Kaye Corporation and Tom Dawson had an excellent demonstration of the Ransomes Equipment, and Jim Koppen, the head chef at Mankato Golf Club, prepared an extraordinary luncheon which was enjoyed by all. In spite of the fact that golf was not possible on the course, several superintendents stayed and enjoyed the