



Meeting for a Sports Turf Summit in Beltsville, Md., were John Macik (left), Michael Latino, Elliot Roberts, Jack Murray, Fred Grau, John Macik, William Daniel, Kent Kurtz, Allan Shulder and Tim Bowyer.

It's A Two-Way Street

As the industry liason for STMA it is my job to communicate the value of STMA to industry manufacturers and distributors. Industry has listened with interest to STMA's requests for support and have responded with little hesitation.

However, communication is a two-way street. I think members of STMA should likewise listen to the requests of manufacturers and distributors. Industry's biggest concern is the frequent request by major professional and university teams for products and equipment in exchange for "exposure". They doubt the value of this "exposure" and are tired of being asked for free equipment and products.

Industry would prefer to support a central sports turf organization with funds and products for research: either research on maintenance techniques and construction specifications or research on the size and potential of the sports turf market.

We can't expect manufacturers to fully back STMA when individual sports facilities are out cutting their own deals.

The potential of STMA will be most quickly realized if manufacturer and distributor support is shared by all members through STMA.

We have much to do and will need a "large" amount of industry support. Please help STMA by encouraging your suppliers to get involved with and give to STMA, not just to your facility.

Bruce Shank, Executive Editor,
Weeds, Trees & Turf

Safe Playing Fields Main Topic At Sports Turf Summit

On April 23-24 STMA was well represented at a Sports Turf Summit meeting to discuss the growing concern of injuries related to sports field conditions. Converging on Beltsville, Md., where the USDA research facilities are headquartered, were a diverse group of individuals and interests. These individuals came together with a single purpose in mind, that of improving sports turf.

During the meeting John Macik, sports medicine coordinator for the National Football League Players Association, described the natural versus syn-

thetic turf injury rates that his organization has been concerned with for several years.

Also attending the meeting were Michael Latino, eastern sales manager for Ransomes Equipment Co.; Elliot Roberts, director, The Lawn Institute; Jack Murray, research agronomist, USDA; Fred Grau, chairman of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation; William Daniel, professor emeritus, Purdue University; Allan Shulder, executive director, Professional Grounds Management Society; Tim Bowyer, president, Southern Turf Nurseries; Tom Turner, University of Maryland; Don Waddington, Pennsylvania State University; and Kent Kurtz, executive secretary, Sports Turf Manager's Association.

Players Like Grass, Not Artificial Turf

The following is an article that appeared recently in the Kansas City Times, the morning line by Johnathan Rand.

The Missouri athletic department is examining the feasibility of replacing the grass surface of Faurot Field with artificial turf, which would put Missouri football on the same footing as all its Big Eight opponents. In the interest of conferencewide equality, here's a better idea—rip out the seven existing artificial surfaces and leave them for the garbagemen.

Artificial turf is basically indoor-outdoor carpet laid over asphalt. Why it's legal, much less popular, to play football on this surface is hard to understand. Players tackled on artificial turf get jarred twice—once by their opponent and once by the carpet, which does not give, as does grass.

The National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) found that over the first eight weeks of the 1984 regular season, injuries averaged 8.7 a game on artificial surfaces and 6.9 on