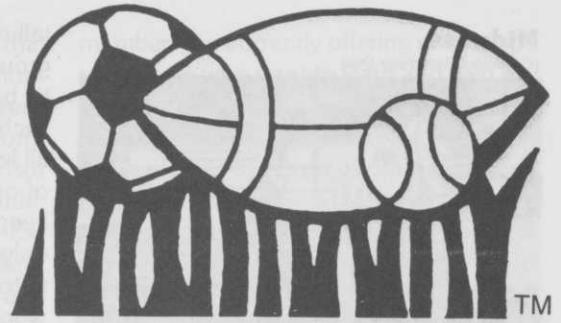


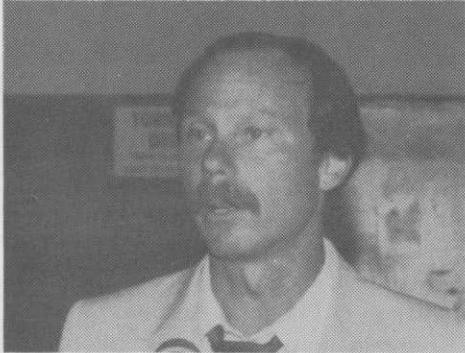
# Sports Turf Newsletter



FALL 1986

VOLUME II NUMBER 2

## From The President...



Steve Wightman, President, STMA

A lot is happening with STMA for 1986. The board has approved the services of a professional association consultant to review STMA and make recommendations on ways we can better serve our ever increasing membership.

The foundation of STMA is the free flow of pertinent information and ideas on sports turf management with the membership. With the tremendous interest that has evolved within the last year, not only with STMA but with the sports turf industry as a whole, the accomplishment of that original goal is even more paramount. With the help of a professional consultant we hope to better meet the needs of you, the member.

In addition to developing short and long range strategies for STMA, we are also putting the final touches on our regional

education seminar and trade show to be held in Chicago on Thursday, December 11, 1986 in conjunction with the Illinois Turf Foundation. Also, the sessions, tours, and arrangements for our national seminar in Phoenix on January 31, February 1 and 2 are well on the way, so be sure to keep these dates available and plan to attend this very informative conference.

**For details on the Phoenix Seminar, be sure to see:  
"PHOENIX FOR CONFERENCE"  
on Page Four.**

Also, STMA is offering two scholarships this year to two deserving student members pursuing a career in sports turf management. Although only the beginning, we feel STMA's scholarship program is an integral part of the Association's pledge to expand and promote those committed to the sports turf industry. It is our hope that their contributions will enhance the industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a hearty thank you to the STMA board for all their unselfish time and effort they so graciously have donated to the association. Particularly, Dr. Kent Kurtz and Bill Wrobel. Without a dedicated commitment from volunteers, it would be impossible for any association to survive. Thank you all!!!

Steve Wightman,  
President, STMA

## DUES WERE DUE

Your 1986-1987 Membership Dues were due on July 1st. Notices were mailed in June (our fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30). If you haven't paid your dues, there is still time but don't delay because we are getting ready to publish our new Directory soon!

## Midwest Sports Turf Institute A Success

The Midwest Sports Turf Institute held at the College of DuPage on June 26th was attended by Sports Turf Managers and commercial affiliates from a multi-state area. The event attracted over 300 conferees and speakers from Washington D.C., California, Florida, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota. More than 45 commercial companies were on hand to show products, equipment, supplies, and other useful items for sports fields.



Trade Show on College of DuPage Soccer Field.

Speakers covered a multitude of topics related to the construction and maintenance of sports turf and athletic facilities. According to George Rokosh, Director of Buildings and Grounds at the College of DuPage, "This event was long overdue in the Chicago area. People are hungry for information and help, we definitely will hold this conference here in June of 1987."\* The Institute was co-sponsored by the Business and Professional Institute at the College of DuPage and was coordinated by Susan Benson,

(Continued, Page 2 — Midwest)

\*George Rokosh was in charge of assigning space to the commercial exhibitors.

## Midwest

(Continued From Page One)



Kathy Copley (right), Editor, *Grounds Maintenance Magazine*, discusses Sports Turf with Harry Gill ("POPS"), Milwaukee Brewers, STMA founder and Director, at the Midwest Sports Turf Institute, College of DuPage, June, 1986.

Susan Glasgow and Nancy Thomas along with STMA Executive Secretary, Dr. Kent Kurtz, to put on this first time event in the Chicago area. A planning committee of area sports turf managers and commercial affiliates did much to contribute to the institute's success. James Mello, Agronomist, Nice 'N Green Plant Food Company, was instrumental in arranging for the commercial exhibitors and William Wrobel, Manager of Marketing, IMC, printed, distributed and mailed over 5,000 brochures to potential attendees.

Keynote speaker Roger Bossard, Head Groundskeeper, Chicago White Sox, who is a third generation Sports Turf Manager,

talked about his job as a professional grounds keeper and how important it is to belong to a professional organization such a STMA. According to Roger, "We all learn from the successes and mistakes of others. Time is past when a groundskeeper keeps his secrets to himself. The only way this profession will move forward is to share information and assist those who have not had the same opportunities as we have had. I joined STMA recently and think it's great, everyone should get involved because it's only as strong as those who make things happen."



Roger Bossard, Head Groundskeeper, Chicago White Sox, Comiskey Park

### When the Going Gets Tough, The Tough Get Going!

That's how we can describe commercial affiliate member William "Bill" Wrobel, marketing Director for International Minerals & Chemical Company (IMC). When things looked bleak for our Midwest Sports Turf Institute June 26th, along comes Bill. He had the conference brochure printed, gathered mailing labels from many groups and companies, and mailed 5,000 brochures to potential conferees in Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan and Illinois. Thanks also to Bill, the Early Bird brochure for our annual meeting in Phoenix is now in the hands of our membership.

### Pacific Sod A Diamond in the Rough

A belated hats off and thanks to STMA members John Culbertson and John Rector, who sponsored and hosted our hospitality room in February in San Francisco.

### Thanks to Lofts, Inc. and Gordon Bannerman Ltd.

STMA wants to thank the representatives from Lofts, Inc., and Gordon Bannerman, Ltd. for their financial assistance to sponsor the Coffee Break in San Francisco. Without the support and assistance of our commercial affiliates STMA would not be able to accomplish all of its goals. Thanks, Lofts and Bannerman.

*"All I want is less to do, more time to do it,  
and more pay for not getting it done."*

Annonymous, by a **NON-STMA Member**

## Beam Clay Company to Sponsor Baseball Grounds Keeper of the Year Award

James Kelsey, President of the Beam Clay Company and the Partac Peat Corporation (an STMA affiliate member), will sponsor an annual award to the sports turf manager who, in the eyes of his peers and colleagues, has the best and highest quality baseball facility.

The recipient of the award must be an STMA member who is active and who has paid his 1986-87 dues. Nominations and selection will be conducted by his peers. For the first year of the award, the STMA Board has excluded all professional stadium managers.

Eligible fields include Little League, youth baseball, high school, college, university and park facilities. The Award will be presented at the January 31, 1987 dinner held in conjunction with the annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

Nominations, a brief description of the facility, the sports turf manager's name and one or more color slides should be sent to the Awards Chariman:

Michael Schiller  
Awards Chairman  
1508 Palm Drive  
Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056

**Deadline for nominations is:  
November 30, 1986**

### Judging Criteria:

1. age of baseball field (year of installation)
2. geographic location (city and state)
3. operating budget for baseball field
4. total number of maintenance staff for baseball field
5. irrigation: none \_\_\_\_\_ manual \_\_\_\_\_ automatic \_\_\_\_\_
6. does baseball field have lighting for night games? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
7. number of events on baseball field per year
8. types and number of events on field other than baseball
9. how many months during the year is baseball field used?
10. Why do you think this field is the best baseball field of all?
11. include 1 color photo from high rear backstop facing center field.

## DOC'S DUGOUT



Dr. Kent Kurtz, Executive Secretary, STMA

Quite often many of us are asked the question, "What will STMA do for me?" or the other one, "What do I get for my membership dues?" Several times I have turned their question around and asked them what they are going to do for STMA! This retort parallels the timely statement by our late President, John F. Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country".

STMA is growing in stature, prominence and numbers each day and STMA directly or indirectly affects the lives of many people, both members and non-members alike. The regional seminars (on both the west coast and in the midwest) have been very well received. These have been dubbed "the traveling road show" by several people but none the less attendees are exposed to the very latest ideas, techniques and products and many speakers are successful STMA members. We have purposely kept registration costs, including lunch, very low so everyone can afford to attend these events. We have a reduced rate for STMA members and members are singled out by special name tags bearing a white and blue membership ribbon. For the first time schools, parks and other grounds management personnel are beginning to meet colleagues and peers at these events and are beginning to share ideas, problems and solutions. New friendships are blossoming and many institutions are beginning to share equipment.

The STMA membership dues are quite low compared to other organizations.

Sports Turf Manager's Association

However, it is common knowledge that dues alone will not carry an organization. STMA needs to share in the proceeds from trade shows, actively pursue commercial advertising and hold or sponsor special dinners or luncheons. Currently, no one in STMA, including your Executive Secretary, is paid a salary. Everyone is a non-paid volunteer and most of your officers and board members pay for their own expenses for executive meetings or in many instances their employers have been paying for these activities. When STMA became an independent association in the fall of 1984, we had only 60 members and only \$1600 in the bank. STMA membership is now 400 and we have begun to expand membership services. Financially we are stable but we have a long way to go in order to catch up with other professional organizations who have been operating for many more years. We will continue to grow within the means of our capabilities and will provide a positive, progressive and professional experience for our members.

Very soon all members who have paid their 1986-87 membership dues will receive a very attractive membership certificate. These personalized certificates are suitable for framing or can be mounted on a wall plaque. Currently members are eligible to receive, at no cost, all three of the cooperating sports turf related trade magazines, *Sports Turf*, *Grounds Maintenance*, and *Weeds, Trees, and Turf*. We are investigating the availability of both group and individual liability insurance. The STMA Board at its mid-year meeting in June established two scholarships which will be offered to student members on a competitive basis. STMA recognizes the need to encourage young people to catch the Sports Turf fever and pursue careers in this area of endeavor.

STMA would like to eventually initiate a consultation service which would be available to members. Thoughts are that we could utilize the talents of retired members, cooperative extension personnel and University Turf specialists, who would like to stay active and involved in this industry. We have been encouraged to begin compiling a set of suggested standards and specifications for the construction and maintenance of Sports Turf facilities. To accomplish this large undertaking we need everyone's input, cooperation and suggestions. Several STMA

members are currently offering internships to students who want to learn and gain experience in this career area.

A most unique and helpful gesture is being offered by some of our established professionals. A few STMA members are offering to allow young people and less experienced members the opportunity to participate, observe and learn the "how to" of proper techniques and cultural practices. The only requirement is that they sign a waiver of liability form. What a terrific step forward for our industry!

So what is STMA doing? A lot, but we can do even more if everyone works together. Let's encourage others to join STMA - that's your job!

## STMA BOARD Approves A Scholarship Program For Students

At its Midyear Board Meeting in June Officers and Directors established a Scholarship Award Program to provide financial assistance to students. Two \$250 Scholarship Awards will be awarded in Phoenix to two students who are pursuing careers as Sports Turf Managers. The first year, students who are STMA student members will be mailed scholarship forms this fall and the recipients will be selected by the Awards Committee chaired by Dale Sandin-STMA Director.

The Scholarship Awards will be named for two individuals who have contributed to Sports Turf, exemplified themselves and given of themselves in some special manner befitting of recognition. One Award will be called the *Harry Gill Award*, the other the *Jeff Wishard Award* (see story, page nine).

## HELPING BUILD A DREAM

by Samuel P. Newpher, Grounds Superintendent, Atlanta Braves Baseball

Any professional baseball grounds superintendent will tell you that the heart of his field is the infield. At the center of that infield is the most important seven yards of soil in the entire field, namely, the pitching mound. In my tenure as a Major League grounds superintendent, it has been my pleasure to visit and assist numerous college, high school, and Minor League field managers. Almost without exception, the pitching mound has been

(Continued — Dream — Page Four)

# PHOENIX FOR CONFERENCE

## STMA Annual Conference, Meeting & Trade Show

STMA's 2nd Annual Conference, Meeting and trade show will be held at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona, January 31, 1987. For the 2nd year STMA will be holding its annual meeting as an allied association with the Golf Course Association of America at their International Conference and Trade Show.

### Educational Sessions

The educational sessions will be held at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel Saturday January 31, 1987 (8:30-4:30pm). Sessions will feature information and ideas related to many types of sports turf facilities (baseball, football, soccer, softball, polo, horse race tracks, lawn bowling, lawn tennis, croquet, and others). There will be information on field safety, the economics of field construction, step-by-step construction techniques of baseball fields, specialized drainage systems, sports injuries, sports medicine, new ideas and techniques on maintenance and much more. (Early Bird registration forms are in the mail.)

### Annual Meeting and Elections

The annual meeting for all members will be held immediately following the educational sessions on Saturday, January 31, 1987 (4:45-5:30pm). All members are encouraged to participate in this meeting in order for the Association to remain strong and to help plan the Association's future. Elections of the Executive Board and Board of Directors will be held during this meeting.

### Dinner, Keynote Speaker and Awards Presentation

The annual dinner to raise funds for scholarships, education and research will be held Saturday, January 31, 1987 at 7:30 pm. A famous sports personality will be the keynote speaker at the dinner. The presentation of the Lawn Ranger Award to the sports turf manager who has made the greatest contribution to STMA and the Beam Clay Award to the best baseball facility and sports turf manager will be made. Scholarship Awards to the top two students who are pursuing careers as sports turf managers will also be presented.

# PHOENIX FOR CONFERENCE

## Sports Turf Tour

A bus tour to visit sports turf facilities in the Phoenix area will be held on Sunday, February 1, 1987 (8:30am-2:30pm). Tentative sites include the Fiesta Bowl Field and baseball complex at Arizona State University, The Milwaukee Brewers new spring training site at Chandler, a sod nursery, a municipal park and/or Turf Paradise Horse Race Track.

### Trade Show

The largest indoor turfgrass trade show will be held at the Phoenix Convention Center (adjacent to the Hyatt-Regency Hotel). Sports turf managers can visit the trade show on Sunday, February 1, 1987 (2:30-5:00pm) and Monday, February 2 (8:00am-1:00pm). The trade show will feature nearly 400 companies who sell or market products, supplies and equipment for all aspects of turf management.

### GSCAA's Annual Banquet and Show

The Golf Course Superintendent's Association sponsors their Annual Banquet and Show on Monday, January 2, 1987. Each year top personalities and entertainers are featured at this annual event. Robert Trent Jones, Sr., the renowned golf course architect, will receive the cherished "Old Tom Morris" Award.

### Special Airline Rates

Be sure to read the insert on page five regarding airline rates. As a member of STMA you can take advantage of the airline savings that are being offered to the members of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America.

### ACT NOW!

...to assure that you obtain reservations for this great opportunity.

For further information please contact:

Dr. Kent W. Kurtz,  
Executive Secretary STMA  
1458 North Euclid Avenue  
Ontario, California 91764  
(714) 984-4677 (714) 869-2176

## Dream

*(Continued From Page Three)*

a problem area for them. In one case, at an east Atlanta high school, I was questioned by a Player's father that the mound I helped build was too high with too much slope. After showing him the rule book, and going through the measurements step by step, the only thing he could say was, "My son has never pitched from a real pitching mound before."

I have spoken with Atlanta Braves Paul Snyder, Scouting Director; John Sain, Pitching Coach; and Jeff Porter, Assistant Athletic Trainer, and all are in agreement that rule book uniformity is a must for all pitching mounds. All three also agreed that pitching a baseball is a very unnatural physical act. Severe arm and shoulder injuries result if everything, including the mound, are not done correctly.

The cost to build a quality mound is less than \$200 and less than a day's labor for four people. The ongoing daily maintenance of two men is thirty to forty minutes work. Every coach and manager has a rule book. Every one of those books contains pitching mound specifications. When our children take the field for the 1987 baseball season, let's give them what they have needed for a long time: a rule book mound.

They all dream of a career in the Major Leagues. This is one way we all may be able to help them realize that dream.

### \*\*\*\*\* People in the News

**Sam Monson** — Facilities Manager for the Minnesota Vikings National Football League Club was selected by the NFL to prepare London's Wembley Stadium for the August 3rd exhibition game between the Chicago Bears and Dallas Cowboys. "London was a grand time. The job went very well and I believe I left a few friends behind." Congratulations Sam! STMA is reaching out to help everywhere.

**Tom Mascaro** — STMA Honorary member, Turf Consultant, innovator, inventor and sports turf pioneer has done it again. Early in his career he helped bring the aerifier, vertical mower, and good top-dressing material to our industry. Now he has the Verti-Groover! (See Picture, Page Six) This implement when pulled by a tractor will cut 3 vertical grooves into the soil and will allow for better soil drainage

*(Continued - People — Page Six)*

# DISCOUNTED AIRFARES AVAILABLE ON EASTERN AND UNITED

Eastern and United have joined with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to offer special airfares when you attend the 58th International Golf Course Conference and Show and Golf Championships in Phoenix and Tucson.

To obtain these special airfares simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Either you or your preferred travel agent may phone Eastern's or United's toll free number.
- 2) Immediately reference the special GCSAA account number of the specific airline you are calling.
- 3) You may purchase your tickets from your preferred travel agent or the airline will mail them to your home or office. Whichever means of ticketing you choose, the special GCSAA fares can only be obtained when the reservation is initiated by telephone through your special 800 number.

Call early for best availability. Fares are guaranteed at time of ticket purchase. Why not call today!

**STMA MEMBERS:** These discounts are also available to our membership!



**EASTERN**



**UNITED**

Call Toll Free:

**1-800-468-7022** (Continental U.S. & Canada)  
**1-800-282-0244** (Florida)

GCSAA Identification Account Number:

EZ-1P50

Reservation Hours:

9:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, EST  
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturday, EST

**EASTERN AIRLINES OFFERS YOU:**

50% off regular round-trip coach fares  
(All restrictions waived.)

Call Toll Free:

**1-800-521-4041** (48 Contiguous States)  
**1-800-722-5243** Ext. 6608 (Alaska, Hawaii)

GCSAA Identification Account Number:

7021H

Reservation Hours:

8:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. daily, EST

**UNITED AIRLINES OFFERS YOU:**

5% discount from *any* available/applicable fare  
(Ultra Savers included), or a 40% discount off standard coach fares (all restrictions waived).

**STMA to Sponsor A Sports Turf Session  
at the North Central Turfgrass Exposition  
at the O'Hare Exposition Center, Chicago Illinois  
Thursday, December 11, 1986**

**SPORTS TURF MANAGERS SESSION**

**Morning Session Moderator — William Wrobel, Marketing Manager, IMC**

- 9:30 - 9:50 Impact of the New Kid on the Block  
Dr. Kent Kurtz, Executive Secretary, STMA
- 9:50 - 10:10 Wetting Agents Can Provide Better Playing Surfaces  
Demie Powell, Aquatrols Corp. New Jersey
- 10:10 - 10:30 Aerification, Topdressing and Follow-up  
Maintenance for Field Safety  
Steve Wightman, President, STMA, Denver Mile High Stadium
- 10:30 - 10:45 Break
- 10:45 - 11:15 What Are the Options on Outdoor Sports Field Lighting?  
Charles Lindstrom, Chas. Lindstrom & Assoc.
- 11:15 - 11:45 No One In Sports Turf is Safe From Lawsuits  
Peter Murphy-Legal Counsel, Illinois P & R Assoc.
- 11:45 - 1:00 Exhibit Trade Show Visitation  
Concession Lunch

**Afternoon Session Moderator — Harry Gill, Milwaukee County Stadium**

- 1:00 - 1:30 Some Timely Tips and Techniques Toward Achieving  
A Good Ball Field  
Roger Bossard, Head Grounds Keeper, Chicago White Sox
- 1:30 - 2:00 Construction of a Championship Woman's Soft Ball Field  
Mark Hodnick, Treasurer, STMA, Cal. Poly. Grounds Director
- 2:00 - 2:15 Break
- 2:15 - 2:45 Options in Draining Sports Fields  
David Heiss, Pres. Turf Services, Inc.
- 2:45 - 3:15 Inventions, Innovations - So What's a Verti-Groover?  
Thomas Moscaro, Turf Consultant
- 3:15 - 4:15 Sports Turf Managers in Action  
Special Session Moderator - Dr. Herbert Portz-SIU  
David Davidson, Asst. Supt. Honenah H.S.  
Michael Hinnant, Dir. Bldgs. & Grounds, H.S. District 88  
John Burke, Ath. Fac. Dir., Univ. of Ill., Chicago, Ill.  
George Rokosh, Dri. Bldgs. & Grounds, College of DuPage

**For more information, contact:**

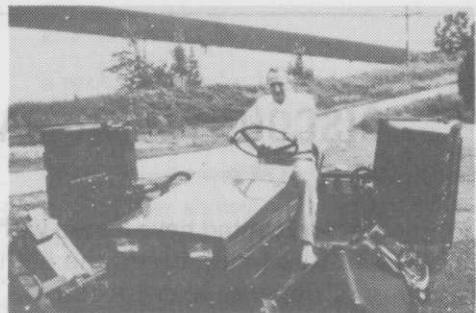
Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.  
435 North Michigan Avenue  
Suite 1717  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
(312) 644-0828

**People**

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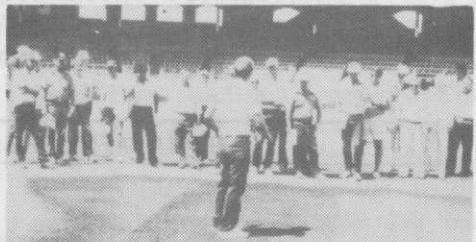
on turf areas including sports fields. Ransomes, Inc. will market the Verti-Groover.

**Rowland C. Lehman** — STMA Director (representing Commercial Affiliates), Vice President Ransomes, Inc., recently held a meeting for U.S. distributors and was involved in showing them the operation of equipment and safety features (see picture, third column).



Rowland "Dick" Lehman, Vice President-Ransome's, Inc. and STMA Director "Showing off" his mowing skills at a recent meeting for Ransome Distributors in Wisconsin.

**Roger Bossard** — new STMA member and head groundskeeper, Chicago White Sox, held a baseball field maintenance clinic at Comiskey Park in Chicago recently. Over 100 school, park, and sports turf managers attended this one-day clinic and came away more knowledgeable on proper infield techniques and practices. Great job Roger!



Roger Bossard explains baseball field maintenance techniques to 100 sports turf managers at a clinic co-sponsored by the Chicago White Sox and Turface.

**Harry Gill** - STMA Director and Director of Grounds, Milwaukee Brewers Ball Club, is a man of immense foresight. Last fall Harry hired David Heiss to install sand slits and collector drains at Milwaukee County Stadium. Recently a deluge of six inches of rain hit the Milwaukee area and the field became flooded because manholes could not handle the water. Also since the stadium is below the river height, water poured in across the parking lot and through the bleacher gates and onto the playing field. At its peak about 4 feet of water completely covered the field, filled up the dugouts, and reached the fourth row of seats in the grandstand area.

At 6:00am the next morning the water was gone, by 8:00am the tractors were on the field, by 8:30am they were mowing the grass and by noon they were dragging the infield and dust was visible. That evening they played the Chicago White Sox. Harry said, "I was really flabbergasted, I can't give you the words to say how well it worked. Only one's imagination could predict what would have occurred without this fantastic new system!"



Tom Mascaro, STMA Honorary member, watching his latest invention, the Verti-Groover, slice through a turf in Wisconsin.

# Welcome New STMA Members

(Add these to your directory)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS (1)

Roger Bossard, Head Groundskeeper  
Chicago White Sox, Comiskey Park  
324 West 35th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60616  
(312) 924-1000

Steven Misterek, Oper. Suprv.  
City of Bryan  
P. O. Box 1000  
Bryan, Texas 77805  
(409) 779-5622

Dick A Hahne, Track Superintendent  
Daytona International Speedway  
P. O. Drawer "S"  
Daytona Beach, Florida 32015  
(904) 254-6757

## SCHOOLS, PARKS, SPORTSFIELDS, CITIES, RACETRACKS (2)

Kenneth J. Mrock, Supt. of Golf Courses  
Chicago Park District  
3114 N. Menard  
Chicago, Illinois 60634  
(312) 237-4192

Randall S. White, Grounds Mtn.  
Sports Medicine Center  
c/o St. Francis Medical Center  
816 N. Maxwell Road  
Peoria, Illinois 61604  
(309) 655-3937

Warren Dallin, Foreman, Park & Recreation Dept.  
City of Millbrae  
477 Lincoln Circle  
Millbrae, California 94030  
(415) 697-7426

Orin R. Main, Supt. of Parks  
Alsip Park District  
12521 South Kostner  
Alsip, Illinois 60658  
(312) 389-1003

Peter H. Huber, Director Physical Plant  
Canterbury Downs, Minnesota Race Track, Inc.  
1100 Canterbury Road  
Shakopee, Minnesota 55379  
(612) 937-7779

Kenneth J. Worcester, Park Maint. Suprv.  
City of West Linn  
4175 Sussex Street  
West Linn, Oregon 97068  
(503) 656-6081

Steve Dutra, Park Maintenance Supervisor  
City of Yuba City  
1201 Civic Center Boulevard  
Yuba City, California 95991  
(916) 741-4650

Garth Miller, Asst. Athl. Dir.  
Fac. & Event Mgt.  
Northwestern University  
1501 Central Street  
Evanston, Illinois 60201  
(312) 491-7887

Carol Patterson, Manager of Custodial/  
Grounds Services  
Clackamas Community College  
19600 Molalla Ave.  
Oregon City, Oregon 97045  
(503) 657-8400, ext. 385

## COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY (2)

John Holland, Senior Fac. Supt.  
UCLA  
711 Circle Dr. South  
Los Angeles, California 90024  
(213) 825-7394

Douglas Overman, Lead Grounds Worker  
California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo, California 93407  
(805) 546-2857

Dean Kuykendall, Athletic Field Coordinator  
Lewis University  
Route 53  
Romeoville, Illinois 60441  
(815) 838-6500

Robert F. Moeller, Pres.  
Grounds Mgt. Consultants, Inc.  
6140 Red Coach Lane  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250  
(317) 576-0804

Allan Hawes, Mgr. Specialty Products Group  
Mobay Chemical Corp.,  
Agricultural Chemicals Division  
Box 4913  
Kansas City, Missouri 64120  
(816) 242-2000

Glen G. Krause, President  
Sportwerks  
1685 S.W. 139th Avenue  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005  
(503) 646-2789

## COMMERCIAL AFFILIATES (4)

M. Jill Loritz, Acct. Mgr.  
Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc.  
16450 S. 104th Avenue  
Orland Park, Illinois 60462  
(312) 349-8484

David B. Woodhead, Publisher  
Recreation, Sports & Leisure  
50 South 9th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402  
(612) 333-0420

Thomas C. Nelson, Pres.  
Nelson & Nelson Landscape Contractors, Inc.  
Box 907  
Beecher, Illinois 60401  
(312) 946-2133

Paul Stovall, Jr., General Manager  
Stovall & Company, Inc.  
1198 Howell Mill Road N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30318  
(404) 352-1555

## SECOND COMPANY MEMBERS (5)

Joseph F. Barney  
Warren's Turf Nursery, Inc.  
207 Orchard Avenue  
Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania 15012  
(412) 929-2111

Phil Einstein, Sales Rep.  
Mantek  
704 Vicksburg Place  
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338  
(404) 952-0228

Jerry Curtice, Marketing Manager  
Aquatrols Corp. of America  
P. O. Box 327  
Geneva, Illinois 60134  
(312) 232-8184

Clarke H. Staples, Field Sales Mgr.-Turf  
OMC Lincoln  
P. O. Box 82409  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501  
(402) 475-9581

## COMPLIMENTARY (8)

Jeff Wishard, Chair, Park Committee  
Village of Davis  
P. O. Box 174  
Davis, Illinois 61019  
(815) 865-5819

## NEW ADDRESSES FOR MEMBERS

Rick E. McQuillin (3)  
1730 Stonehaven Drive  
Boynton Beach, Florida 33436

Dale Ivan, Parks Supt. (2)  
County of Santa Cruz  
144 Pioneer Road  
Watsonville, California 95076

J. Michael Lang - Student (3)  
Cal Poly  
444 N. Amelia Ave.  
San Dimas, California 91773

Matthew Jankowski (2)  
P. O. Box 417  
Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

Michael J. Dozier, Grounds Suprv. (2)  
Saginaw Valley State College  
Saginaw, Michigan 48605

Kelly Newborn, Grounds (2)  
Glenbrook Senior High School  
2935 Meadowlark Lane  
Waukegan, Illinois 60087

Mark Van Hierden (2)  
3540 Brecken Ridge Ct. #9  
Madison, Wisconsin 53713

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# THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY JUSTICE\*

\* A more detailed account of the article, "One Wheelchair is Too Many," Weeds, Trees & Turf, September 1986  
by Dr. Kent Kurtz, Executive Secretary STMA

People are beginning to question whether that instant of glory, that thrill of performing in front of relatives, friends and neighbors, that satisfaction of running a few yards, making that desperation tackle, or scoring that touchdown, is really worth the risk of spending the rest of one's life a paraplegic or quadriplegic. Something must be done to curtail this senseless loss of young talent, the shattered dreams, and the ruined careers. One cannot fully realize the tragedy, anxiety and devastation that follow a football accident unless one experiences a catastrophic injury or knows someone who is permanently disabled.

A catastrophic injury is one in which the spinal cord is permanently disabled. When based upon player populations of 100,000, the incidence of catastrophic injuries is very small. For instance, in 1984, data indicate there were 1,575,000 participants in high school and college football, but only .38 were injured severely. Most spinal injuries are associated with either blocking or tackling and occur primarily to defensive players during regular games, and not as frequently, surprisingly, during practice sessions.

The author has a young friend who suffered a football field injury which has left him a quadriplegic. Jeff Wishard, age 26, lives in a small town in northwestern Illinois (Davis, Illinois, population 550) and is permanently confined to a wheelchair. Jeff's parents, Sandy and Ron, own an automotive body shop and gasoline station in Davis. Sandy also works for an optometrist in nearby Rockford, Illinois. Jeff's next oldest brother, Brian, works as a claim adjuster, middle brother Rick works with his father, and youngest brother, "Beaver", is a Junior in high school. The Wishard's exemplify the typical midwestern, hard-working middle class family who are very active in their community and well liked. The family was not prepared 11 years ago for the hospital bills, the special care required, the anxiety that followed or the weeks, months and years of learning to adjust and to accept a new kind of life.

## Tragedy Strikes

On a warm afternoon during the fall of 1975 (October 15th) the Dakota High Sports Turf Manager's Association

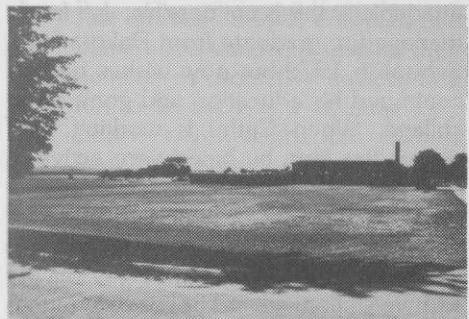
School frosh-soph football team was going through a normal practice session.\* Jeff vividly recalls that day, "We had just finished doing calisthenics on the practice field and our coach, Jeff Clark, was conducting what he called the 'hamburger drill'. This drill consisted of two blocking dummies and two football players-one offensive, one defensive. The defensive player would lie on his back facing the opposite direction from the offensive player. At the proper signal the offensive player would charge between the two dummies and try to avoid being tackled by the defensive player. As the defensive player I was supposed to jump up, turn around and tackle the offensive player. On my first attempt I slipped on the hard, bare soil surface and by the time I recovered, the offensive player had gotten past me. However, the coach made me do it over again. All I can remember from my second attempt is falling to the ground in severe pain and calling for the coach. I laid on my back while my helmet, socks and shoes were being removed. I knew something serious was wrong and I think the coach and team manager knew I had broken my neck. An ambulance was called when I showed no sensation to their running a pencil along the bottom of my feet."

"Periodically during the ambulance ride to the Freeport Hospital I woke up. I vaguely remember seeing my mother as I was wheeled into an emergency room. When I woke up again I was being transferred to Rockford Memorial Hospital. During the ride the shock must have subsided and I hurt real bad. When we arrived my father was waiting and I will never forget the shocked expression on his face; he was as white as a ghost. Soon afterward I learned that I had a broken neck, several fractured cervical vertebrae, and that I would probably be a quadriplegic the rest of my life."

"No one is really sure how the accident happened. One theory is that our helmets hit and that my head and helmet were jammed back into my neck. The other theory is that on impact my head may have been forced down into the ground. Perhaps if I had been wearing a styrofoam collar the injury could have been prevented. However, I do know that the practice field was in real poor condition. The field we used for practice was used

\* Dakota High School is a member of the Northwest Illinois Conference

for many activities other than football and was extremely hard. The only maintenance to the field was a weekly mowing. They never reseeded the field, or applied fertilizer, water or did anything to control the weeds. When the field was wet it was muddy. During the hot, dry weather in the fall the surface was hard and traction was very poor. It was comparable to the farmer's fields adjacent to the school. Why is it that people wait until someone gets hurt to fix a playing field?"



Dakota, Illinois High School football practice field where Jeff Wishard was injured in October 1975.

"I know that the football helmet I was using was old because it didn't have the air pockets on the inside of it. At Dakota High School the varsity football players get the first choice of helmets, then the junior varsity receive theirs, and finally the frosh-soph players get whatever helmets are left. By the time I received my helmet it was the only one left that would fit me."

"I can remember the weeks and months that followed my accident and how hard it was on my brothers, but for Mom and Dad things were extremely tough." Following Jeff's initial hospitalization, he returned to Rockford Memorial for numerous operations on his neck, back, hip, bladder, kidney and some plastic surgery. The one bright spot that came from this agonizing and traumatic situation occurred in 1978 when Jeff returned to Rockford Memorial for therapy and plastic surgery. He met a new registered nurse, Cathy Daugherty, who was working with rehabilitation patients. Jeff and Cathy fell in love and have been together ever since. Cathy still works at Rockford Memorial Hospital and commutes daily from their house in Davis.

Jeff and Cathy cannot get married because if they do he will lose all of his aid benefits. According to Jeff, this doesn't seem fair, but that's how the laws are written. Since Jeff receives only \$336 per

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month in the form of social security income, many times they are financially strapped with numerous bills. Two years ago when someone burned down Jeff's garage, he had to go to the bank to seek a loan to build a new garage. He used his electric wheel chair as collateral for the loan.

Before the football injury Jeff's dreams and plans were all centered around becoming a farmer or an automotive body specialist. But unfortunately for a quadriplegic this is not possible. Jeff finally managed to graduate from Dakota High School in 1978 but now wishes he had continued his education and gone on to college. When Cathy is working, Jeff passes the time by being very active in community activities. He serves as the Cub Scout master and the Webelo leader and also as an elected member of the Davis Village Board. He serves on the cemetery, finance and police committees and is chair of the Community Park Committee. His latest activity is learning to operate his new home computer.

### The Community and Friends Helped Us

"After my football accident the entire community helped us, people were very good to us. Many groups held benefits to assist my parents in raising enough money to build an addition to their house so they could properly care for me." Several groups in Rockford and Freeport, Illinois held benefits and auctions, a radio station participated as well as the Lakeside Bowling Alley at Lake Summerset. The bank in neighboring Rock City purchased a Minnesota Vikings jacket which was autographed by all the Viking players including Fran Tarkenton. Jeff received a game ball and an autographed football from the Chicago Bears during the 1975 season. Among the notable signatures on the autographed ball are the names Walter Payton and Jack Pardee. When Rockford's Boylan High School went downstate for the 1975 football playoffs, the entire team autographed a football and sent it to him in the hospital. Probably the most cherished and touching gesture for Jeff was the presentation of a Dakota High School letter jacket accompanied by an honorary membership for him in the high school's varsity club.

Following the accident Jeff's family was in contact with several attorneys who contemplated suing the school district but it was Jeff's wishes that they not subject the school to such an ordeal. However, litiga-



Dr. Kent Kurtz (left) and Jeff Wishard who is a quadriplegic following a football injury in 1975 at Dakota High School. Because of Jeff's courage, personality, continued effort to help others and his enthusiasm for life, STMA has named a scholarship in his honor - "The Jeff Wishard Award"

tion against the helmet manufacturer is not a dead issue and may still be possible.

### Epilogue

It is unfortunate but one does not hear about football related injuries until someone gets seriously injured and then the media picks up on the others. In the case of Jeff Wishard, his injury seemed to bring more parents out to the Dakota football games during the fall of 1975. It may have stimulated a sense of concern or awareness to assure them of their sons' welfare or to make sure the students were receiving adequate instruction in good, sound football fundamentals.

Ironically, the maintenance and care of football fields in the northwest Illinois Conference have not been significantly upgraded or improved since Jeff's injury in 1975. Inspection of the Dakota High School football practice and game fields by the author in the summer of 1986 reveals the same hard and compacted surfaces as described by Jeff. Numerous annual and perennial grassy and broadleaf weeds abound and the maintenance program is geared to a weekly mowing. Irrigation, fertilization, aerification, weed control and the introduction of the new turf-type grasses is non-existent at Dakota High School. Due to the poor quality turf and rough, compacted field surfaces minor injuries and some more serious (broken legs and arms, broken knuckles, knee injuries and twisted ankles) continue at Dakota and other conference schools.

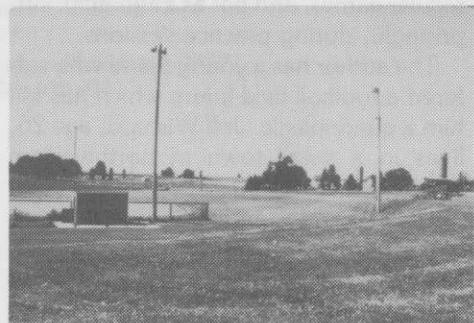
In 1976 (one year after Jeff Wishard was injured) a rule change went into effect which eliminated the head as a

primary and initial contact area for blocking and tackling.

In 1983 the Student Protection Trust Plan was initiated by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHA). This plan is sponsored by NFSHA and all member state high school associations (i.e. the Illinois State High School Association). The Student Protection Trust Plan is a liability and no fault plan which can be purchased by all member schools. In Illinois all high schools have this policy.

The Student Protection Trust Plan supplements the medical plans taken out by parents above and beyond \$25,000. The injured student athlete can only receive benefits if his parents agree not to sue the school for negligence. The plan will pay for excess medical bills (above \$25,000) and will help on a one-time basis to outfit a van and equip the house for a catastrophic victim. Also if the injured athlete is unable to work it will provide a lifetime wage loss of up to \$300 per week. However, if the parents do not waive the right to sue, the plan will provide the school with an additional \$1,000,000 liability package.

Unfortunately, the Student Protection Trust Plan is not retroactive and athletes like Jeff Wishard who were injured prior to 1983 can derive no benefits from this plan.



Dakota High School football field and combination softball facility. Dakota is located in a rural northwestern Illinois area.

### Where Can One Turn For Assistance in Dealing With Athletic Field Injuries?

Two national organizations have pledged their energies and are making a concerted effort to reduce the incidence of sports field related injuries. Both your Sports Turf Manager's Association (STMA) and the national Sports Turf Council (NSTC) are working hard to provide knowledge and education to improve athletic field conditions throughout the United States, Canada, and other countries where sports turf is important.

STMA is making overt efforts to reach

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personnel everywhere to become active STMA members. We need to join forces grounds supervisors and maintenance in combating unsafe athletic facilities by providing quality fields for the youth and athletes on every level of competition. It is STMA's far reaching goal to eventually have every elementary school, high school, 2-year and 4-year colleges, universities, park and municipal fields, professional stadiums and other allied facility managers join forces and energies to solve problems, learn more about new ideas and techniques and pool their efforts in further reducing severe athletic field related injuries in the community.

Efforts are underway for STMA to sponsor more one-day educational seminars, "hands on demonstrations" and mini-trade shows which have proven so valuable and successful in both Illinois and California. STMA plans to devote a portion of its annual conference which will be held at the Hyatt-Regency in Phoenix, Arizona January 31, 1987, to field safety problems and solutions (see related article). Everyone agrees that something must be done to curb athletic injuries but there are so many differing views and opinions on how to accomplish that feat.

STMA would like to learn more about the student protection trust plan initiated in 1983 by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Supposedly, this plan is intended to discourage lawsuits by providing lifetime financial coverage for catastrophically injured athletes. It is essential and long overdue for a mechanism to be created to assist and care for the severely injured athlete whether it's Jeff Wishard (high school) or Darryl Stingly (professional).

For quite some time equipment manufacturers have supported the establishment of a catastrophic injury foundation that would provide lifelong annuities for injured athletes. Several proposals have been discussed on ways to raise funds and channel money into such a foundation. One thought was to seek contributions from equipment manufacturers and another was to place a surcharge on athletic game tickets from high school level competition right up through the professional ranks. Such proposals have attracted some backing but generally the ideas have languished due to a lack of support and follow-through. The surcharge idea, which also might include a percentage of event parking revenue, might possibly be a means to raise funds to support research and education on field

safety advocated by STMA and NSTC. On the local level schools might place a surcharge on tickets and use the funds for improving their playing surfaces and for the purchase of seed, fertilizer and the proper equipment to maintain and care for a safe athletic field.

Your association, STMA, has long advocated that the simplest and easiest way to reduce injuries is to provide a well-turfed sports turf surface. A good quality natural grass sports field has a built in "forgiveness factor" which equates to a softer, more resilient safer surface. By selecting and using adapted turfgrass species, fertilizing correctly and often enough, providing adequate water for the turfgrass plant, mowing at frequent intervals and at the correct height, aerifying often, and topdressing to encourage deeper roots, a non-compact soil media and more resilient turfgrass cover will go a long way toward reducing sports related injuries.

### **What Has Been Done To Curb Injuries?**

Following a rash of serious injuries prior to 1975 and continuing through 1976, several major changes have been instituted through the cooperative efforts of the athletic community who were concerned with the safety of the participants. Mueller and Blythe<sup>3</sup> feel that catastrophic football injuries may never be completely eliminated but through on-going research the rules of football have changed, the equipment standards have been upgraded and the teaching of sound fundamental football techniques has improved. A united effort involving coaches, players, administrators, researchers, physicians, trainers and equipment manufacturers is required to identify the problems and then take the necessary preventative measures. Of prime importance is the disposition of old or worn football equipment which should either be properly renovated or discarded and not left for a player to risk serious injury.

On the positive side in the past few years there has been a reduction in permanent cervical cord injuries from football. According to Schneider<sup>1</sup> between the 1959 and 1963 seasons there were 30 serious cervical cord injuries while Torg<sup>2</sup> reported 99 between 1971 and 1975. In 1976 there were over 35 of these types of injuries; in 1979 there were 10, an average of 11.4 per year in the period from 1977 to 1983. However during the 1984 season only 6 permanent cervical injuries occurred.

Mueller and Schnindler<sup>4</sup> list some of the

changes that have been implemented within recent years to reduce the severity and frequency of catastrophic injuries:

- 1.) Football players are instructed to use the shoulder to block and tackle and to keep the head out of football.
- 2.) Athletes must be given the proper conditioning exercises so they will hold their heads firmly erect when making contact with their opponent.
- 3.) Coaches and officials have pledged to discourage players from using their heads as battering rams when blocking and tackling. The spearing rule has been closely enforced and players are taught to respect their helmets as protective devices and not to be used as a weapon.
- 4.) Coaches, physicians and trainers have been instructed to take special care to make sure the player's equipment is properly fitted, particularly the helmet.
- 5.) It is essential that a medical physician be present during games and practices or at least advanced arrangements must be made to obtain the immediate services of a physician should a problem or emergency arise.
- 6.) Coaches need to be prepared for a possible catastrophic head or neck injury and know how to handle such an emergency.
- 7.) If a player experiences or shows signs of head trauma he should receive immediate medical attention and should not be allowed to return to the practice or game without a medical release.

### **References:**

- <sup>1</sup> Schneider, R.C. 1973. *Head and Neck Injuries in Football*, William and Wilkins Company, Baltimore.
- <sup>2</sup> Torg, J.S., Trues, R., Quedenfeld, T.C. et al. 1979. *The National Football Head and Neck Injury Registry*. *JAMA* 241: 1477-1479.
- <sup>3</sup> Mueller, F.O. and C.S. Blyth. 1985. *Annual Survey of Catastrophic Football Injuries 1977 to 1984*. National Collegiate Athletic Association and American Coaches Association.
- <sup>4</sup> Mueller, F.O. and R.D. Schindler. 1985. *Annual Survey of Football Injury Research 1931 to 1984*. National Collegiate Athletic Association and American Coaches Association.

## STMA Directory Update

STMA is in the process of updating membership records to publish the new 1986-87 Membership Directory. Please fill out the information below, so we have the correct information.

FIRST NAME	INITIAL	LAST NAME
BUSINESS TITLE	BUSINESS NAME	
BUSINESS ADDRESS	CITY	STATE OR COUNTY
ZIP CODE/MAIL CODE	(      )	BUSINESS PHONE EXTENSION
HOME ADDRESS	CITY	STATE OR COUNTY
ZIP CODE/MAIL CODE	(      )	HOME PHONE

TYPE OF TURF MANAGED: \_\_\_\_\_

PRODUCTS MARKETED (IF COMMERCIAL CATEGORY): \_\_\_\_\_

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