

## Cal Poly's Fourth Annual Sports Turf Institute A Resounding Success

Almost 500 participants enjoyed the Fourth Annual Sports Turf Institute at Cal Poly, Pomona, March 24.

John Macik, sports medicine coordinator for the NFL Players Association, talked about the increase in injuries due to artificial turf. Since 1983, there has been a 20% increase in injuries due to artificial turf and twice as many injuries on the synthetics compared to natural grass. The need for research is essential and must be initiated on surface hardness.

Stephen Cockerham spoke on the need for sports turf research which is almost non-existent anywhere in the U.S. Every sports turf manager is liable if someone gets hurt on his/her field.

Somehow, we must find a way to fund the work that so desperately needs to be done. Both STMA and NSTC want to help but need the donations and funds to jointly begin a long term research effort.

Speakers like Sal Genito III, head of the grounds from Clovis High School near Fresno, shared his experiences on totally renovating a high school football field.

Donald Hunt, who left the Rose Bowl to assume new duties at the Rancho Simi Park District, spoke about proper sports field construction.

### Trade Show

Two of the most popular demonstrations at the Cal Poly Trade Show were the wear machine or traffic simulator and the radio controlled Kubota rotary mower (see photos).

The Brinkman traffic simulator or wear machine was developed at the University of California at Riverside through the guidance and expertise of Steve Cockerham and Dr's. Vic Gibeault and Matt Leonard.

Fifteen passes of the simulator over a natural grass turf is equivalent to a professional football game, 12

passes a college game and approximately eight for a high school game. The greater number of passes relates to the size and weight of the participants.

Approximately 50 commercial companies were represented at the trade show this year with products, materials, supplies and equipment for the sports turf manager.



New Kubota radio controlled rotary mower.



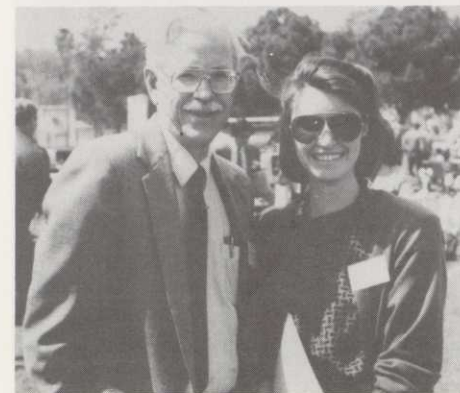
Dr. Matt Leonard, University of California Riverside, demonstrating wear tolerance traffic simulator.



Cal Poly Sports Turf Trade Show--Outside exhibits



Sal Genito III, presenting the Clovis High School renovation story.



New STMA secretary Constance Borg, with former Rose Bowl director Donald Hunt.