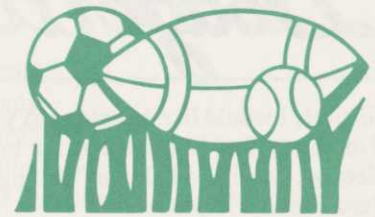


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# The Sports Turf Manager



June 1988

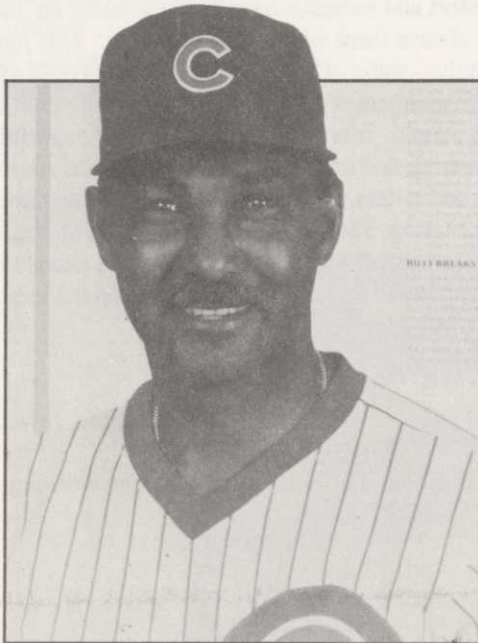
Volume IV Number 2

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## Catch The Summer Action

Conferences, Trade Shows, Field Demonstrations



*First Annual Eastern  
Sports Turf Institute*

*July 12*

*Holy Cross College  
Worcester, MA*



*Hall of Famer Billy Williams to speak at Glen Ellyn*

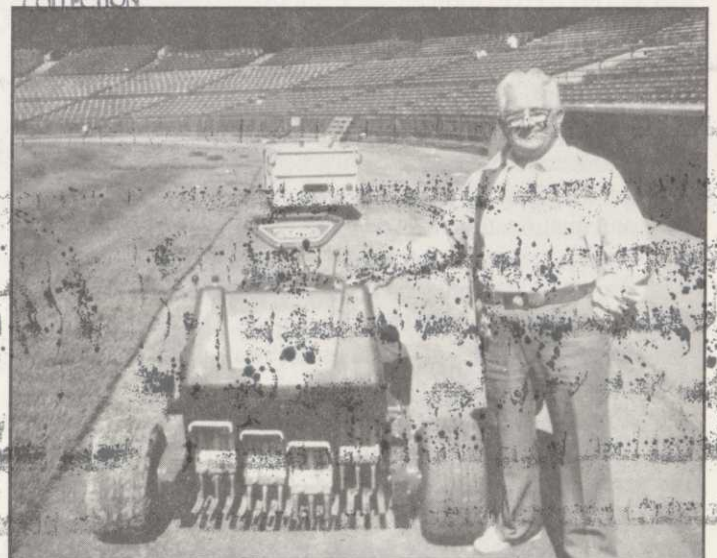
*Third Annual Midwest  
Sports Turf Institute*

*June 22*

*College of DuPage*

*Glen Ellyn, IL*

*(see inside for specifics)*



*The old Turf Master to speak at Worcester  
(Harry Gill-Milwaukee Brewers)*

# Dodgertown

At this time, I would like to extend to you and to anyone interested in Sports Turf Management, an invitation to STMA's Annual Meeting. It will be held this coming January at Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Florida.

This will be the first annual meeting which STMA sponsors alone, and will focus solely on sports turf and athletic facility management. STMA has come a long way in a relatively short span of time. The association started as a dream of Harry Gill and a few others, grew to 60 members and then mushroomed. Today STMA has over 700 members and is still growing at a phenomenal rate.

STMA stands for professional development through education. The annual meeting is one of the best means to expand your professional network and to take advantage of the opportunities to learn "what the other guy is doing." The program will offer educational sessions, social events, a trade show, and plenty of opportunities to exchange ideas and expand your knowledge of the sports turf profession.

It will be an honor to serve as president for our first "solo" meeting. I look forward to seeing you at Dodgertown in January, 1989 to learn together and to enjoy the sights and sounds of Florida.

More information will be available after August 15, 1988. Call Melissa at the STMA office (714) 981-9199 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (PDT).

## The Institute Of Groundsmanship

*From a talk presented by Christine Smith, Institute of Groundsmanship in England, at a STMA meeting in Houston, Texas.*

A small pub in the heart of the City of London was the birthplace of the Institute of Groundsmanship. Ten working groundsmen met and decided to form an association, each paying a pound subscription. The aims established then were:

- To give opportunity for training.
- To raise standards of sports ground maintenance.
- To bring groundsmen together.
- To improve the status of groundsmen and the profession.

Those aims are the base on which the largest Institute in the leisure and amenity sector in Britain was built—and is still building today—more than 50 years after that pub meeting. They are followed through a system of zones and branches, recognized examinations and qualifications and a monthly journal, *The Groundsman*. The Institute also offers an advisory service for members of the public and private sports grounds.

From that inauspicious beginning has grown the organization which each year runs the Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition, the largest turf show of its kind in the world. The exhibition was first held in 1938, the second in 1947. When we fill the Royal Windsor Racecourse with the latest technology available to today's turf technician in September, we will be celebrating its 50th anniversary year with the 43rd exhibition.

This annual event and *The Groundsman* finance the education side of our work, which helps keep groundsmen up to date with their education and hopefully, does so in an entertaining as well as an informative way. The journal celebrated its 40th anniversary last year.

Behind all this is one man, Mr. William Bowles, BEM, who was head groundsman at Eton College, Britain's premier private school, when he called that historic meeting. It was his vision that launched the Institute and he has been able to see it reach maturity. Mr. Bowles retired only a couple of years ago from the school and is still a working groundsman as adviser to the Guards Polo Club where members of the Royal Family are frequent players.

We salute the babes of STMA and hope that our shared aims will forge even stronger links between us.



Life is not easy for the person who goes through the motions of existence but never achieves anything. Those who are out on the firing line doing their best are the ones that others take pot shots at without thinking. Sports Turf Managers are the ones others are shooting at, so be ready. Many times people are never praised when they do a good job—it is only when something goes wrong that we hear from folks.

Have you ever noticed that there comes a time in everyone's life when it seems that one crisis leads or follows another. And when things really start looking bleak we develop a severe depression that becomes overwhelming. But suddenly out of the darkness a tiny light appears, a minute ray of hope which begins to brighten. And if you haven't already guessed it, the glow is coming from your real friends, the true, sincere light in your life. The comfort and radiance friends exude eases the pain because they are always there when you need them. This has happened to me lately—some of the most wonderful people and friends I know are members of STMA. STMA is more than a group of 700 plus people. It is comprised of many thoughtful, loving, helpful, caring and concerned individuals who are more like brothers and sisters. I hope your experience and impressions with your fellow STMA members is filled with the same compassion, wonderment and love. STMA needs this level of grandeur to make this sort of impression on the industry.

## College of DuPage June 22 Program

### Knowing the Basics

1. Knowing Your Grasses
2. What's That Weed?
3. Proper Construction Saves \$\$
4. Soil Preparation For A Successful Sports Turf Installation
5. Seeding: Mixtures, Blends, Or What Shall I Use?
6. Selection and Installation Of A Quality Sod

### Beyond the Basics

1. Pregermination of Seed Saves Time
2. Turfgrass Selection and New Cultivars
3. Irrigation For Sports Turf
4. Managing Sports Turf for the Athlete
5. Field Marking and Painting Isn't All That Difficult
6. Sports Turf Update: Natural Grass Is Back--Soldier Field

### Trade Show

### Field Demonstrations

### Fun

## Holy Cross College July 12 Program

### Basic Session

1. Knowing Your Grasses
2. Seed Mixtures, Blends
3. Proper Construction Saves \$\$
4. Selecting and Installing Sod
5. Fertilizer Needs and Formulations
6. Managing Your Sports Turf
7. Selecting Proper Equipment

### Advanced Session

1. What's New in Sports Turf
2. Turfgrass Selection and New Cultivars
3. By-Pass Drainage Systems
4. Sports Turf Irrigation
5. Construction of Softball Fields
6. Field Marking and Painting
7. Managing Sports Turf For The Athlete

### Trade Show

### Field Demonstrations

### Fun



Field demonstrations provide knowledge and "learn by doing" experience.

### DuPage Hotel Information

Holiday Inn/Glen Ellyn  
1250 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
312-629-6000, ext. 281  
Single \$55/night  
Double \$63/night

### Program Contact

Susan Glasgow or Nancy Thompson  
(312) 858-2880, ext. 2770, 2772

### Holy Cross Hotel Information

Marriott  
10 Lincoln Square  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(800) 228-9290  
Single \$106/night  
Double \$118/night  
Both hotels are about three minutes from the College of DuPage

### Program Contact

Jim Long  
(617) 793-3477

Sheraton Lincoln Inn  
50 Lincoln St.  
Worcester, MA 01605  
(617) 852-4000  
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Model I-42 High Speed and  
Model I-44 Sod Cup.

◀ Model I-40



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 Canada L6V 2L2  
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 (617) 648-7550

Lofts/Maryland  
 Beltsville, MD 20705  
 (301) 937-9292

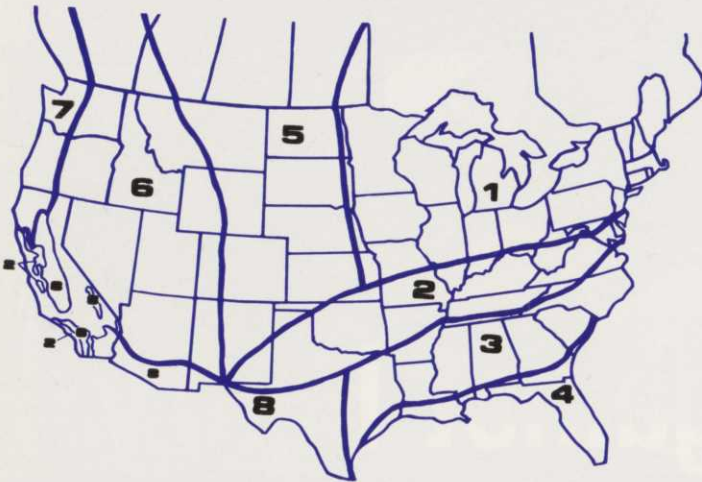
To locate the Lofts' distributor nearest you, call: (800) 526-3890 (Eastern US) • (800) 547-4063 (Western US)

\*Harper, J.C. et al, "Turf Management, Athletic-Field Conditions, and Injuries in High School Football," Progress Report 384. The Pennsylvania State University, College of Agriculture, University Park, PA 16802, December 1984.

# To improve your athletic field and help protect against injuries, seed with Palmer and Prelude Perennial Ryegrasses.

## A. New seedings, March-May and August-October, Zones 1, 2, 5, 6, 7.

- Step 1.** Be sure that the field has adequate drainage. Use subsoil drains and proper surface grading.
- Step 2.** Apply starter fertilizer and lime.
- Step 3.** For complete coverage, divide seed in half and apply in two directions. The seeding rate is 300 lbs./acre.
- Step 4.** With a piece of chain link fence, drag the field in several directions to spread the seed.
- Step 5.** Roll the field to insure seed to soil contact and to firm the seedbed.
- Step 6.** Lightly irrigate 3-4 times a day. Continue to maintain a damp surface, but avoid washouts.
- Step 7.** Cut grass only after it attains a height of 2 inches.



## B. Overseeding existing turf, March-May and August-October, Zones 1, 2, 5, 6, 7.

- Step 1.** Break up the soil surface using a verticut seeder or tractor drawn aerator. Drive this machinery over the field several times.
- Step 2.** Apply seed with a rotary or drop-type spreader. To avoid skips, divide the seed into halves and broadcast in two directions. The seeding rate is 200 lbs./acre.
- Step 3.** Spread seed by dragging the field in several directions using a piece of chain link fence. Use a roller to insure seed to soil contact.
- Step 4.** Irrigate lightly 3-4 times a day until the seed has germinated. Continue to maintain a damp surface after germination, reduce the frequency of watering. If irrigation is not possible, natural rainfall should germinate the seed within a couple of weeks. Without irrigation, establishment may take longer.

*An alternative to step 1, is to let the players help work the seed in for you. Seed applied to thin or worn-out areas prior to play will come in contact with the soil as a result of the action of the game. By applying seed in this way, you can continue to add new grass plants to the field while the field is in use.*

## C. Dormant seeding of existing turf, November-March, Zones 1, 5, 6, 7.

- Step 1.** If the ground is not frozen, break up the soil surface using a verticut seeder or tractor drawn aerator, and drive this machinery over the field several times.
- Step 2.** Apply seed with a rotary or drop-type spreader. Divide the seed into halves and broadcast in two directions to provide complete coverage. The seeding rate is 200 lbs./acre.
- Step 3.** Spread seed by dragging the field in several directions using a piece of chain link fence. Use a roller to firm the seedbed and increase seed to soil contact.

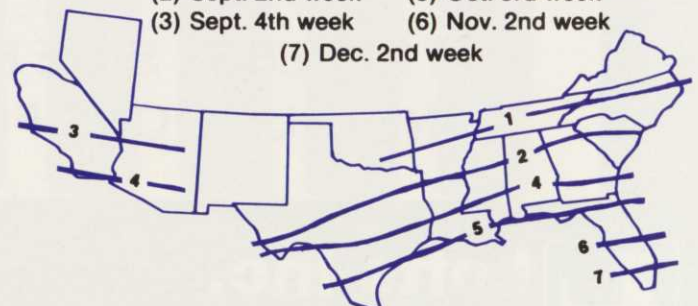
*No water is necessary. Seed will germinate in the spring.*

## D. Overseeding dormant Bermudagrass in the South, September-December, Zones 2, 3, 4, 8.

- Step 1.** Aerify and verticut during the summer months to minimize thatch. Do not aerify within 60 days of overseeding.
- Step 2.** Approximately 30 days before overseeding, reduce nitrogen fertilization to the Bermudagrass turf. This will limit its growth and reduce its competition with the newly overseeded grasses. However, an application of potash will help the Bermudagrass roots stay healthy over the winter and will also help in overseeding establishment.
- Step 3.** One day before overseeding, verticut the field in two directions and mow turf as low as possible. Remove all debris.
- Step 4.** Divide seed in half and spread in two directions. Seeding rate is 300 lbs./acre.
- Step 5.** Drag the field in several directions with a chain link fence in order to spread the seed well.
- Step 6.** Days 1-7, lightly apply water 4-5 times daily.
- Step 7.** Days 8-14, lightly apply water 1-2 times daily.

### Approximate dates for overseeding dormant Bermudagrass

- (1) Sept. 1st week
- (2) Sept. 2nd week
- (3) Sept. 4th week
- (4) Oct. 1st week
- (5) Oct. 3rd week
- (6) Nov. 2nd week
- (7) Dec. 2nd week



*In zone 2, the overseeding can be kept through the summer by raising the cutting height and irrigating properly. This will decrease annual overseeding costs.*

## ***Sports Turf Requires Patience, Knowledge And Common Sense***

*Presented at the Sports Turf Manager's Association Seminar, Houston TX, February 6, 1988, by Dr. Roy L. Goss, Extension Agronomist, retired from Western Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU), Puyallup, WA.*

Managing sports turf requires patience, knowledge, common sense, the cooperation of the users and a bit of luck thrown in on the side. A sports field that is properly constructed can be maintained to provide a quality surface that is safe for athletes and will support a maximum amount of use hours. Let's consider some of the individual components that make up good quality sports fields and how they can be maintained on a permanent basis.

### **Construction—Sand or Soil**

The choice of construction materials depends almost entirely upon the use of the sports facility. If the field is to be used entirely for baseball, good quality turfgrasses can be maintained on fine textured soils provided they have good internal drainage. If the field is to be used for football and soccer, my choice is a sand root zone medium because these sports are generally played during seasons of minimum growth and above-average rainfall.

When constructing with sand, the first consideration is sand quality, and there is no question that sand particles falling between 1.0 and 0.1 mm perform very satisfactorily. Sand root zones should be no less than 12 inches and, hopefully, up to 16 inches. It is important to place the tile lines at the proper interval and to backfill them with the proper material to keep them from becoming sealed off or plugged and useless.

### **Maintenance**

When the field is constructed properly and is well established before use is initiated, there is no reason that good, safe surfaces cannot be maintained for indefinite periods with proper maintenance. The basic cause of wet surfaces, even on sand-based sports fields, is managing the organic materials on the surface with dethatching machines when there is less than 1/2 inch accumulated material. Cleats from athletes shoes will tend to punch the organic material into the surface, thereby increasing the organic content and the water holding capacity. Upon decomposition of this organic matter, it can seal sand particles or fine textured soils as well, accelerating the surface wetness as the infiltration rate of water decreases.

### **Smoothness and Density**

Turfgrass density aided by frequent sand topdressings to maintain the desired smoothness of the surface will improve footing, reduce surface compaction and produce a safer surface for contact sports. A balanced fertility program with adequate nitrogen levels performed in conjunction with overseeding will maintain the density of the surface.

### **Sod Strength**

Manipulation of fertilization, irrigation, and aeration factors will provide a massive and deep root system to help the sod withstand the forces of cutting, sudden turns, and stops of large athletes. Such a root system can be developed by providing the full spectrum of fertilizer elements on a required basis and by carefully controlling irrigation and excessive nitrogen. Irrigation should be applied to the maximum depth of the root zone no more often than required to maintain the turf in good vigor and avoided whenever possible immediately preceding a contest.



*Patience, knowledge and common sense are a must for successful sports turf. Anaheim Stadium, being reconstructed for the 1988 baseball season, after three weeks of off-road racing.*

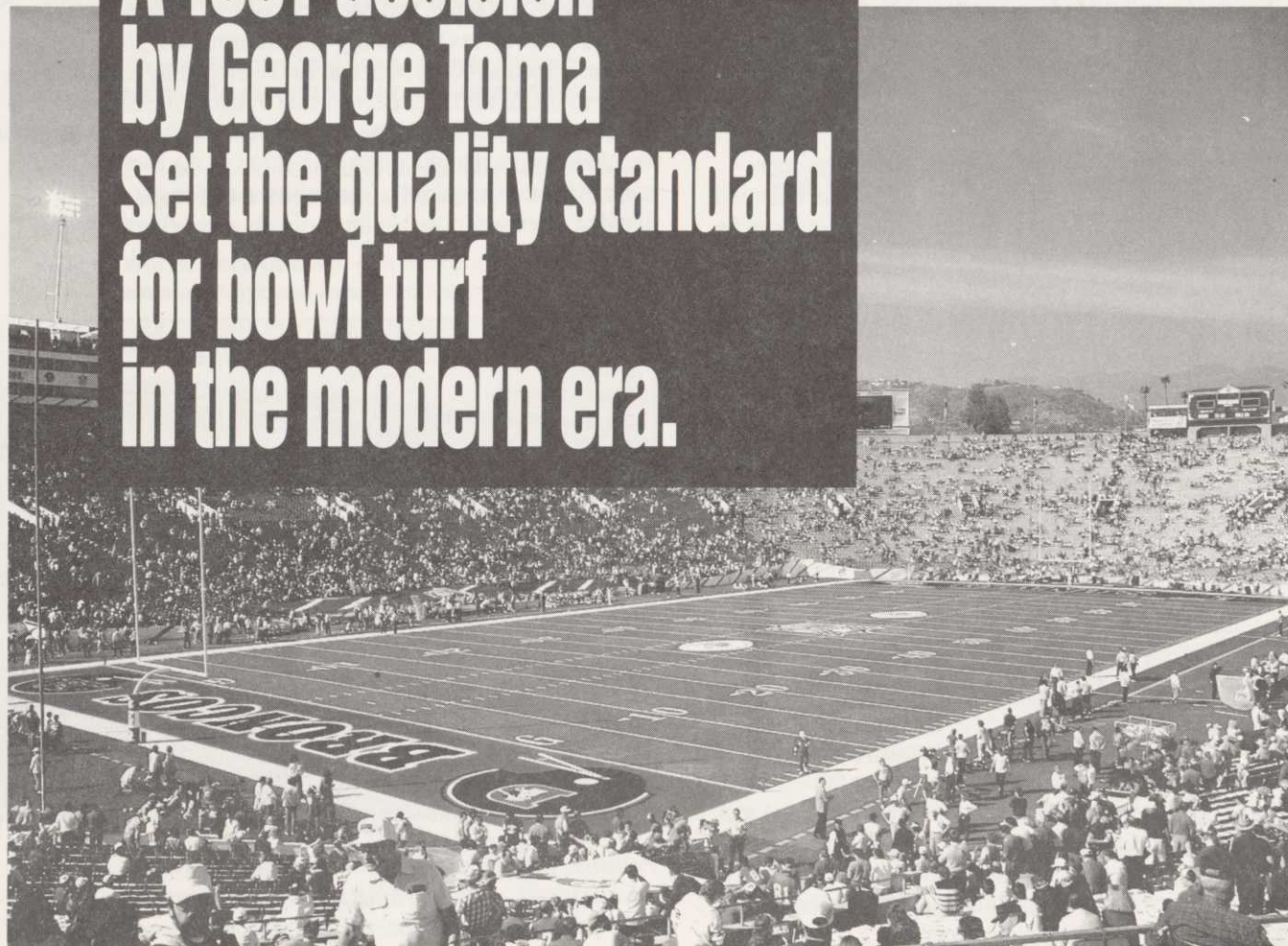
### **Balanced Nutritional Programs**

Managing the nutritional program of sports field turfgrasses on sand root zones is a tremendous challenge to the sports turf manager as the manager needs to be concerned with 13 plant food elements. Without conducting soil or tissue tests, it is sometimes very difficult to determine a deficiency of a specific nutrient until the deficiency becomes severe. We have devised complete fertilizer mixtures that supply all of the major plant food elements as well as the micronutrients and even the secondary nutrients with the exception of calcium and magnesium.

These two elements, either agricultural limestone or dolomitic limestone, are applied separately as needed. After a two-year test period on the Seattle Seahawks practice football fields and on numerous football fields in the Pacific Northwest, we feel satisfied this is a significant improvement over all other fertility programs practiced to date on sand-based sports turf.

There is no question that most of the factors involved in managing good sports turf is common sense. If we will simply employ the bit of new knowledge that is gained through research and practical applications, we can significantly improve our sports turf quality and the number of uses it will sustain.

# A 1981 decision by George Toma set the quality standard for bowl turf in the modern era.



In 1981 turf wizard George Toma elected to try an unheralded blend of three turf-type perennial ryegrasses in Super Bowl XIV.

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Obviously, there's a reason for this. Sports turf managers who absolutely must have a premium quality playing field know that Ph.D.<sup>®</sup> will get the job done and earn them plaudits in the doing.

As Toma puts it: "I recommend Ph.D.<sup>®</sup> to any turf manager who must have durable, show quality turf. It germinates rapidly, develops a deep, strong root system very quickly, has excellent dark green color and can take a lot of punishment."

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***\$1000 Sports Turf Research Grant  
Presented to the University of  
California, Riverside***

Stephen Cockerham, STMA Director and Superintendent of Agricultural Operations at the University of California at Riverside was presented a check for \$1000 at the Sports Turf Institute at Cal Poly, Pomona March 22, 1988. The project is explained in the following letter:

*October 21, 1987*

We are in the early stages of an ambitious research program on the management of sports turf. Our ultimate goal is to determine minimum maintenance and budgetary requirements for at least three classes of sports fields. Two model fields have been built—sand based and native soil (silt loam). A mechanical traffic simulator has been fabricated to facilitate evaluation of all sports turf management cultural practices with and without traffic. The turf is to be evaluated visually using standard turf scores, quantitatively by root measurements, speed of recovery and compaction.

The primary cultural evaluations involve nutrition as there is still a gap in the knowledge where high traffic demands require durability, fast recovery from injury, and aesthetics on both sand and soil fields. Following those studies irrigation, aerification, vertical mowing, and new species and cultivars will be evaluated, as well as winter tarping, overseeding of bermuda grass in relation to play, and spring bermuda transition.

I am the principal investigator of the project and the associated personnel include Dr. Victor Gibeault, Dr. Matthew Leonard, Dr. Robert Endo, Plant Pathology, and Dr. Seymour Van Gundy, Nematology.

Thank you for your help, Kent. We are finally getting sports turf research off the ground.

*Sincerely,  
Stephen T. Cockerham*

Sports Turf Manager's Association received a note of thanks from Steve Cockerham as well as Leland M. Shannon, Dean Graduate Division and Research.



*Stephen Cockerham discussing sports turf research at U.C.R Field Day.*

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We extend our sympathy to Dr. Kent Kurtz, our executive director, and his family, in the deaths of his mother over the Memorial Day weekend, and an uncle in late April. Dr. Kurtz is returning to Davis, IL for his annual vacation and can be reached at: P.O. Box 101, Davis, IL 61019-0101, (815) 865-5691 or via the office in Upland at (714) 981-9199.

## Welcome To The Team



STMA is happy to announce the appointment of Melissa A. Merritt to the position of Operations Assistant. Melissa began work in April and is STMA's first full-time employee. She served as an officer on the STMA Board from 1984-1986 and brings to the association eight years experience in various grounds maintenance positions including athletic facilities and campus grounds. Most recently she was employed by the City of Anaheim Golf Course Division.

Each member will hear from Melissa very soon as membership dues are now DUE! Your dues invoice will be mailed in the next few weeks. Deadline for payment is July 31, 1988.



### Be Sure To Let Us Know!

Please send address correction to:  
STMA  
400 N. Mountain Avenue, Suite 301  
Upland, California 91786

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The Sports Turf Manager is published in June, September, December and March by the Sports Turf Manager's Association. Direct all editorial and advertising inquiries to the STMA Editorial Office at 400 N. Mountain Avenue, Suite 301, Upland, CA 91786—(714) 981-9199.

### SPORTS TURF MANAGER'S ASSOCIATION

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