

***\$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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