



Billy Williams, one of the most popular Chicago Cub players during the 1960's and 1970's, was a clutch player who always seemed to deliver the key hit or drive in the winning run when it looked like the game was lost. Even though the Cubs never won a pennant during his tenure with the ball club, he, along with Ernie Banks, provided a lot of excitement on Chicago's Northside. In 1987 Billy was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and joined Ernie Banks who was enshrined a few years earlier. Billy Williams is a fine gentleman and a new friend of STMA.

The following are excerpts from the talk Billy Williams presented to the Midwest Sports Turf Institute which was held at the College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, June 22, 1988. The quotes and photo were furnished by Will Perry, managing editor, Landscape Management Magazine, Cleveland, Ohio.

I've played on both natural grass and synthetic surfaces and enjoyed both, but from an offensive point of view, if the ball is hit within three or four feet of the baseman, more than likely it will be a hit on artificial turf. It is known, and ball players agree; that synthetic turf will take two or three years off a player's career. In my experience from playing on it, it's the constant pounding to the knees that causes the problem. I enjoyed playing on natural turf, espe-

cially at Wrigley Field—it's a great place to play.

On natural grass, if you have a good grounds crew, they can mean the difference between winning and losing five or six games a year. Several years ago when Maurey Wills and the Dodgers came to Wrigley Field, Leo Durocher would tell Cotton (Cotton Bogren-grounds crew), "I want you to be sure you measure three and one-half steps off first base toward second base, and chew it up—make it soft because we don't want Maury Wills to get a good jump or steal second base." It's always nice if the head of the grounds crew and the field manager communicate. There's a lot of ways that the grounds crew can work with the ball club and do a lot of good.

I had a great career. I enjoyed the game of baseball. When I grew up in a little town in Alabama I had no idea I would ever play major league baseball or be elected to the Hall of Fame. But through hard work and excellent tutoring with earlier coaches, I went on to be one of the best ball players in baseball.

In conclusion, I preferred natural grass playing surfaces. Players receive fewer injuries on natural turf. Besides Wrigley Field, I thought Dodger Stadium was a great place to play a baseball game because of its natural beauty.

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playing surfaces because it adheres to the moisture on the soil particles.

Several dry materials are currently being used for marking playing fields in the U.S. Common marking materials include marble dust, and chalk; however, gypsum sand, calcium carbonate powder and coal dust may also be used. In Wyoming the coal dust is used to mark fields that are covered with snow. Dry materials are inexpensive, adhere well to the soil or skinned infields and are easy to apply. Humidity, as a result of rain or irrigation, may cause these materials to cake or clog around the auger or moveable parts in hand-pushed marking applicators.

Liquid Marking Materials

From our experience, the most economical marking materials are those in the liquid form. Many of the paint sprayers on the market are quite large and very cumbersome to move from location to location. This can be a major disadvantage if one has 12 fields and 42 parking lots to stripe as we do. Clean up time is increased when one color is changed to another or when the type of paint, oil base to water base, is changed. The spray tanks, guns and hoses must be thoroughly cleaned before one color can be changed for another. Drying time of paint is increased during humid days or when the grass is damp. Even with these disadvantages, paints are excellent on large areas such as for emblems, logos or end zones.

A fairly new item on the market for marking athletic fields is the aerosol can and applicator. The paints come in either water base or oil base. The applicators are lightweight, easily transported and take very little space when stored. The aerosol cans require very little cleanup or maintenance and their cost per case is only slightly more than a five gallon container of a water base latex paint.

Other advantages of the aerosol can include a multitude of colors and no mixing of paints or colors. One can apply two separate colors at the same

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