

# Setting up the Ballfield Maintenance Program

by Steve Wightman,  
 Jack Murphy Stadium

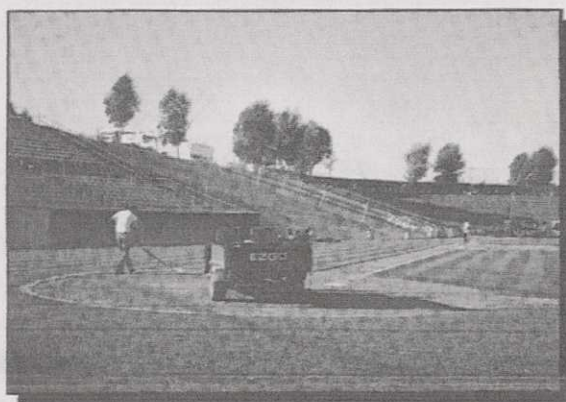
From time to time Sports Turf Manager will offer a "Tips From a Pro" article. These articles are written by your peers in the sports turf industry. This month, Steve Wightman of Jack Murphy Stadium offers a look into ballfield maintenance.

**W**ith Spring on everyone's minds, sports turf professionals are busy preparing fields for league games everywhere. In order to keep fields looking as good as "Opening Day" all year long, consider setting up a ballfield maintenance program. The following guidelines should help you develop a quality ballfield maintenance program, and answer some very important questions.

The first step in establishing a ballfield maintenance program is to **evaluate how the field is presently used**. How many games are played per day, per week, per month, per season and per year? What is the level of play? Are there any "windows" or open times when the field can be reconditioned or renovated during the week, month, season or year?

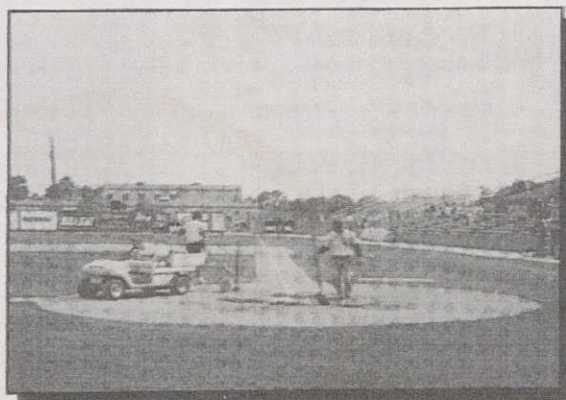
The second step is to **evaluate the condition of the field**. Are there any obstructions, either movable or immovable, that might interfere with play? Is the grass thick and healthy? Are there bare areas throughout the turfgrass? Are there wet spots and/or dry spots from the irrigation system? Are all of the sprinkler heads flush and level with the ground or are some sticking up and some in holes? Is the field too hard and compacted?

*Continued on page 3*



**Compadre Stadium**

**Ed Smith Stadium**



## SPRING FEVER!

Pictured above are turf professionals at Compadre Stadium, Chandler Ariz., spring training home of the Milwaukee Brewers and Ed Smith Stadium, Sarasota Fla., Spring training home of the Chicago White Sox.

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