

ST. PAUL SAINTS HELP HONOR STMA FOUNDER

The full house at Midway Stadium in St. Paul had the opportunity to help recognize one of the STMA founders on July 16th. Over 5,000 people cheered after President Mike Schiller presented Dick Ericson with his STMA Honorary Life membership. The St. Paul Saints also honored Dick by allowing him to throw out the first ball for their game against Madison.

Dick was originally scheduled to be honored at last January's banquet, but due to his wife's hospitalization he had a rare absence

each other and other sports turf managers rather than keep everything a big secret. Not only did they want to share their ideas with others who worked for professional baseball and football, they wanted to help those working with all types of sports fields all across the country. Dick served as STMA's first President in 1981 and 1982.

We all owe Dick Ericson a special thanks for helping STMA get started - and for his continued support.



Dick Ericson (l) is presented his STMA Honorary Life Membership Plaque by Mike Schiller (r) as Steve Trusty (c) looks on.



Dick Ericson throws the first pitch of the game at the impressive Midway Stadium.



Dick Ericson is presented with the game ball by the catcher for the St. Paul Saints.

from the conference. She is now fine and got to sit in on the special honors put together with the assistance of Connie Rudolph who is now in charge of Midway Stadium. Dick informed us just before we entered the stadium that he got his start in baseball as the Assistant Groundskeeper for the St. Paul Saints in 1948. As the Saints announcer stated over the loudspeaker, "it was a homecoming for Dick."

Dick was honored for his foresight in helping found STMA and for his lifelong support. He, along with George Toma, and the late Harry Gill were contacted by the late Dr. William Daniel from Purdue University. They collectively felt that it was time to share their ideas with

As an added benefit, by the act of formally honoring Dick, STMA has received some additional recognition by Minnesota baseball fans and media. *STM*

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