

## STMA NAMES TOP FIELDS

**A**wards were presented for top maintenance of natural playing surfaces and support facilities in four major sports areas: baseball, softball, football and soccer.

The Football Field of the Year Award was presented to Casey Field of the City of Covington, Virginia. Director of Parks and Recreation for the city is Allen L. Dressler.

The College Soccer Field of the Year Award was presented to Pleasant View Sports Complex of Boulder, Colorado. Ms. Abby McNeal is the Turfgrass Manager at this Complex.

The High School Soccer Field of the Year Award was presented to Flinn Memorial Stadium, of the Quincy Public Schools, Quincy, Illinois. Kurt Knuf is turf manager for the facility. For the first time in STMA history, a field was selected Field of the Year in two different categories, in two successive years. Flinn Memorial Stadium was named High School Football Field of the Year at STMA's 1997 Conference.

The Softball Field of the Year Award was presented to the Joy Christian Complex of Bellevue Baptist Church of Cordova, Tennessee. Robert A. Bodi is Director and Clifford Smith is Supervisor of this Complex.

The baseball field awards, deemed the Beam Clay® Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards, are given in three categories. These awards are sponsored jointly by STMA, sportsTURF magazine, and Beam Clay®.

The Beam Clay® Professional Baseball Diamond of the Year Award was given to Hoover Metropolitan Stadium, home of the Southern League Double-A Birmingham Barons. This is the first time the same Head Groundskeeper has been honored twice for his work at two different facilities and at two different levels of baseball. Steve Horne was Head Groundskeeper/Stadium Manager at the University of Mississippi when Swayze Field was selected "College Baseball Diamond of the Year" for 1992. Steve is currently Director of Field Operations for the AAA Memphis Redbirds. Mike Zullo, who was Steve's assistant at Birmingham, is the new Head Groundskeeper for the Barons.

The Beam Clay® College Baseball Diamond of the Year Award was presented to Liberty University's Al Worthington Baseball Stadium in Lynchburg, Virginia. Honored for this achievement were: Dave Pastors, Head Baseball Coach; Randy Johnson, Director of Field Operations; and Brock Van Faussien, Baseball Groundskeeper.

The Beam Clay® Diamond of the Year Award in the Schools, Municipalities, and Parks category went to Potter Park Field of La Junta, Colorado. Michael Sexton, Director of Parks & Recreation; Tony Madrid, Maintenance Coordinator; and Richard Sandoval, Recreation Coordinator; along with their five person part-time crew were honored for this achievement.

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## Remedies for Failing Fields

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during stress periods can cause significant root decline. Proper mowing may be very important to turf performance. Mowing at the proper height and frequency maintains a dense turf that is more wear tolerant and quicker to recover. Higher mowing heights reduce the number of growing points per unit area which results in a more open turf. Hybrid bermudagrasses may be mowed between 0.5 and 1.5 inches. As the mowing height increases above this upper range, turf quality decreases, and athlete slippage tends to increase. Common bermudagrass generally should be cut one inch higher than a hybrid. Close mowing, particularly late in the growing season, may increase winter injury, so allowing extra leaf growth at that time of year often provides more protection

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### Members on the Move

**Michael Zullo**, former Assistant Head Groundskeeper with the Birmingham Barons is now Head Groundskeeper.

**Walt Cargile**, former student member, is now the Assistant Head Groundskeeper with the Birmingham Barons.

**Martin K. Kaufman**, former Assistant Groundskeeper in Greensboro, NC is now with the Charlotte Knights.

**Matthew Clement** has taken the position of Grounds Manager at Taft School, Watertown, CT.

### CONGRATULATIONS GUYS!!

*If you, or someone you know, has changed positions, give us a call here at Headquarters.*

*We'll be happy to help get the word out!*

### Employment Opportunities!!

The **University of Virginia** has an opening for a Head Groundskeeper/Agronomist.

The **Los Angeles Dodgers** have an opening for an Assistant Field Superintendent.

The **Miami Dolphins** are seeking a Grounds Superintendent and/or Assistant.

The **Oakland Athletics** have openings for an Assistant Groundskeeper, Spring Training Grounds Crew and Various Internship and Grounds Crew positions.

**HersheyPark** has an opening for a Stadium Grounds Specialist.

**For more information on these openings contact STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875 OR call the Jobs Hotline at (712) 366-1145.**