

Is Your Field the BEST?

by **Tim Moore, STMA Awards & Scholarships Chair**

You present it to coaches and players in a state of near perfection - the ultimate in safety and playability and, most often, in aesthetics as well. Visiting teams love playing on it. Officials compliment you on it. It's the field everyone wants to play on, the first choice for playoff and championship games.



Baseball Field of the Year - M.S. Deal Stadium, Granite Falls (NC) Middle School

If all of the above sounds familiar, now is the time to start gathering the materials to submit your potential award winner in the STMA Field of the Year competition.

STMA presents Field of the Year Awards in Baseball, Softball, Football and Soccer. The panel of judges reviews the submissions and makes their selection within the following category breakdowns: professional, college and university, high school, municipal or park. The selections are at the judges' discretion with a total of no more than three awards made for each type of field.

Each Field of the Year evaluation is made on the merits of the field as compared to others with similar circumstances, with due consideration to the resources available for field maintenance. Doing the best with what you have is an important consideration to earning the Field of the Year designation.

Awards Sponsors

STMA welcomes the following Awards Sponsors to the program: Advanced Drainage Systems, Covermaster, Hunter Industries, Partac Peat (Beam Clay), Textron Turf Care, and West Coast Turf. Because of their generous contributions, the 2000 Field of the Year Award recipients will receive a plaque, a jacket, registration for the STMA 2001 Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida, January 17 to 21, and up to \$500 toward travel

expenses for the Conference. The Field of the Year also will be featured in an article in sportsTURF magazine.

How To Prepare Your Winning Entry

Tell the details. What's the geographical location? When was your field originally constructed? Has it been renovated? Describe the soil profile, drainage system



Softball Field of the Year - The Great Lawn in Central Park, New York

and irrigation system. Is the field lighted? How many games and what other events are held on the field?

Track your maintenance program. Detail your operating budget and staffing levels. Tell why you do what you do and how you make the best use of resources.

TAKE PICTURES! Show details of your field throughout the year; show it prepped for play, show crews at work, players in action. Include a few "vertical" shots. (One might make the cover of sportsTURF magazine when your winning field is featured.)

Describe the challenges you've faced and overcome. Include your own "tricks of the trade." Finally - Tell why you think your field is THE BEST and deserves the Field of the Year honors.



Football Field of the Year - Legion Field, Birmingham, Alabama

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