

SAFE Raffle A Success!

The SAFE Foundation Raffle for the NFL Hall of Fame Game and golf scramble package was a great success. Money raised will go into the SAFE Scholarship, Research and Education fund.

The lucky winner is David Ditzler, Turf & Irrigation Specialist, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa. Dave is new to the Association, having joined in March of this year, and very pleased to have won.

Dave and his wife, Tami, will enjoy the following prize package:

The prize package consists of the following:

- * Admission to the Pro Football Hall of Fame (HOF), August 5th
- * Admission to the NFL Experience, August 5th
- * 2001 HOF Golf Scramble (with NFL players), Shady Hollow Country Club, August 6th
- * HOF Tailgate Party, August 6th
- * Tickets to the 2001 NFL HOF Game, St. Louis Rams vs. Miami Dolphins, August 6th
- * Special Parking Credential
- * Hotel room for the nights of August 5th and 6th
- * Travel to and from Canton, OH, for these events

The Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement festivities represent one of the best celebrations of sport in the country! More than 700,000 people participate in 20 events during an 11-day period.

The festivities come to an exciting end with the game on Monday. There will be a special half-time presentation of the 2001 Class of Enshrinees. This year's class, appropriately nicknamed "The Magnificent Seven," are: Nick



NFL Hall of Fame, Canton, OH

Buoniconti, Marv Levy, Mike Munchak, Jackie Slater, Lynn Swann, Ron Yary and Jack Youngblood.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame officially opened on September 7, 1963 as a 19,000 square foot, two-building structure with a Charter class of 17 enshrinees. It has expanded to what you see above. Currently there are 211 Hall of Famers. They include such football legends as Harold (Red) Grange, Lou Groza, Terry Bradshaw, Dick Butkus, Joe Namath and Joe Montana.

The SAFE Foundation's focus is on the research needs of the industry, providing the methods for obtaining funds, and providing potential tax benefits to the donors. This is a broad reaching initiative as noted in SAFE's Vision Statement: "To use science as the foundation to benefit sports fields in areas of playability, user safety, and the environment." The results of this Foundation's support will assist athletes at all levels with safer playing field environments. This is an excellent fit with STMA's Positioning Statement: "Providing the best sports surfaces for all levels of play."



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President's Message

The Best You Can Be

By Rich Moffitt, President

Athletes worldwide strive to be the best they can be. They want to be at "the top of their game" to hit peak performance levels during the heat of competition. Every serious athlete, from the high school player through the professional ranks, begins preparation long before the big event. This is evident to those viewing the Wimbledon matches, the early season games of College football or Major League Baseball's road to the World Series, or nearly any other highly competitive athletic event.

Athletes use strength and conditioning training as a major part of their program to reach the top of their game. Sports turf managers also use "strength and conditioning programs" to constantly upgrade their fields. Off-season for the teams often is the only time for the aggressive maintenance tasks that yield top in-season field performance. Once the season is underway, sports turf managers adjust their maintenance programs to accentuate the strengths and minimize the weaknesses of each field, just as top players adjust their games to play to their strengths and compensate for their weaknesses.

And it doesn't stop there. Sports turf managers upgrade their own "strength and conditioning programs" by increasing their knowledge. They attend educational sessions, take part in seminars and workshops such as the Chapter sponsored events, dig into research on specific topics, and harvest the vast knowledge within this industry through networking.

A key educational boost for sports turf managers is the STMA Annual Conference. The 2002 Conference theme is, "We're on a Roll," which describes the progress of STMA and ties into the Conference's Las Vegas location. Mark your calendars now - the dates are January 16 to 20, 2002. In the works are educational sessions and tours, the biggest ever trade show, networking opportunities galore and...more.



Rich Moffitt

The Sports Turf Managers Association also is constantly upgrading its "strength and conditioning program," for the association and for the profession. By the time you read this, the STMA Board will have completed our July 27 and 28 Board Meeting. Through these Board Meetings your Association's leadership develops the directives to help best serve you. Reports and recommendations presented by the Certification, Chapter Relations, Annual Conference Education, Annual Conference Exhibition, Finance and Audit, Marketing, Membership, Strategic Planning, Survey, Technical Standards, and Website Committees all will have been reviewed, discussed and, where recommendations require Board approval, voted upon. STMA is continually working for you to promote the profession and gain acknowledgement of the important role filled by those within the profession.

I'm pleased to announce another exciting event, the first SAFE Foundation Drawing. Dave Ditzler, Turf & Irrigation Specialist for Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, held the winning ticket in the July 4 drawing. Dave and his wife, Tami, will take an expense-paid trip to Canton, Ohio, to enjoy a visit to the Pro Football Hall of Fame (HOF), take part in the NFL Experience, join in the 2001 HOF Golf Scramble (with NFL players) at Shady Hollow Country Club, join in the HOF pre-game Tailgate Party, and attend the 2001 NFL HOF Game between the St. Louis Rams and Miami Dolphins. Proceeds from this fund raising event will support sports turf related research and scholarships. Congratulations, Dave!

Writing & Developing Specifications

by David Frey, Field Specialties

Specification: a detailed description of the parts of a whole: statement or enumeration of particulars, as to actual or required size, quality, performance, terms. - *Webster's New World Dictionary*

We already know that practically everything manufactured is developed, constructed or planned with some type of specifications. Specifications should assure a predictable result. Buildings, runways, airplanes and the fuel that powers them are safeguarded by written specifications.

The goal of using set specifications is predictable, guaranteed results. You want to know that the performance of a given product will be successful if you use the correct components. Specifications can be developed in several ways.

1. Defining a specific fact. Example: A tree can be felled over a river and be used for a person to cross that river without getting wet.
2. Developed detail with limitations. Example: How many people can cross at the same time?

The answer can be developed by trial and error or speculation. Experience helps us to develop the answer and form basic rules. Engineering, which is based on research and application, develops specifications that are useful within limitations of the variables. It could be said that 5 people could cross the river at the same time. Does that allow for the one person that weighs 300 pounds, or should the specification be the total weight. Athletic surfaces have been affected by the changes of purpose, monies available and research.

Applying the above information, we can see the value of specifications in the athletic surface industry. Irrigation and drainage systems are engineered by physical properties of pipe areas to be affected, water supply and demands. Soils are also engineered, but the grass growing results are not as predictable. Infield clays also have variable responses. The engineering can allow for variables and the needed performance of that product. A bridge can be engineered to carry a certain weight load. Designs can be affected by cost, materials and purpose.

The sportsturf business comes from a different direction. Like farming, athletic fields were original generic soils of that area, not engineered or transported, due to cost. The soils could be improved, fertilized and modified, but if the site had a sandy loam, it stayed a sandy loam. Athletic fields were built in a location and the soils and materials that were handy or available were used. Maybe the use of sand for the floor of the coliseum of Rome, to soak up the blood, was the first use of specialized surface materials. The first groundskeepers would decide on materials using their sense of feel and experience.

I still find examples of European groundskeepers that only choose clays by observation or feel. Engineering of soils was not

practical or affordable. We need to thank the acceptance and use of synthetic surfaces for establishing a new level of costs for the construction and maintenance of athletic surfaces today.

The construction of athletic surfaces has come a long way. We build fields and import materials to meet architect specifications. Are these specifications working? Let's get down to the facts on how the modern day soil specifications for athletic fields were developed and you will see the process of creating a specification.

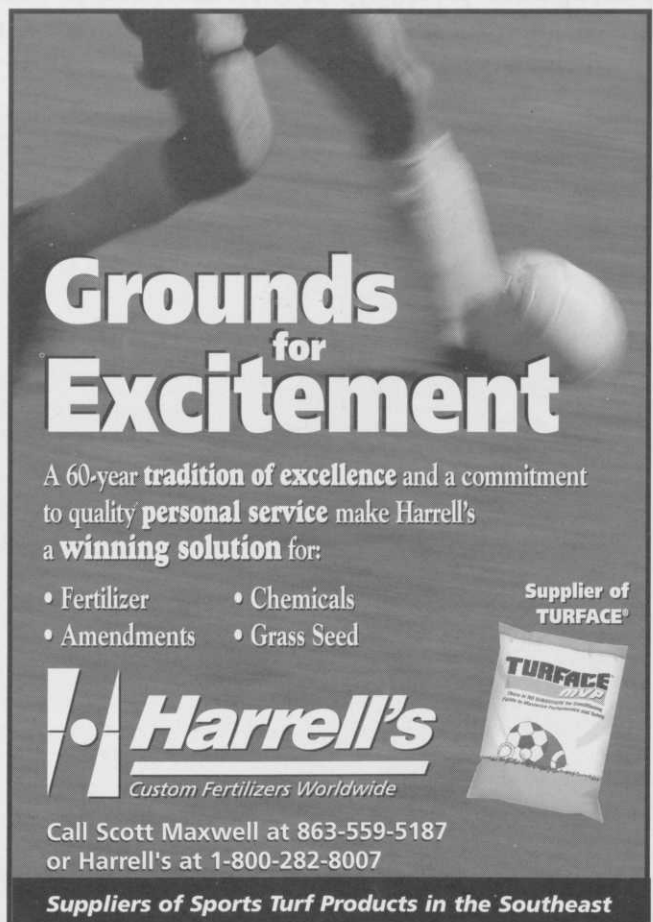
FACTS:

Fact #1. We need athletic surfaces to be more durable.

Reason: Natural grass fields cannot stand continued play of multi-use stadiums.

Result: Find alternative surface materials - synthetic surfaces - Limit use; Separate Stadiums; Develop better natural grass playing surfaces.

We know that synthetic surfaces have certain limitations, and separate stadiums have an associated cost. The effort was made to study the natural grass system
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Sports Turf Topic:

Too much or not enough

Stress, stress everywhere. At this time of year, the turf plant is under a multitude of different stresses. These stresses can be biotic, caused by natural pests such as diseases, insects or weed competition or abiotic, physical elements such as temperature extremes, drought or flooding, compaction, etc.

Two major abiotic stresses which affect the root zone during the summer are the opposite extremes of drought and excessive moisture. Either of these stresses can result in a loss of root mass.

The loss of roots generates additional stress in the turfgrass plants, making them susceptible to injury from other biotic pressures such as disease injury, or slow recovery from insect damage.

Applications of plant hormones such as cytokinins and humic and fulvic acids can give plants the ability to override the stress caused by drought and flooding, although these conditions, sufficiently severe, can still cause injury.

However, even if injury is not avoided altogether, biostimulant applications containing plant hormones and humics, such as provided by Focus® and Launch®, will help plants cope with root injury, extending sufficient vigor during crisis to allow turf managers to respond by modifying conditions through irrigation or drainage, thereby preventing excessive injury.

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Professional Development: Communication: Up, Down and Sideways

Communication is one of the most important tools in sports turf management. Used effectively, it can increase efficiency and productivity and speed you toward your goals. Yet, all too often, job-related problems occur because of lack of communication.

In your role as sports turf manager, you are the source of, recipient of, and conduit for the communication of information with multiple sources.

Within your facility, you need to communicate up the ladder: to your supervisors, department heads and managing entity or owner's representative. You need to communicate down the ladder: to your assistants, crew leaders and crew members. And, you need to communicate sideways: to those in positions similar to your own in other departments. If your sports fields are used by teams representing the facility, you also may have contacts for the team in all three categories.

For the information exchange with those outside of your facility, you need to communicate up the ladder: to the external controlling bodies of your facility (such as a Board of Directors, City Council or governmental agency) and to the public. You need to communicate sideways: to your field user groups, to your vendor contacts and contractor contacts, to event organizers and to your consultants and University contacts. And, you need to communicate down the ladder: to delivery personnel, on-site construction crews, contract labor crews, special event personnel, etc.

In reality, your communication role can be as complex as running the flight control tower at a major airport. With the speed of today's high-tech information exchange, the ability to communicate has escalated to the point where, if not controlled, it can be overwhelming. You need to take control of the communication process. The greater the level of your planning and program organization, the easier this process becomes.

Releasing information on a need to

know basis is as outdated as the typewriter. By sharing the "big picture" with all those within your communication network, you give them the opportunity to "buy into" your program and work with you to achieve your goals.

Develop a master plan for the athletic fields within your facility. Then

break this down to annual, monthly, weekly and daily plans. Meet regularly with your various communication groups to update them on progress, exchange information and fine-tune the plans. Start each day with well-defined staff assignments and goals for what is to be accomplished.

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DOC'S DUGOUT - An Inning From Our Past

By Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

The Field - Through the Eyes of a Player, Broadcaster & Manager

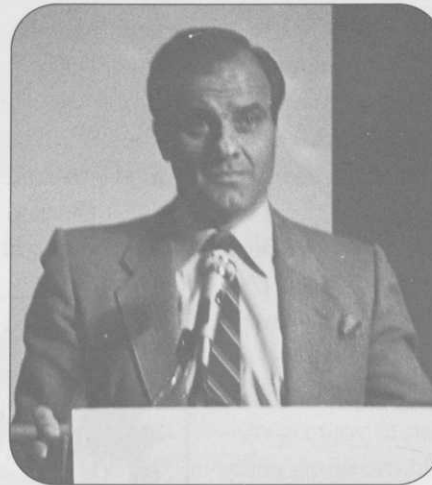
Joe Torre, current manager of the New York Yankees, gave a wonderful presentation at the STMA Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in 1987. His presentation, "Sports Turf Management Through the Eyes of a Player, Manager and Broadcaster" was delivered while he was the California Angels broadcaster, a position he held between managerial jobs. Following are excerpts from his presentation.

What impact do sports turf managers have on the game of baseball? Do they help the home team? A good sports turf manager very definitely is an advantage to the home team in baseball. "It has been said that some ball clubs have 10 men on the field, the 10th person being the groundskeeper." Let's look at a few instances -

1960 World Series - The Pittsburgh Pirates vs. the New York Yankees. Bill Virdon of the Pirates hits a double play ball to Yankee shortstop Tony Kubek and the ball jumps up and hits Tony in the throat. Guess who the home team was? Right, the Pirates and they went on to win the World Series 4 games to 3, thanks in part to Bill Mazeroski's home run. However, without the diligent work of the Pittsburgh groundskeeper who placed that small stone in the infield, Mazeroski may never have had the opportunity to hit that home run.

Rivalry - The San Francisco Giants vs. the Los Angeles Dodgers. This rivalry was and still is a great one and especially during the days of the great base stealer, Maury Wills. The ground crew at Dodger stadium kept the infield soil hard which was conducive to the speed on the base paths for Wills. However, when the Dodgers played the Giants at Candlestick Park in San Francisco, the ground crew at Candlestick would soak the infield dirt to neutralize the running ability of Maury Wills, and it worked.

Philadelphia Phillies - When the Phillies played baseball in old Connie Mack Stadium there were numerous rainouts because of the field. Veteran's Stadium was built with synthetic turf to replace the old field, and in 1971, our St. Louis Cardinals played the Phillies in an extra inning game on a rainy Sunday. In the top of the 15th inning we scored 5 runs to take the lead and then it started to rain. It was ironic because when the rain stopped we learned that the ground crew member that operated the



Joe Torre at the STMA Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, 1987

Zambonie machine to remove the water from the field had gone home with the key. The game was suspended erasing all of our runs. It's no wonder Richie Allen of the Phillies once said, "if a horse won't eat it, I don't want to play on it, or if you can't smoke it, I don't want it."

Wrigley Field - Chicago - When I

managed, I recall one day at Wrigley Field how finely manicured the infield had been prepared by the ground crew. Apparently my pitchers didn't want to mess up this finely manicured infield, so they got the Cub hitters to hit the ball up in the air with the wind blowing out - it was home run weather.

Maintenance of baseball fields is extremely important and this begins with Little League Baseball. The field standards should be like players; consistent. Teaching baseball to youngsters at a very early age is so much easier if the field they play on is maintained properly. With good field maintenance, kids learn to trust the hop of the ball and this develops good fundamentals and work habits.

It only takes one bad experience from a ball that bounces up and hits a youngster in the face or mouth from a poorly maintained field to permanently scar a young player. That young player will remember that incident and be afraid of ground balls, sometimes forever.

Recognition for those who maintain and care for baseball fields is long overdue. However, recently recognition for those individuals who have done an exceptional job, who have been concerned for the safety of the players and those who are dedicated to their profession has begun to emerge. Several individuals here tonight such as Roger Bossard (Chicago White Sox), David Frey (Cleveland Indians), Harry Gill (Milwaukee Brewers), Ed Miller

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DOC'S DUGOUT

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(New York Yankees - Ft. Lauderdale), Dale Sandin (Baltimore Orioles - Miami), John Liburdi (Albany-Yankees), and Sam Newpher (Atlanta Braves) are dedicated men and interested in making their profession better for others who may follow them. (Positions held in 1987.)

The Sports Turf Managers Association is going to be the driving force behind the improvement and maintenance of field surfaces throughout the country. STMA's purpose of educating its members is to be commended. Finally as a player, broadcaster and manager, one's job requires thorough preparation and the willingness to invest quality time. Please remember this one thought, "people forget how fast you do a job,

but they remember how well you did the job, so take pride in whatever you do".

Joe Torre started as a catcher, first baseman and third baseman with the Milwaukee Braves and Atlanta Braves (1960-68), with the St. Louis Cardinals (1969-74) and the New York Mets (1975-77). He also managed the New York Mets (1977-81) and the Atlanta Braves (1982-84). He was a broadcaster with the California Angels before being selected as the manager of the New York Yankees where he distinguishes himself today.

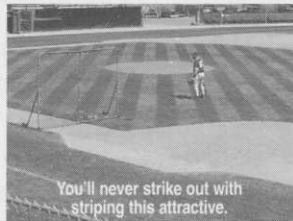
On the playing field he had a lifetime batting average of .297. He was the National League's batting champion with an average of .363 in 1971 with the St. Louis Cardinals and that same year he was voted the National League's most valuable player.



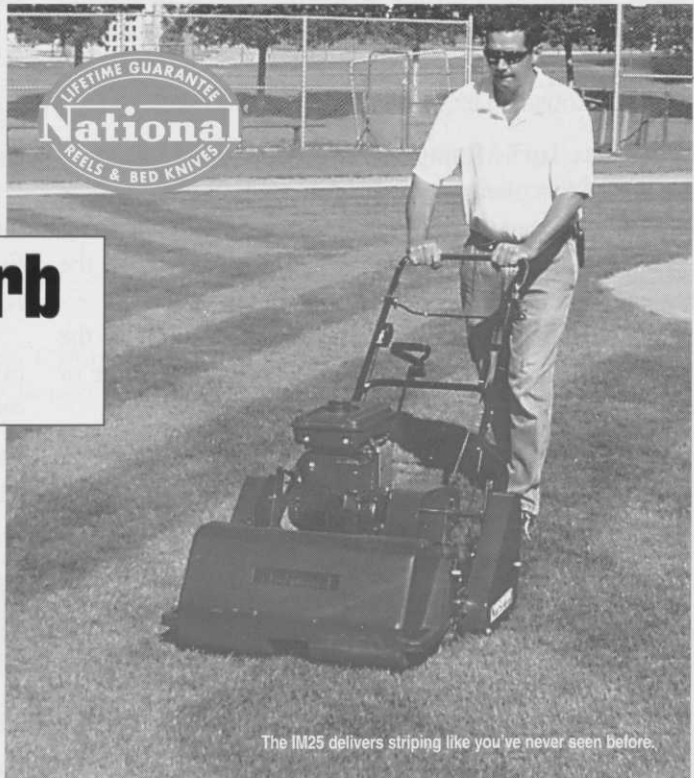
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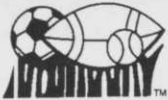


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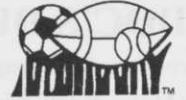
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Sports Turf Happenings



Chapter Events

Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA)

The MAFMO Chapter is planning an August 24 Design and Construction Seminar to be held at the Annapolis Waterfront Marriott Hotel.

For information on the MAFMO Chapter, or pending activities, call the Hotline at 410-290-5652.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona

The Arizona Chapter will be partnering with the Arizona Parks and Recreation Annual Conference in Phoenix. The Chapter's event, a Summer Seminar, will be held on August 30 at Pointe Hilton at Tapatío Cliffs Resort at 11111 North 7th Street in Phoenix. Featured speakers include: Dr. Ronnie Duncan, University of Georgia on Paspalum Grass; Dr. Thomas Lubin, Professor Emeritus, on Humates & Other Organics in your Soil; Dr. David Kopec, University of Arizona Extension on Simple Methods to Successful Overseeding and Developing Year-round Maintenance Schedules; and Dr. Charlie Rodgers, Research Geneticist for Seeds West, Inc. on New Bermuda Seed Varieties for the Southwest Market. For information on this event, please contact Chris Calcaterra, City of Peoria.

For information on the chapter, or other upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, Recreation and Facilities Manager, City of Scottsdale Park, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or phone: 480-312-7954.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA)

OSTMA is planning its 4th Annual Fall Field Day at the Ohio State University Intramural Complex on September 11th. This event will feature a line-up of speakers in the morning and an afternoon with vendors.

OSTMA is accepting scholarship and Field of the Year nominations until October 1, 2001. Visit the website or contact Boyd Montgomery for further information.

For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Joe Zelinko at 800-897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982, ext. 50; or visit the chapter's website at www.glstma.org.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association

The MO-KAN Chapter is planning a Fall Field Day from 7:45 AM to 2:00 PM on September 12 at Satchel Paige Memorial Stadium in Kansas City. This event will be hosted by Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation. Morning sessions include: Fall and Winter Turf Management presented by Chuck Dixon, JL Bruce & Company; a session on Turf Renovation and Overseeding; and Breakout "Hands-On Training" Sessions on: Basic Turf Renovation and Overseeding, Irrigation Troubleshooting and Repair, and Seed Pre-Germination Techniques. Following lunch and vendor presentations will be the opportunity to visit with vendors or take part in the question and answer sessions with the breakout session instructors. The day's events will wrap up with the MO-KAN Business Meeting.

For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Trevor Vance at 816-504-4271; Gary Custis at 816-460-6215; or Jody Gill at 913-239-4121.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association

The Wisconsin Chapter is planning a Fall Seminar on September 6 in Eau-Claire, Wisconsin. More details will be announced soon.

Chapter members are encouraged to participate in the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA) Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tourney to be held at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva on October 10.

For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter, or other pending events, call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.

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MEMBERS ON THE MOVE!

STMA Board Member, Monty Montague, formerly with Turfco/National, has taken the position of National Sales Manager with Lastec, division of Wood-Mizer. The address is 7865 N. C.R. 100 E., Lizton, IN 46149. Monty can be reached by phone at 317/892-4444 or by e-mail at mmontague@lastec.com.

ZeoponiX, Inc. (Richard Andrews), has moved. Their new address is 2910 Juilliard Street, Boulder, CO 80305. Phone and fax numbers remain the same. Phone: 303/673-0098, fax: 303/673-9583.

The Turf Team at Invesco Field @ Mile High (Ross Kurcab, CSFM, Brooks Dodson and Abby McNeal, CSFM) have moved into their new offices. Address is 1700 Bryant Street, Ste. 700, Denver, CO 80204. Ross' phone # is 720/258-3026, Brooks' phone # is 720/258-3027 and Abby's # is 720/258-3025.

Athletic Fields, Inc. (formerly Sod Atlanta Sports Turf) has moved. Offices are now located at 329 Stiles Road, Cartersville, GA 30120. Phone # for David Brown is 770/736-0529.

Trevor Fink, formerly with the City of Berlin Park Dept., is now Parks Superintendent for the City of Neehan (WI) Parks Dept, 211 Walnut Street, PO Box 426, Neenah, WI 54957-0426. You can reach Trevor by phone at 920/751-4735.

Don Raway, formerly with Midway Stadium, has taken a position with the City of St. Paul Parks & Rec, 1100 N. Hamline, St. Paul, MN 55108. Don's phone number is 651/646-1679.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED SPORTS FIELD MANAGER (CSFM):
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*If you, or anyone you know has changed positions, give us call so we can help
get the word out!*

Chapter Events

continued from page 8

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

The Iowa Chapter will hold a Baseball/Soccer Workshop at Upper Iowa University in Fayette from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on October 9. Topics on the agenda include: "Putting Your Field To Bed for the Season," presented by Dr. Dave Minner of ISU; "Fertility and Soil Sampling," presented by Gary Peterson; "Field Painting," by Kevin Vos of the Muscatine Soccer Complex; "Aerification & Topdressing," presented by Bryan Wood of Commercial Turf & Tractor; and "Homemade Tools," presented by Ken Hanawalt of Rockwell-Swaledale Schools. The Vendor Show will run from 2:15 to 4:00 PM. Attendees are encouraged to view and try out the latest in sports turf equipment and materials.

For information on the Iowa Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Lori@iowaturfgrass.org.

Florida Chapter #1

The Florida Chapter is planning an Irrigation Seminar in at Holiday Park in Ft. Lauderdale on October 16. The Chapter will again take part in the annual Turf Rodeo. This year's event will be held at Deerfield Beach on November 7.

For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association

The Nebraska Chapter is planning an October meeting at Haymarket Park in Lincoln, Nebraska, the new home of the University of Nebraska Huskers Baseball Team and the professional baseball Northern League team, the Saltdogs. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at 308-385-5426.

Midwest Chapter STMA

Upcoming events for the Midwest Chapter include a Fall workshop at the Lincolnshire Sports Complex in October, and the annual North Central Turf Expo at Pheasant Run Resort in December.

For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, call The Chapter Hotline at 847-622-3517.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA)

The Tennessee Valley Chapter is planning a fall workshop in Jackson. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association

The Nor-Cal Chapter is in the process of planning their annual Seminar on Wheels event. Details will be announced soon. For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

Southern California Chapter

For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Ron Kirkpatrick at 858-453-1755.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association

The Colorado Chapter is planning an August Turf Day at the new Invesco Field at Mile High. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website—www.CSTMA.org—or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the Gateway Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mark Jennings at 314-983-5345; or Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, at 314-977-2956.

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Writing & Developing Specifications

continued from page 3

tem and improve it. First to be determined were what factors could be improved and how.

Fact #2. Water (rain or snow) was the greatest detriment to the surface condition and playability.

Reason: Soils that were known to grow the best turf, held water and were destroyed in wet conditions.

Result: Sand is suggested to be the answer because of the high drainage characteristics

Now here is where the specifications can be misleading and common sense is needed. Where do you find the line between drainage and a superior growing medium. Along came the first sand systems; P.A.T.

The P.A.T. system was designed to drain at 14 inches per hour. How was that specification reached?

Lets take a look:

Major Premise: Drainage of at least 14 inches per hour are required.

Fact: The soil medium was engineered to drain at 14 inches per hour

Fact: Established turf drains at approximately 4 inches per hour

Question: Where in the U.S.A does it rain at 14 inches per hour?

Question: What was given up in soil characteristics that contributed to the 14 inches per hour rate?

- Result:*
1. Water was purged in the grass layer and then drainage was limited as to grass infiltration rate.
 2. Significantly higher maintenance was required.
 3. The selling point that field covers were not needed was false
 4. Quality stands of grass were questionable under certain circumstances.
 5. Playability was questionable

The P.A.T. system solved one targeted problem, but did not necessarily improve the total product. In fairness, the P.A.T. systems do work well in certain situations.

My question to you is how do you find a soil specification? The easiest method is to go a known athletic field that you feel performs the best for your purpose. Take samples and create the same soil for your site. You now have taken a proven commodity and copied it. But, to get the same results, you must have the same irrigation, maintenance, drainage, amount of play and control of play in adverse conditions. Pretty simple, but we need to take a close look at the soil specification to make sure that you have copied it correctly and are giving consideration to the other issues involved.

Separate growing medium components:


1. Sand
 - a. type (shape, chemical properties free of carbonates, source)
 - b. sieve analysis
2. Soil
 - a. condition and makeup
3. Organic matter
 - a. Specification
 - b. pH
 - c. fiber content
 - d. sieve size
4. Sand/Soil/Peat mixture
That is the total relationship and percentage amount of each part of the total mix
5. Infiltration rate of total mix

Any change of any of the above factors will change the results or performance of the mix. Another problem is the costs of the components, availability and location in proximity to your site.

Additional tools to help with soils specifications:

1. Use a soils consultant that is familiar with these types of mixes,
2. Do not be sold a system simply because it is easiest for the contractor or the architect.
3. Be certain that contractors and suppliers are experienced and are responsible in this type of work; meaning that they can meet the specifications.

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Writing & Developing Specifications

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Now that we understand the meaning of a specification - how do you write them?

Most suppliers will supply a specification sheet for their products. Some bidding procedures do not allow you to write specifications that eliminate competition for that type of product. That is actually a good situation as you can get more information on products to fit a given scenario. It is important that you can justify the cost of the product you want and the specification can prove that.

Other examples of specification:

1. Field covers - Understand the language needed to define the specifications. Know that the product that works is the one you have specified.

Example:

Material Properties: warp 9 weft 7 (Threads running from side to side and across)

1000 denier (A unit of weight used to express the fineness of the fiber, nylon, rayon based on the number of .05 grams (of


weight) in 450 meters of length. (The higher the number the coarser)

Unit weight 3.3-oz./sq. yd.

2. Finish Grading: A quote from a major league project. ? The words "finished grading", as used herein, mean the establishment of the required final grade elevations indicated on the drawings.

A second Quote from a major league project. " Final grade means that the grade is within 1/4 inch each 25 ft."

What does this mean? Are tolerances implied? Put yourself in the contractors' position.

My father always told me, "Mean what you say and say what you mean." Specifications are the same. 

How Do You Do...?

The Question: How Do You Handle "Heat Stress" on Your Field(s)?

Answered by Greg Garber, City of Cambridge, MA

Although Cambridge is a fiscally healthy city, we certainly don't have the resources of a top-tier university or a professional franchise. Thus, to avoid the problems that are typical during high heat conditions, we strive to maintain a consistent annual program and stick to the basics: efficient irrigation, compaction relief, and mowing height.

When I came aboard here in 1998, two of our soccer fields and two of our softball diamonds, all heavily used, had no irrigation at all. The results were easily predictable - higher soil temperatures and banner crops of knotweed and nutsedge during the summer months, compared to some of the other fields. As I write this, we are in the midst of a capital investment program to bring irrigation to all these fields, as well as modify existing systems that were inefficient.

Although the soils of most of our fields are classified as sandy loam, use is so heavy that they become compacted rather easily. During my first year here, we convinced our leadership to use capital funds to purchase a Vertidrain attachment for our turf tractor. We try to get on each field, in two directions, twice a year. On those fields where we have done this consistently over three years, we have not had to do anything extraordinary to combat the heat.

We mow all of our fields at two-and-a-half inches throughout the year, and if we get a break in activity on any field during the summer, bump up to three inches for that period. Introducing this practice required a considerable public relations effort, as league administrators initially could not understand why we weren't mowing at the

continued on page 13

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How Do You Do...?

continued from page 12

customary height. However, they observed that turf resistance to drought conditions, as well as the usual agronomic suspects, is much better now.

Clearly, we don't employ any magic in Cambridge. My advice is to develop a balanced program, articulate a convincing rationale, and cultivate a relationship with those who can help, particularly those who determine budgets.

Answered by Steve Wightman, Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego, CA

Since we grow both cool-season and warm-season grasses most of the year here in San Diego, we are concerned with summer heat stress on the cool-season perennial ryegrass during the mid to late baseball season and the first half of the football season. Although the hybrid bermuda enjoys the 90 to 100 degree temperatures, it can take its toll on our perennial rye if our rootzone is not properly managed.

Probably the most important practice that is directly related to the success of overcoming heat stress for us is prudent irrigation. We try to provide adequate soil moisture at all times. This can be very challenging with the busy activity schedule that we have. We all know that good agronomics call for irrigating deep, then allowing the soil to dry to slight wilt before irrigating again in order to establish a deep root system. This may hold true for ornamental turfgrass but, for us, it's not possible to heavily irrigate most of the time because of all of our scheduled activities. So, we irrigate a relatively small amount more frequently to maintain soil strength while still providing adequate soil moisture. With this irrigation regime we have found that it's very important to have the soil adequately aerified (porous) so that the small amounts of applied water will quickly and effectively reach as deep into the rootzone as possible. This has helped us promote, as much as possible, a fairly deep and massive root structure giving the plant an opportunity to pick up soil moisture that lies farther down into the rootzone while still providing firm footing for the players.

In addition to our "normal" irrigation regime, we also syringe the turf during the heat of the day to cool the canopy. We accomplish this by manually running our sprinkler heads 5 minutes or so just to cool the turf surface. We also lightly hand water, with a 1-inch hose, certain areas that may require slightly more water.

So, in summary, what we try to do to combat summer heat stress on our cool-season grass here at Qualcomm Stadium is to aerify in the spring so that the soil more readily accepts the water we apply, irrigate more frequently with lesser amounts during our heavy use periods to maintain soil stability, and syringe the field on those hot days to cool the turfgrass canopy.



Call for Nominations

Your nominating committee is seeking individuals willing to serve STMA as Board Members in the following categories: Category II - Four-year Colleges & Universities Facilities Sports Turf Manager; Category IV - Parks & Recreational Facilities Sports Turf Manager; and Category VIII - Research, Teaching & Cooperative Extension Personnel.

If you feel a strong commitment to STMA and would like to get involved, or if you know of someone you'd like to recommend, contact STMA Headquarters.

STMA has a WORKING Board. The Board meets four times a year: once in conjunction with the Annual Conference, then once in March, July and November. The 1-1/2-day meetings are usually held on Friday afternoons and all day Saturday.

In addition, Board Members are asked to serve on one or more committees, provide input to other committees, review and vote on key issues affecting the direction of the STMA and be responsive to the needs of the membership.

All nominations, questions or requests for further information may be directed to STMA Headquarters, 1375 Rolling Hills Loop, Council Bluffs, IA 51503; phone: 800/323-3875; fax: 800/366-0391 or e-mail: SportsTMgr@aol.com.

Nominations must be received by September 15th.

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Professional Development: Communication: Up, Down and Sideways

continued from page 5

Remember, to be effective, communication is a combination of giving and receiving information, and clarifying that both the giver and the recipient clearly understand what has been communicated. You, as the sports turf manager, have the responsibility of insuring that this has happened.

Here are a few tips to aid in this process:

- *Determine how your contact individuals best receive and give information.*

This may be verbally, either in person or by phone, or visually, in a written format. Some individuals need a combination of these. They need to hear incoming information and back it up with written notes, or to deliver information verbally from written notes they have developed. The easiest way to hit the most effective communication method is to observe how an individual communicates with you and respond to them via the same method. For example, if your supervisor generally sends messages to you via email, use email as your primary communications back.

- *Establish your preferred time slot for giving and receiving information.*

Whenever possible, set aside a specific time each day for com-

munication. Find the time that works best and most consistently for you, and then communicate this to your contact individuals. Let them know you try to check your messages first thing in the morning or that the best time to catch you by phone is at the end of the day.

- *Take time to clarify that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the message communicated.*

Ask for feedback when you give information and give feedback when you receive it. It's as simple as saying, "Okay, Joe, as I understand it, we'll tackle the revision of the specs for the football field at 9 AM on Tuesday, and we'll both have our recommendations ready in writing at that time. Is that correct?", and getting the answer. Or, as asking, "Okay, Sam, can you give me a quick recap of the mowing crew's plan for today?" and listening to the answer. When understanding of the message isn't in agreement, take the time to work out the differences before that communication cycle ends.

Communication is an important tool but, as with all tools, it's how you use it that determines what you can accomplish with it.



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STMA 2002 Conference - We're On A Roll - Preview of Events

Make your plans now to attend the STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held January 16 to 20, 2002, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Headquarters Hotel is the Riviera Hotel & Casino. The Cashman Center is the site of the trade show and trade show events.

On Wednesday, January 16th, you'll have the choice of three optional events: A seminar on wheels educational tour of area sports facilities, A day-long, hands-on Seminar, or The Second Annual Textron-sponsored SAFE Foundation Golf Tournament.

The Excitement Continues with: Category Networking Sessions from 4 to 6 PM, The first-time attendees reception 6:30 PM, followed by The Welcome Reception at 7 PM.

Educational sessions run from Thursday, January 17th, through Saturday, January 19th. These include general sessions for all attendees, multiple choices of targeted breakout sessions and Friday afternoon workshops. The Saturday afternoon sessions close with more choices in the series of interactive round-table discussions.

The trade show is open from 4:00 to 8:00 PM on Thursday, January 17, with another great reception with exhibitors. The Silent Auction will be held in the Cashman Theater, adjacent to the trade show area, on Thursday evening,

following the close of the trade show.

We'll start Friday morning, January 18, with a dynamite speaker in the Cashman Theater, and then have a second opportunity to meet, mingle (and munch at lunch) with the exhibitors in the trade show from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. The Annual Awards Reception and Banquet wrap up the Friday events.

All educational sessions except the Friday AM speaker, and the optional seminar on wheels tours or day-long seminar, will be held at the Riviera Hotel. These events are part of the full Conference registration, as is the banquet and other specified meal functions.

On Sunday, January 20, there will be two optional events, a second seminar on wheels tour (to different sites) and an area sites tour (to non sports related sites). The Certification Sports Field Manager exam also will be offered on Sunday morning for those who have pre-qualified for testing.

Additional Las Vegas tour and show "packages" will be available through STMA Headquarters if you're planning to spend extra time in Las Vegas or have family and friends joining you on the trip.

You're sure to hit the jackpot with the 2002 STMA Conference.



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Is Certification for You?

STMA developed the certification program for sports turf managers to foster and improve professionalism within the sports turf industry.

Attaining the Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) status means you will be looked upon as a leader in the industry. It will give you a sense of pride and accomplishment and it can even improve your current or future employment prospects.

Becoming a CSFM is meant to challenge your knowledge of managing sports fields and to draw upon all aspects of your background in education and experience to prove that you are one of the best in the industry. Meeting the challenge can contribute to your professional advancement in sports field management.

Here is what two CSFMs say about certification:

Dale Getz, CSFM, says, "For me, becoming a CSFM was a personal goal and a personal challenge. I not only feel a sense of accomplishment and pride but I felt immediately legitimized by my co-workers who often-times regarded what I did as somewhat menial or not important. It gave an instant sense of professionalism to my job and for that I am grateful and proud." Dale achieved CSFM status while serving as (old title) for the University of Notre Dame. He is currently (title) for the Toro Company.

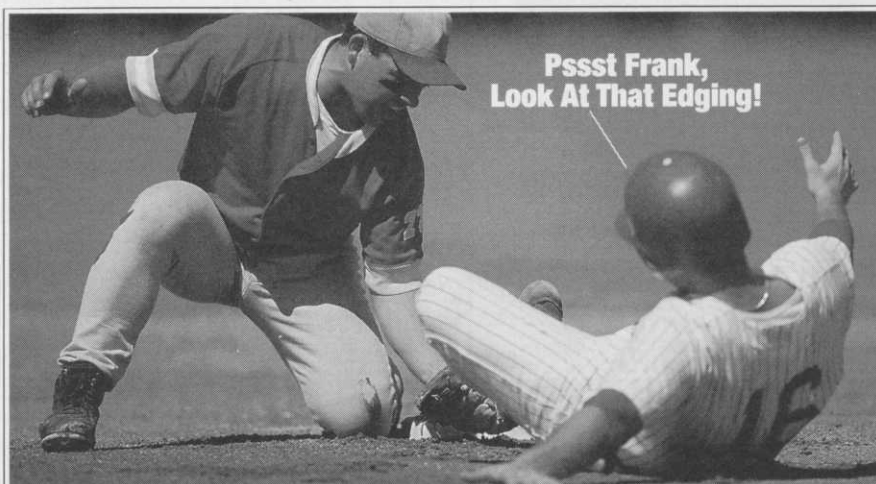
Mike Andresen, CSFM, says, "My obligation to my employer is to be the very best employee I can be. By becoming certified, my employer knows I have attained the highest standard in my profession. He, or she, also knows I must stay active and progressive in order to maintain certified status. In your (and my) role as student mentor, liability manager, and guardian of public trust, it is important for my employ-

er to show he, or she has hired the most qualified person available. Becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager shows that you are worthy of that trust." Mike is Athletic Turf Manager for Iowa State University.

If you are committed to increasing professionalism in the

sports turf industry, if you are interested in providing the best sports surfaces for all levels of play, if you are interested in raising the level of sports turf management, then consider becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager.

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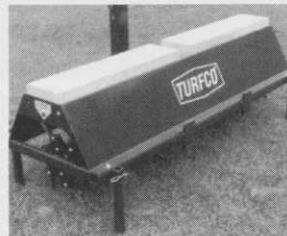
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Chapter Events

continued from page 10

Indiana Chapter

For information on the Indiana Chapter, or pending activities, call Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at 219-356-8424.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA)

For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter, or other upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail address: kafmo@aol.com.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA)

For information on the Chapter or other pending events, call Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at 616-738-6974, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's new website.

Minnesota Chapter STMA

For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Ron Unger, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Kasson, at tel. 507-634-4165 or e-mail: ParkNRec@CityofKasson.com.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at 732-248-8979; or call Eleanora Murfitt, Director, Township of Clinton Parks & Recreation Department, at 908-735-5999.

N. Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, call Kayla McAfee at 972-234-6584 or Rene Asprion at 972-647-3393, or visit the website at www.ntstma.org.

S. Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, call Tom McAfee, Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium, San Antonio, at 210-207-3754.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the Virginia Chapter, or upcoming events, contact: Chapter Vice President, Randy Buchanan, County of Henrico Recreation and Parks, via e-mail: buc06@co.henrico.va.us or at 804-261-8213.

Mid-South Chapter STMA

For information on the Mid-South Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Robert Bodi at e-mail: TURF419@aol.com or Jim Calhoun at 901-755-1305.

Chapters On The Grow

Las Vegas: With the STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition headed for Las Vegas January 16-20, 2002, plans for the formation of a Las Vegas Chapter also are moving forward. For more information on the developing chapter, please contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: rms@lvcv.com or at tel. 702-386-7140.

New York: A chapter is forming in Central New York. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the National Soccer Hall of Fame. For more information, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at tel. 607-432-2953.

Other Events

The Sports Turf Association of Canada is holding its 14th Annual Field Day, Wednesday, August 15th. For information phone: 519/763-9431 or e-mail: stat@gti.uoguelph.ca.

The Turfgrass & Landscape Management Field Day will be held September 18th at the University of California Riverside. For more information contact: Susana Aparicio, Registration Coordinator/Research Conference; 909/787-4430 or e-mail: susana@citrus.ucr.edu.

Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

The Roster has been finalized and is at the printer and binder. Look for your copy shortly. This edition has a record number of listings. This should be a valuable tool to help you contact other members and help locate suppliers. The Commercial Section is expanded again this year with brief descriptions, from all who responded, of their products or services. Utilize our Commercial Members as much as possible in recognition of their support of the industry. If you are dealing with a vendor that is not a member of a local chapter or STMA urge them to join and get involved to enhance their support of what you do and the industry they serve. Pay particular attention to those vendors whose sponsorship of the Roster helps cover the cost of this important member benefit. Look at their ads and thank them for their support.

Slowly but surely the CSFM program is expanding. While the number of Certified Sports Field Managers is not yet what we had initially anticipated, interest and inquiries both are increasing. At the last few chapter visits we have been handing out a one-page survey to get attendees feelings about the program. Between 10 and 20% of the attendees indicate that they plan to get certified within the next year or two. We are also receiving quite a bit of interest in a program for some type of certification for entry level or crewmembers. The Certification Committee will be analyzing the survey results and considering such a program. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact Headquarters or one of the committee members. We are starting to see and hear about challenges being thrown out to get more people certified. At the Big 10 Conference Meeting that we attended in Bloomington, IN, Eric Adkins, CSFM, encouraged the attendees to make the Big 10 the first conference to have all of the Sports Turf Managers certified. Two out of ten are now certified. Chapters are vying for the lead in CSFM members. The Midwest Chapter currently holds the lead with Minnesota and Colorado right behind. For those working with professional sports teams, the Denver Broncos hold the lead with three CSFMs on staff. Do what you can to help put your chapter, conference or team in the forefront of professionalism.

While membership is at an all time high, there are many more of your peers that should be members of STMA. Whenever you have the occasion to encourage these individuals to join you will be doing them and your association a service. You know best what you get out of STMA. Share that with others and help your association become even stronger.

THE SURVEY SAYS. One of the many meaningful pieces of information gleaned from the every member survey is that the average Sports Turf Manager has a base salary of \$40,000 to \$45,000 per year. We have some members whose base salary is over \$85,000 per year. One way to get those averages up is to get the employers at all levels to recognize the importance of what you do and pay you accordingly. Your Marketing Committee will be

working on this project. More members will help make our voice that much stronger. Watch for more details on the survey to come out as the analysis is completed.

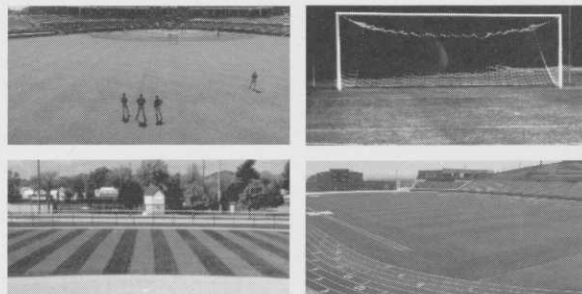
Your Board of Directors will be meeting in San Diego on July 27 and 28. As part of that meeting they will be looking at locations for the 2004 Conference. Many things go into the decision on selecting a site. Space to accommodate all of our needs, preferably keeping the trade show and educational sessions in close proximity is of prime importance. We want facilities that are pleasant and attract attendees. We need facilities that have more space than we need today to allow for growth. As we have said previously, we outgrew the Trade Show area in Las Vegas a year before going there but were very fortunate to find bigger and even better facilities to stage the best ever event. We try to get room rates that are not going to make it too prohibitive for the majority of our members. We need sites close by for the Seminars on Wheels. We look for things that will attract families and we look for good air connections. Having an active chapter in the area is also very helpful.

We hope that you take advantage of all the things your committees and Board are working on for you and spread the word to others in your area.



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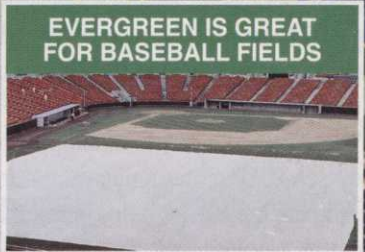
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