

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf
Managers Association

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Volume XIX Number 4
July/August 2001

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Sports Turf Manager is a publication of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). It is published bi-monthly and is free to STMA members. Sports Turf Managers' goal is to promote the mission of the association by providing a channel for communication between the representatives of the board and its constituency. STMA is not responsible for the opinions expressed in this publication. Address changes, advertising, photographs, and editorial inquiries should be directed to the executive offices. © 2001 Sports Turf Managers Association. All Rights Reserved.

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!