

NEW JERSEY'S FIRST

Congratulations to Jim Gavigan on becoming New Jersey's first Certified Sports Field Manager. Jim is a Facility Manager for Lesco, Inc. in Edison New Jersey, and also their northeast athletic field specialist. He is one of the founders of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey and currently resides on the Board of Directors.

To become certified the sports field manager must show exemplary knowledge in four main areas:

1. Agronomics
2. Pest Management
3. Administration
4. Sports specific field management.

The National Sports Turf Managers Association developed the certification program.

The purpose of the program is to:

- Increase professionalism
- Promote better and safer sports turf areas
- Establish credentials to signify a specific level of expertise
- Increase career opportunities and promote the sports turf manager and the profession
- Provide recognition for attaining a level of expertise and performance

Jim's dedication to the sports turf industry is a testament to the profession of Sports Field Management and title of Certified Sports Field Manager

If you are interested in receiving more information on the certification program contact the National Sports Turf Managers Association at 1-800-323-3875

ATHLETIC FIELD RENOVATION PROJECT

**Rutgers, The State University of NJ
And**

The Bridgewater-Raritan School District

Rutgers University, Center for Turfgrass Science - Athletic Field Working Group has established an athletic field renovation maintenance project with the Bridgewater - Raritan School District in Somerset County, New Jersey. The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey provides support in this project.

The goal of this project is to educate and demonstrate to sports field managers, administrators, coaches and players the

basic requirements necessary to provide good quality turfgrass, enhancing the playability for athletes.

This project focuses on the following concepts:

1. Cost/benefit agronomic principles related to athletic field turfgrass management.
2. Athletic field turfgrass education programs provided by Rutgers University, and various New Jersey and national trade associations such as the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.
3. "Team work" requirements by the various stakeholders involved in athletic field turfgrass maintenance and play.

In order to expand the outreach mission of this project, additional school systems, recreation departments, etc. will be invited to participate.

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On October 18, 2001 a field day was held by the Rutgers Athletic Field Working Group at Adamsville Elementary School, the location of the renovation maintenance project. Vendors who had donated materials and or equipment to the project and people who represented school systems interested in the project attended the gathering.

Demonstrations and explanations of the various equipment used in the project were given. Pictures were provided which took the viewers thru the renovation process.

Dean Marzocca, treasurer of SFMANJ, represented the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey and was able to stand up and say a few words in behalf of the association.

"SFMANJ Update" will include a monthly news column entitled "Rutgers Corner". This column will help to keep the readers abreast of Rutgers athletic turf outreach program and also other educational programs offered by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.