

Rutgers Corner – The Rutgers Turf Club pays a visit to Yankee Stadium

By Brad Park, Rutgers University

It's been called many things: The House that Ruth Built; The Big Ballpark in The Bronx; The Stadium; and names uttered by Red Sox fans that are not fit to print in this article ...

Regardless, the Rutgers Turfgrass Club was given an opportunity to take a tour of the Yankee Stadium playing field on September 23, 2005 followed by attending the Yankees-Toronto Blue Jays game that evening where the Yanks won 5-0 behind Shawn Chacon's fine

8.0-inning performance in which he only allowed 3 hits.

Yankee Stadium Head Groundskeeper Dan Cunningham provided great insight on turfgrass and infield skin management necessary to maintain the playing surface of the 26-time World Champions. Cunningham discussed his methods for maintaining the infield skin and pitcher's mound including utilizing a unique "drip-type" irrigation system that exists underneath

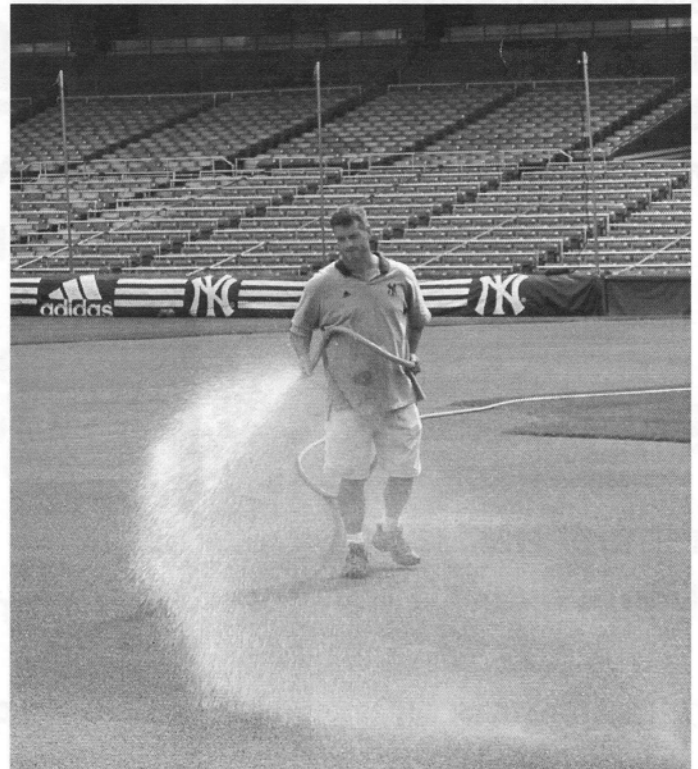
the infield skin.

Cunningham described the paints he uses to create the famous interlocking NY logo behind home plate, the maintenance of his warning track, and the challenges of storing equipment and sand topdressing in a truly urban sports venue completely surrounded by city streets.

Many thanks go out to Dan Cunningham for providing the tour and Dr. Bruce Clarke, Director, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, for arranging the visit. ♦



The Rutgers Turf Club was given the opportunity to examine the pitcher's mound as part of a visit to Yankee Stadium in September. ♦



The Yankee Stadium infield skin is kept moist prior to the Yanks' night game against the Toronto Blue Jays. ♦



A Yankee employee shows the Rutgers Turf Club his 1998 World Series Ring. ♦



The meticulously maintained home plate area at Yankee Stadium. ♦



Dr. Bruce Clarke (left), Director, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science and Dan Cunningham (right), Head Groundskeeper, Yankee Stadium. ♦



A rotary spreader is used to apply calcined clay to the Yankee Stadium infield skin prior to the evening game. ♦