

UPDATE

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SFMANJ Summer Field Day to Feature Sports Turf Legend George Toma

Craig Tolley*

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) will hold its annual Summer Field Day at the County College of Morris in Randolph, NJ on June 28, 2006. The keynote speaker will be George Toma.

Mr. Toma has been a leading professional in the sports turf management industry for more 50 years. He has been the head groundskeeper for Major League Baseball's Kansas City Royals and the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs. Mr. Toma was selected to prepare the field for Super Bowl I in 1964 (Los Angeles, CA) and all following Super Bowls up to Super Bowl XXXIX in 2005 (Jacksonville, FL). He also worked on U.S. Olympic sites in Los Angeles, CA and Atlanta, GA in 1984 and 1996, respectively and all nine American venues for World Cup Soccer in 1994. Through his career Mr. Toma has appeared in many articles and television features including an appearance in the motion picture "Black Sunday" in 1973. He has received multiple awards including the 2005 Val Pinchbeck Service Award for his work on 36 Pro Bowls, and the 2001 Dan Reeves Pioneer Award at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH. In 1992, Toma was named to John Madden's All Madden Team.

As always, the Field Day will feature hands-on demonstrations by leading industry vendors. These demonstrations will be conducted on working sports fields showcasing the newest technology in sports turf management equipment. In addition to equipment demonstrations, attendees will have the opportunity to attend educational presentations on pest management topics that will qualify for re-certification credits for licensed pesticide applicators. Keep an eye out for promotional mailings! For information contact SFMANJ at 908-730-7770.



George Toma, the 'Marquis de Sod' and Super Bowl turfgrass consultant, will be speaking at the upcoming SFMANJ Summer Field Day on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at the County College of Morris.

* Craig Tolley is Professor, Landscape and Horticultural Technology, County College of Morris; and SFMANJ Board member

A Look Back at SPRING FIELD DAY 2006

Brad Park*

There is never a lack of practical information offered at a Sports Fields Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Field Day. This year's Spring Field Day held at Shore Regional High School, West Long Branch and Monmouth Park Racetrack, Oceanport was no exception. A since 'thank you' goes out to Marco Oliveira, Facilities Manager, ARAMARK Corporation, Shore Regional High School and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority and Monmouth Park Racetrack for hosting the locations comprising the Field Day.

Following morning coffee and donuts sponsored by Storr

Tractor Co. and Northern Nurseries, the day began with a panel discussion related to various issues surrounding synthetic infill fields. Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries, Stan Moscrip, Athletic Field Development, and Brad Park, Rutgers Univ. participated in the panel and explored aspects of infill fields related to selection of base materials, glued vs. sewn seams, infill composition, and maintenance protocols. Sean Connell, Georgia Golf Construction and SFMANJ Board member is recognized for making Stan Moscrip's participation possible.

Pedro Perdomo, Rutgers Coop. Res. and Ext. of Morris

Continued on page 6

A Look Back at SPRING FIELD DAY 2006 *(continued from page 1)*

County followed with a presentation explaining how weeds can be indicators of turfgrass problems and chemical and non-chemical approaches to control weeds.

The Field Day moved outside where Fred Castenschiold, Storr Tractor Co. described various pieces of equipment that can be used to improve sports field playability. Jim Hermann, CSFM, Total Control, Inc. provided information on maximizing surface drainage across the turfgrass and skin portions of baseball infields.

Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries sponsored and arranged a hands-on pitchers' mound construction demonstration utilizing clay bricks. Facilitated by Ron Martin, Mar-Co Clay Products, Inc., various Field Day attendees got the opportunity to participate in the construction of the Shore Regional HS mound.

Next on the agenda was a short car ride over to Monmouth Park Racetrack, a thoroughbred racing facility appropriately nicknamed, "The Shore's Greatest Stretch." Lunch was served on the 3rd floor of Monmouth Park's venerable Clubhouse and was sponsored by Storr Tractor Co. and Northern Nurseries.

Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers Univ., a primary consultant involved in the design and construction oversight of the new turf course, gave a unique tour of the reconstructed thor-

oughbred turf course. The tour began on the front stretch and moved to a newly constructed racing chute. A second racing chute was incorporated into the reconstruction to create a new starting point for races. Discussion included the rationale for utilizing existing topsoil, the inclusion of a largely sand material used in septic systems to serve as a new sub-base, re-contouring the racing surface to allow more racing lanes and greater banking in the turns, and future turfgrass management strategies.

The tour concluded with a walk down the track's original racing chute and the opportunity to witness the final stages of the construction process. Field day attendees observed Tuckahoe Turf Farms installing big roll sod consisting of a tall fescue/Kentucky bluegrass mix.

The Monmouth Park turf course is being reconstructed in preparation for the track's hosting of the Breeders Cup in October 2007.

A hallmark of SFMANJ's Spring Field Day is strong attendance and the networking opportunities that come with many sports field managers gathering in one setting. This year's Spring Field Day lived-up to the SFMANJ tradition.

* Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

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