



## Lacey Township – Hebrew Park Soccer Field No. 1 wins the SFMANJ 2009 Field of the Year

By Scott Bills, CSFM

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) received eight entries for the 2009 Field of the Year contest from six members. The entries included: Central Regional High School, Varsity Baseball Field, Sam Pepe; Hammonton High School, Robert Capoferri Football Field, Frank LaSasso; Lacey Township, Hebrew Park Soccer Field No. 1, J. Casey Parker; Middlesex County Parks Dept., Waterfront



Managed by J. Casey Parker, Hebrew Park Soccer Field No. 1, Lacey Township, NJ was selected as the 2009 SFMANJ Field of the Year.

Park Baseball Field and Football Field, Larry Mayerowitz; Moorestown High School, Stadium Football Field, Greg McCarty; and City of Wildwood, Maxwell Field Baseball Field and Football Field, Rich Hans.

During the fall, I had the opportunity to visit all of the fields and interview the sports field managers. A common denominator among all of the members was how much they cared about the fields. Despite the same budget woes, weather issues and over-use, these members found a way to maintain above average fields.

The evaluation process to determine the Field of the Year included examining the three main factors a sports field manager should always consider: Safety, Playability and Appearance. In addition, interviewing each member to learn about their background and philosophy helped in the evaluation process.

The following questions were asked of each member regarding their management practices.

1. Do you have direct responsibility for the field or do you supervise others who actually do the work?
2. Do you directly develop the turf management program and budget for the field?
3. Do you have the authority to determine whether the field is playable during inclement weather?
4. Do you regularly attend classes, clinics or field days? Do you encourage other on your staff to attend?
5. Do you now or have you had a mentor that you relied on to help learn about sport field management?
6. What makes you a competent sports field manager?

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