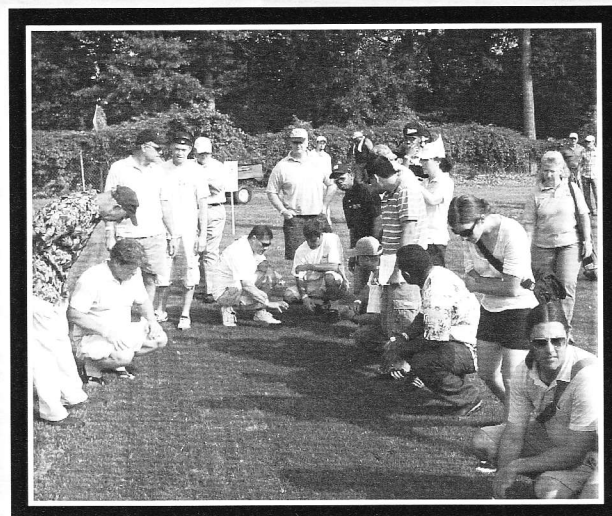


# REVIEW 2008

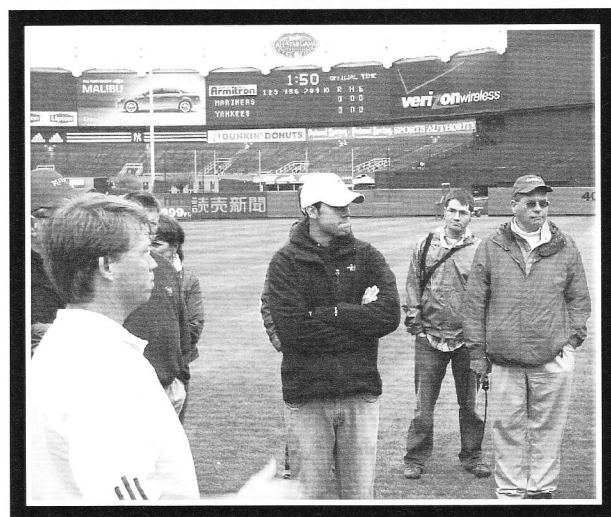
## University and Editor, SFMANJ Update



Sports field managers from across the region were on-hand at Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Philadelphia Eagles, at a Regional Conference sponsored by STMA in Philadelphia, PA on June 27, 2008.



Attendees at the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day examine core aerification holes created by a machine shown during the equipment demonstration component of the Field Day sponsored by SFMANJ.



Dan Cunningham, Head Groundskeeper, Yankee Stadium (*left*) provides Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science faculty, staff, and students a tour of The House that Ruth Built on May 2, 2008 prior to the Yankees 5-1 victory against Seattle.



Dr. Steve Hart, Rutgers University, shares research-based weed control recommendations at the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day held at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm on July 30, 2008.

# THE POLITICS OF SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT

## Part I of a Series

(continued from page 8)

6. Parents of players- Alaska Governor Sarah Palin expressed it perfectly in her Republican vice Presidential nominee acceptance speech- "What is the difference between a hockey mom and a pit bull? ... Lipstick!" 'Nuff said. Parents can be tough critics but they can also be staunch supporters. How they are treated usually makes the difference.
7. The committees who run youth league sports- very dangerous territory. If you fall in that quick sand you might not be saved. Watch where you tread!
8. The public and the press have a perception of you or your field that can be accurate or inaccurate. Like it or not, these external customers can influence your internal customers.
9. Vendors, suppliers and contractors can help make you look good or let you wither on the vine. So can your coworkers and other sports field managers. Treat your network right.
10. Family, and close friends because we need their love and support; without them life is a lonely place.
11. And Nature, we are its stewards. We can never be successful if we work against it.

As customer service representatives, we're the "go to" guys and gals when it comes to our sports field facilities. Stakeholders at all levels come to us when they need something from us or want something done. From being the "tenth man" on the baseball team to the event coordinator for a non-sporting event, we are the hub of the wheel. It's great when our customers are happy and it's miserable when they're not. Remember that a problem is the difference between what somebody has and what they want. Our job is to solve problems; big and small. Unfortunately we face challenges such as resources, time, weather and the unexpected. Even when we do everything right or at least

the best we can, somebody can be dissatisfied, usually over the small problems. They complain. We get defensive. Things escalate. We feel like we get no respect. They feel that we are not listening to them. Frustration sets in and breeds distrust. There is less cooperation. Communication stops, our effectiveness shrinks and nobody is happy. Sound familiar?

Next issue: Both sides own the problem. Let's look at the part we own.

*Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

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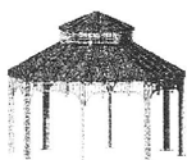
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# REMOVAL OF A 10-YEAR-OLD SYNTHETIC SURFACE

By: Sean Connell

Last summer, I replaced a synthetic field at a Division III College in Allentown, PA. The field was 10 years old and school wanted to accommodate other sports, update the field and respond to fears about lead in the synthetic fibers. The construction took about 2 months to complete after scheduling of all contractors. The field consisted of a 10-year-old AstroTurf® carpet with a double elastic (e) layer (34 mm). This was not an infill system. The AstroTurf® carpet was only about 0.25-inch thick.

The first part of any construction job is to install a construction entrance/exit. The running track was covered (including the "D" zones behind the field's goal post) using a Mondo® surface. This is a paved surface that is spongy to the touch and has a red finish on top. It is a hearty surface but not when crossed with construction equipment. So the construction entrance was covered with two (2) layers of plastic visqueen, 2.0-inch rigid foam insulation, 0.75-inch plywood and topped with crusher run type gravel. This gravel has fines in it so it tightens up for protection at 12-inch thick. It seems

like overkill ... until tandem dump trucks are run across it.

From there we cut the carpet with a stand-up, cut-off saw with water. The cuts were made every 8-foot using the lines on the field. We had to make cross cuts every 40 or 50 feet for removal. Initially, we tried to save the e-layer but could not separate the backing of the carpet from the e-layer. The removal was easy. We used a grapple bucket on an 81-hp track steer and just rolled up the carpet and e-layer and then drove to 30-yr dumpsters. The field was only 77,000 square feet so it was small compared to most fields. The complete removal only took 4 days and 30 dumpsters. The school had to submit a sample prior to construction to the dumpster company to see if they would accept the material as waste - which they did and there were no problems.

The sub-grade left behind was not in bad shape but had spots that were a problem from the initial construction. A new field grading plan was devised. The

*(continued on page 16)*

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## REMOVAL OF A 10-YEAR-OLD SYNTHETIC SURFACE

(continued from page 15)

factors that determined the new plan were the depth of the e-layer, height of carpet, existing material and the outside elevation of the curb. From that information, we did slopes to the each sideline of 0.6% and matching "D" zone grades of 50 linear feet (LF) from the field goal posts, 1% to the end zone and 0.6% to the right and left. Some additional material, which was available and original to the project, was needed to complete the sub-grade. The field was laser graded and rolled smooth with the additional material. After that was complete, we installed a 1.0-inch layer of #8 stone (which is less than 0.25-inch in size) to achieve a smooth final grade. This layer was laser graded and rolled to smooth. A certified land surveyor was then used to record all grades – this confirms all grades. The carpet company approves sub-grade before acceptance.

The fibers of the original carpet were tested for lead and it was determined that lead was present in the fibers; however, an adult would have to consume over 20 lbs of carpet to have a noticeable dose.

During the cutting and removal of the carpet, the school hired a company to do air quality testing. The sample collectors were placed around the field during

work hours and employees wore air testers on their work clothes. All results were negative with respect to any lead in the air; the lead was found in the nylon fiber of the carpet only. We had no additional issues related to the subject of lead.

When the carpet company accepted the sub-grade, they brought in the material for the new e-layer. This material is paved and is a cold emulsion. It is porous and is used for drainage and as a pad for the carpet. Using an e-layer was previously a standard component with synthetic fields; however, it is used less frequently in the current era of synthetic field construction.

The new carpet was a monofilament carpet without lead and was infilled with crumb rubber. The school was happy the carpet that they had but wanted to update and accommodate the field for soccer and field hockey. The previous field required painting for football as well other sports; so the change was welcomed from a maintenance standpoint. Additional footers were installed for field hockey to put-up nets behind the field goal posts that stretched across the entire "D" zone. The new carpet had permanent lines for all sports that originated from the factory. Sean Connell is Owner and Primary Project Manager,

Georgia Golf Construction, Woodbine, NJ;  
and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors

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# A MAN AND HIS MOWER

By: Fred Castenschiold

It was business as usual back on June 18 of this year when my general manager asked me to send out a couple of quotes to an account which, over the past 25 years, has occasionally purchased the Toro Groundsmaster 300 series. What was different this time was that they wanted a quote for the 300 series as well as the Groundsmaster 7210. As it worked out, the 7210 was a little less expensive; so, they expressed more interest in the 7210 and requested a demo. The account was Pillar of Fire in Zarephath, a Christian college in our area. The administrator indicated that the **"operator must** approve of the different type of mower which they were not accustomed to."

Having sold lever steer mowers early in my career I thought "no problem" and made arrangements for the business-as-usual demo on an early summer morning. Having arrived at the school a little early, I spoke with the mechanic and showed him the new style Groundsmaster while it was positioned on the trailer. I asked him, "Who is this operator I must convince to go with the 7210 versus the 300 series." I was thinking that the operator was some young fellow who would take to it instantly. The mechanic answered, "Here he comes." From down the driveway moving a bit slowly the operator approached. When he arrived I introduced myself and unloaded the 7210. His name is Rubin and was quick to inform me that he was 94 years old. I thought to myself, "Oh my, this should be interesting, to say the least."

I took the unit out into an open field next to his on-campus residence and reviewed the machine with Rubin and the mechanic very carefully. Rubin nodded as if ready to climb aboard. With encouragement to operate the 7210 with only one hand to get use to it at half throttle and with the mower deck turned off he was soon in slow flight. I asked him to stay in the open and make some figure-eight turns and practice going back and forth. After a few minutes he returned and shut the machine off. He stated, "Its ok, but I'm not cutting any grass!" Appearing ready to go the next step, I showed him the yellow knob to pull-out in order to start the mower as well as how to throttle-up to full power. I asked Rubin to again stay out in the open and give it some time to get use to the operation of the mower.

While Rubin gave it a try on this hot sunny morning I sat on his deck behind his little cottage with his wife of 77 years. We talked about Rubin and his long career with Pillar of Fire. Evidently he has been working for the school in one capacity or another since he was 16 years old! While listening to her I occasionally glanced past to keep an eye on Rubin. He really seemed to be getting the hang of it! After excusing myself I approached the field where he was operating the mower and signaled to stop.

I asked, "Well Rubin, what do you think? Do you have any questions?" He exclaimed, "I'll take it!" However, he noted he wasn't 100% sure he would like it and stay with it. Within a week I delivered the shiny new mower and re-trained him in an effort to make it work.

Over the summer I made several visits to see how it was working out but never seemed to find Rubin; although, I saw the mower in the garage - which showed signs of use so I didn't worry too much about it. In addition, I never received any phone calls from the administrator or mechanic indicating that there were any problems with machine or operator.

One cool fall afternoon I stopped-in to find Rubin still at it; mowing while grinding leaves with his new 7210. Before pulling over to say, "Hi", I went to see the mechanic who was standing outside of his garage and asked him how the new mower and Rubin were going. He said, "Great! We can't get him off of it!" "Awesome", I thought as I was preparing to say, "Hi" to Rubin. I went over to Rubin and he came to a controlled stop and shut down the engine. I asked him how it was going and he said, "GREAT! I love operating this machine because it is so easy to control versus the older Toros." Rubin said that he turned 95 years old recently and after mowing all day with the 7210 he wasn't tired. I asked him if it was alright to take a few pictures. He said, "Sure, why not!" Later, I found out that Rubin donated ... out of his own pocket ... \$10,000 towards the purchase of the machine for the school. Now it all made sense when the administrator said that the **"operator must** approve of the different type of mower which they were not accustomed to."

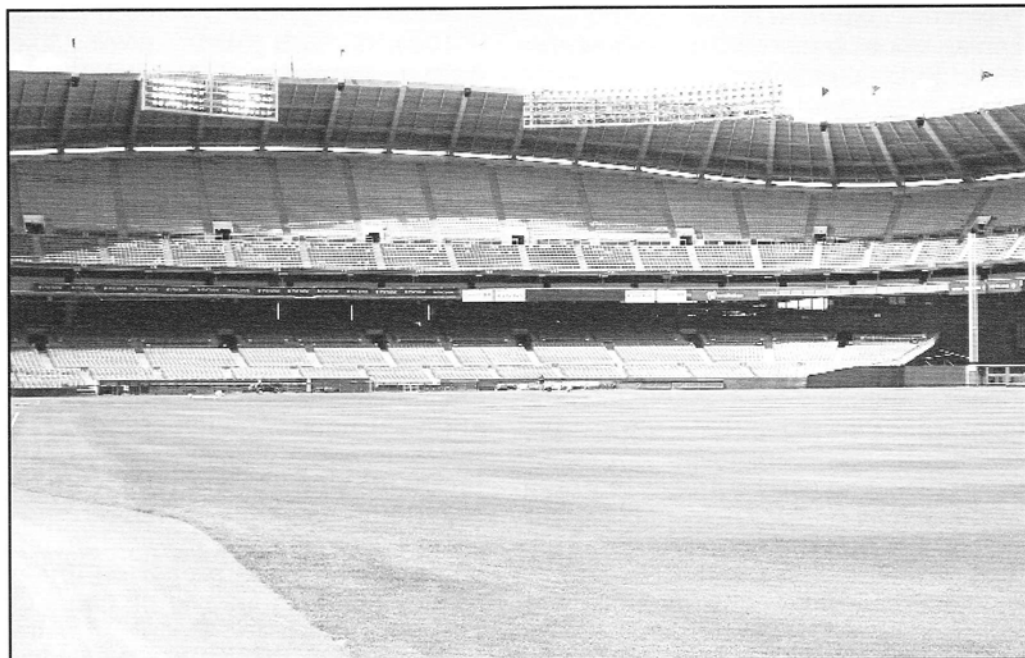
*Fred Castenschiold is Sales Representative,  
Storr Tractor Co., Somerville, NJ;  
and SFMANJ Vice-President*



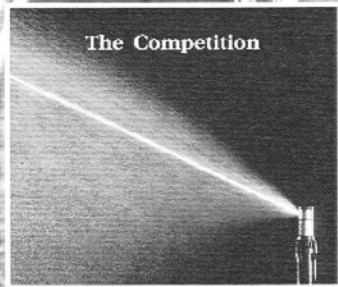
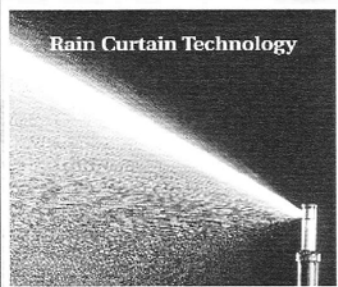
Rubin, a dedicated operator at pillar of Fire in Zarephath, NJ who is 95 years young, operates his favorite mower.

## SFMANJ PHOTO QUIZ: GUESS THE BALLPARK!

The first SFMANJ member to accurately name this past MLB ballpark (pictured) and city in which it resides will be awarded an SFMANJ tee shirt. Responses can be emailed to SFMANJ Update Editor Brad Park at [park@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:park@aesop.rutgers.edu)



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