

Use Olympics as field booster

The 1984 Olympics may be the critical benchmark needed to get athletic field standards up. Like Eisenhower helped golf, the '84 Olympics may be the trick to get school and park boards to support investment in sports fields.

The Olympics clearly showed the emotion and dedication sports brings out in all people. It also showed this nation believes in sports and is willing to support them, with words AND with money.

The next step is to get the decision-makers to realize the importance not just of sports, but of the fields sports are played upon. Poor fields are not only unsafe, they disrupt the emotion and dedication which are the very basis for sports. Poor fields not only render many sports valueless, they create a negative feeling toward sports.

Sports fields managers know more is spent on goal posts, bleachers, and fencing than the field. Isn't the player as important as the spectator? If the player's dedication and emotion is ruined by bad turf, what will spectators have to see anyway?

It's time to raise these issues while the strong positive impact of Olympics sports is still recognized. And it's time to give the athletic field manager the money, training, and equipment to make sports the character builder it can be.



A revitalized sod market

Two years ago many sod producers felt they were going nowhere. Years of senseless pricing, resistance to improved turf varieties, and an unstable construction market had them in a strangle hold.

To salvage their businesses and their pride they tried a number of options; including alternate crops, landscaping, and selling off their farms piece by piece.

Hope for a revitalized sod market seemed to dwindle. Some growers sold their land and quit sod.

Sod producers who held on, incorporated improved varieties into their sod, and raised their prices to make a profit at lower volume, are being rewarded this year. They are sold out and have orders for as much sod as their land can produce next year.

Who said you have to match the lowest price to sell sod? I believe that person is now out of business and those who ignored him are sitting pretty.

Bruce F. Shank, executive editor

WT&T Editorial Advisory Board



Al Turgeon
Vice President
Tru Green
E. Lansing, MI



Douglas Chapman
Horticulturist
Dow Gardens
Midland, Michigan



Kent Kurtz
Professor
Entomology
Cal Poly - Pomona



Harry Niemczyk
Professor, Turfgrass
Entomology
Ohio State University
Wooster, Ohio



Roger Funk
Vice President
Davey Tree
Expert Co.
Kent, Ohio