

NFL bending injury data on fake turf?

An official of the National Football League Players Association says team owners are taking "an ostrich approach" to professional football player injuries.

The reason? The "cosmetics" of synthetic turf surfaces, says M.J. Duberstein, research director for the NFL Players Association. He termed

the NFL "a billion dollar a year entertainment industry."

Duberstein, who spoke at the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo in December, said: "artificial surfaces pose a major safety hazard for every NFL player."

He said the players association cemented its opposition to synthetic turf after comparing 1983 and '84 NFL injury figures from data supplied by league management. It showed an 18 percent increase in the number of injuries, Duberstein noted.

The Players Association spokesman attributed some of the increase to the move by the New York Jets and Indianapolis Colts from grass to artificial turf playing surfaces. The Colts injury rate doubled in '84 over '83. Leaguewide, the average number of injuries remained constant on grass, but went up 36 percent on synthetic, he said.

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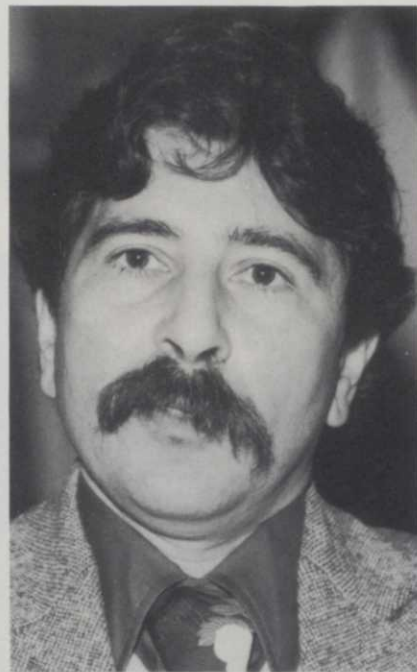
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M.J. Duberstein speaks in NJ

This past season figures supplied by management showed a 25 percent decrease in the injury rate, but Duberstein accused league management of "distorting the injury statistics."

The NFL Player's Association, the player's union, is attempting to limit of the use of synthetic turf in professional football.

"How many more studies are needed?" Duberstein asked. "Artificial fields are as dangerous as always."

PESTICIDES

Prof: name change good for industry

Pesticides, why not call them "qualicides" or even "quanticides?"

Dr. William Becker, a veteran Florida agricultural safety specialist, posed this question at the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) Conference this past November.

Becker says the name itself, "pesticides," puts the Green Industry on the defensive.

"I sometimes wish the term