

Shaner, adding that the low seat of the Jacobsen Tri-King 1471 gives him a better viewing angle for accurate striping.

That checkered look

To get the checkered pattern at the stadium, he first cross-cuts the field parallel to one foul line, laying down one set of stripes. The next day, he cross-cuts along the other foul line, striping at a 90-degree angle to the first cut.

Shaner makes striping the field look easy, but on each cross-cutting turn he must steer, adjust traction speed, and raise and lower the reels—all within the space of a couple of seconds. In this case, the mower makes his job easier.

Striping accuracy depends on lining up precisely with the foul line and maintaining a consistent amount of overlap on succeeding passes. He corrects the pattern midway through by sighting down a line running through second base from either first or third base while mowing in from the outfield.

After Shaner establishes the mowing pattern with his first two cuts, he simply "drives between the lines" on subsequent cuttings. By following the same direction of cut, the striping intensifies as the season goes on.



The field at Municipal Stadium in Cleveland is mowed regularly, so that no more than one-third of the grass blade is cut off at any one time.

The dramatic checkered mowing pattern created with the Trim-King draws people's attention to the high-quality turf at Cleveland Stadium. At other sports fields, the striking,

"ready-for-prime-time" look assures everyone—from spectators and players, to team owners or school board members—that this is professionally maintained turf. **LM**

Another tip: water removal system

David Frey of Cleveland Stadium swears by his Super Sopper. His what?

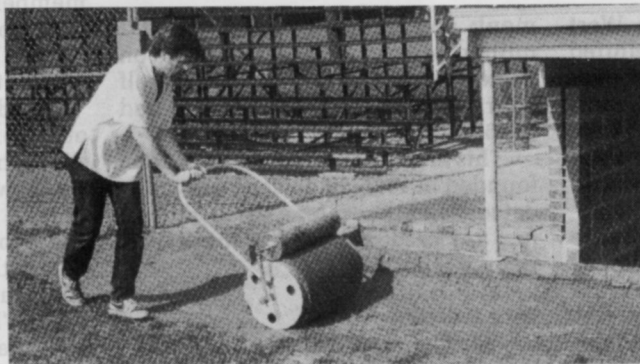
"During a concert last year, we got a lot of rain," Frey remembers. "If we didn't have a Super Sopper, we wouldn't have been able to play football the next day."

The Super Sopper is a water removal system that works like a giant sponge.

Attached to a metal drum that can be ridden, pulled by a tractor or walked behind (depending on size) is a cylinder of special foam. When rolling the unit over standing water, the foam sucks up the water and deposits it in the middle of the drum for easy disposal.

Super Soppers have been successfully used at the 1988 LPGA Crestar Classic, the 1987 Little League World Series and the 1987 American League Playoffs in Detroit. In a Miami-Buffalo NFL game in 1987, a Marlin model removed 20,000 gallons of water in four hours prior to kick-off.

According to Mike Harding, president of Kuranda USA, the Super Sopper has been marketed in North America only 1½ years even though it was invented in Australia in the mid-70s.



The Super Sopper, from Kuranda USA, uses a foam center to absorb and efficiently remove water from virtually any athletic surface.

Circle No. 200 on Reader Inquiry Card

One of the beauties of the Super Sopper is that it can be used on any surface from turfgrass to asphalt without harming either itself or the surface. It can pick up to one inch of standing water with just one pass.

Though it hasn't caught on among golf course superintendents yet, the Super Sopper has applications in that market.

"One of the worst possible golf situations is to have a hot day and then have an inch of rain in one hour," notes Frey. "Before the water drains, it'll cook. But with a Super Sopper, you wouldn't have to worry about that."

The Super Sopper comes in five sizes, from the Marlin that removes up to 100 gallons of water a minute to the Mackerel, a 15-inch diameter drum with a six-gallon tank. The smaller units are especially good for youth baseball diamonds, Harding says.

Super Soppers were used in Seoul, Korea, at the 1988 Olympics. Shea Stadium, Buffalo Bison Stadium and Pimlico Race Track all have them.

Prices range from \$459 for the walk-behind to \$15,000 for the largest riders.