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SHORT CUTS

YEA FOR NATURAL TURF... Pro Football Hall of Famer **Merlin Olsen** is an ardent supporter of natural turf for gridirons. During a football telecast on NBC-TV late last season, Olsen said: "I look forward to the day when we can put natural turf into a dome...and it's coming." Fellow telecaster **Charlie Jones** added, "Experiments at EPCOT Center are doing just that." The ability to grow grass in a domed stadium is the topic of a major feature story elsewhere in this issue.

BIGGER AND BETTER... Wayne Huizenga, former chief at the TruGreen Corp., has gone on to bigger and better things. An Associated Press report, circulated nationally at this magazine's presstime, noted that Huizenga was set to purchase 15 percent of the Miami Dolphins and 50 percent of Robbie Stadium Corp. "The purchase, for an undisclosed sum, will boost efforts to get a major-league baseball franchise and give the Dolphins needed equity," the report quoted Dolphins president **Tim Robbie** as saying. The AP estimated Huizenga's interests to be worth more than \$75 million. He is now chairman of Blockbuster Entertainment Corp., the nation's largest video rental chain.

LANDSCAPE DOLLARS... Since Hurricane Hugo and the San Francisco earthquake, the Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers has noted an increased interest in the financial value of plants in the landscape. "In many cases, if you take the proper steps" people have been collecting some compensation if a tree or specimen shrub is damaged or destroyed, notes CTLA chairman **Erik Haupt**.

RAVE REVIEWS... Two of Lofts Seed's perennial ryegrasses recently appeared on Japanese television and got great notices. Palmer and Prelude were winter-overseeded on dormant zoysia turf in Japan's National Stadium in Tokyo for the club soccer world championship, the Toyota Cup. During narration, a reporter praised the field's color and beauty.

CREAM OF THE CROP... That's what **Ron Overstreet** of Overstreet Landscaping can claim after winning the Small Business Administration's prime contractor of the year award for the northwest region of the U.S. Overstreet and his family flew to Washington, D.C., to accept the award and personal congratulations from Sen. Bob Packwood. He won the award for the job done at Lost Creek Dam and its surrounding area in Trail, Ore. Overstreet was the youngest of the award recipients.