

Chisox get new home; Bossard gets new toy

CHICAGO — As one of the grand old major league baseball parks nears the end of her storied career, Roger Bossard awaits the birth of her offspring with bated breath.

Bossard, head groundskeeper at Comiskey Park, will be establishing a new field at the new Comiskey Park in a few scant weeks. He is, self-admittedly, "like a kid with a new toy."

The original park—home to the White Sox since 1915—lives her last days in the shadows of the huge new park, which grows with each passing day, on Chicago's South Side.

Bossard, a third generation groundskeeper, is having the new field built to his exact specifications. That includes a Bossard drainage system with tile on 15-foot centers and Du Pont stabilization fibers imbedded four inches under the soil surface.

"If this doesn't work, I'll be looking for a new job," says the 23-year Comiskey park veteran. Using a demonstration model, he shows visitors how the new field will allow one inch of rainwater to drain in just 26 minutes.

The new field will have a 0.25 percent slope—three inches for every 100 feet. The surface pitch will be six inches to the 100 feet. "I don't want to get rid of all my moisture," Bossard notes. "I want the plant to grow."

Bossard has been working closely with Dr. Hank Wilkinson of the University of Illinois, plus personnel from Evergreen Sod Farms and Hunter Irrigation Systems.

Clearly, drainage is of utmost importance to Bossard. But he offers these observations to other field managers, who may not

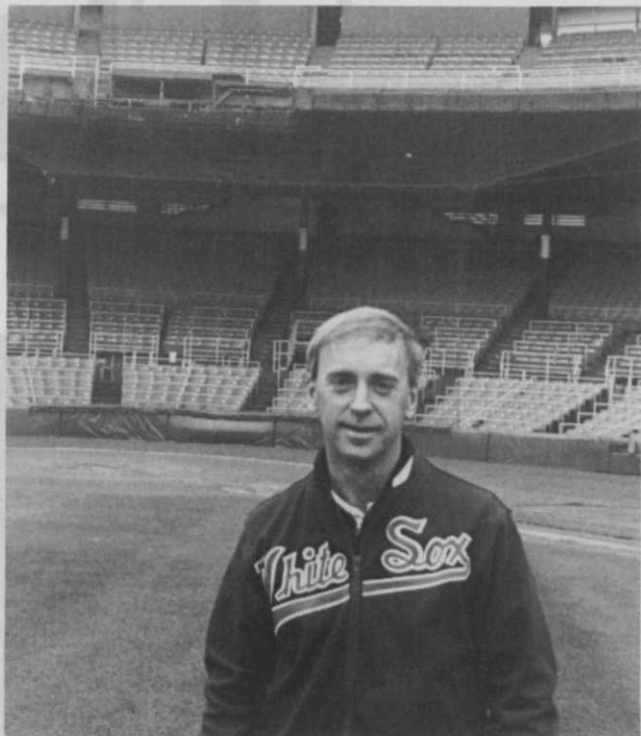
have the resources of a major league organization from which to draw:

- When you're building athletic fields, think of the players first, then drainage.

- Use no less than 70 percent clay in the infield soil mix. The other 30 percent should consist of ¼mm bank or cut sand (like beach sand). He warns against torpedo (rough granular) sand.

- Add a calcine clay like Turface to the mix. "It's used by three-fourths of the major league clubs," Bossard notes. "This type of soil conditioner can cut labor man/hours by 30 percent, rain-outs by 50 percent and expenditures by 20 to 30 percent." He says seven or eight tons of

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Bossard is taking nine inches of his infield mix to the new park: "Don't change the engine if the car's running good."

Personnel changes shake up PLCAA, STMA, GCA

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) is looking for a new executive director, says to President **Rick Steinau**. A search committee hopes to present the final candidates to its Board of Directors at a mid-August meeting. Perrone-Ambrose Associates of Chicago has been retained to help the search, Steinau says.

To apply for the position, send resume and any supporting items to PLCAA, P.O. Box 37462, Cincinnati, OH 45222.

Dale Keller is new full-time executive director of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). Keller is with R/K Communications Group, Inc., of Las Vegas, which was named the association's management firm.

Keller takes over for **Mark Hodnick**, who becomes treasurer.

STMA says Keller is working on a five-year plan to determine specific objec-

tives and specific year-by-year goals, activities, and financial data to support the plan. Included will be plans for fund-raising, membership development, foundations, education, research, scholarship, promotion and award programs.

STMA's new address is: 1455 East Tropicana Ave., Suite 390, P.O. Box 98056, Las Vegas, NV 89183.

Elsewhere in the green industry, a founding member of the Golf Course Association decided to step down: **Curt Walker** served as executive director of the association for privately-owned public golf courses since 1984.

"GCA will always be home to me," says Walker. "Its financial strength today and its recent growth have assured the association a firm position as a major organization in the emerging pattern of professional golf management organizations."

A key to the recent

growth of the privately-owned public golf course, according to **Fred Tingle**, owner of Springdale Country Club in Canton, N.C., has been "GCA's role...and its acceptance by larger golf-related organizations where our interests are similar."

Walker's resignation will become effective once his successor is chosen.

Dan Maples of Pinehurst, N.C., was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) at its recent meeting in Pebble Beach, Calif. Maples, son of former ASGCA President **Ellis Maples**, has designed 36 courses from Georgia to Maine, as well as one in Spain.

Other ASGCA officers elected at the meeting are **Thomas Clark** of Wheaton, N.J. as vice president; **Arthur Hills** of Toledo, Ohio, as secretary; and **Gerald Matthews** of Lansing, Mich., as treasurer. □

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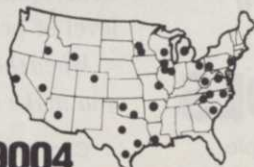
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calcine clay should be used on a typical softball field, 14 tons on a high-quality baseball infield like his. "Make sure you have a minimum four inches of soil as a base," he says.

The existing park has a bluegrass infield cut to 7/8-inch, by edict of the White Sox hitting coach. It is cut every day; Ferromec and eight pounds of nitrogen per year are used to keep it green.

The new park's outfield, which will be a mixture of seven cultivars, will be cut at 1½ inches, same as the existing park.

To combat fusarium and pythium, Bossard applies Subdue fungicide the first or second week in June and Alliette fungicide three weeks later. The only other pesticide he mentions in casual con-

versation is Daconil, which is used late in the season for snow mold control. This season, he is remaining true to his program, except for the Daconil application which will be made only if the Chisox make the AL playoffs.

Once the new park is opened, it will be business as usual, just as it was for his grandfather Emil, his father Gene, his uncles Harold and Marshall, and his cousin Brian (now at Yankee Stadium). There was never a doubt in Roger's mind that this was meant to be.

"I can remember being five years old and pretty much knowing what I wanted to do," he notes. "And today, I'm doing exactly what I want to do, and I'm getting paid for it."

—Jerry Roche □