

ATHLETIC TURF

Paying dividends

The high school coach whose student-built ball diamond was named Beam Clay "Diamond of the Year" now has a new 30-inch reel mower for grooming the infield turf. It was delivered as a gift to the Middlesex County Vocational-Technical School in East Brunswick, N.J. by Locke Mowers Inc.

Locke vice president **Ian Burden** presented the mower to Coach **Ray Cipperly**, school principal **Carl J. Klumb** and school superintendent **Dr. J.H. Zanzalari**.

Coach Cipperly also has an 87-inch Locke Professional mower.

Bounce per pounce

Dr. **Jeff Nus** of Kansas State University is studying a way to add "mini-shock absorbers" to the rootzones of practice football and soccer fields that may otherwise become compacted.

Nus has a granulated polymer that resembles triple-strength gelatin when water is added to it. After one year of applying the polymer to Manhattan, Kansas's Frank Anneberg Sports Complex fields via aeration, soil compaction has been reduced.

The polyacrylamide granules, each about the size of a BB, can absorb from 50 to 1,000 times their weight in water. When added to turf, the expanding

granule seems to loosen the soil. They stay active from four to seven years.

"During the next year, we'll be adding acrylamide at rates from zero to extremely high rates," Nus says. "We want to find the upper limit for the use of these materials. We want to soften playing field some, but we don't want to create a marsh, either."

Nus is working with graduate student **Mike Boaz**. The study is funded by a \$20,000 grant from Olathe Manufacturing.

New turf in Atlanta

Southern Turf Nurseries was chosen to provide new turfgrass for the recent field renovation of the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. The renovation was undertaken to rectify problems caused by non-sports events.

Tifway 419, overseeded with Laser *Poa trivialis* was chosen by Southern's turf consultant **Turner Gibson** and his team of division manager **Steve Mathis** and project manager **Steve Quinn**.

The new field was changed from a baseball/football combination field with a crown to a traditional baseball configuration, which is a level grade.

Ed Mangan, new field manager for the Atlanta Braves who most recently was field manager for the Kansas City Royals' spring training facility in Florida, is now in charge of maintenance. **LM**



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