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SUBDUE

Circle No. 222 on Reader Inquiry Card

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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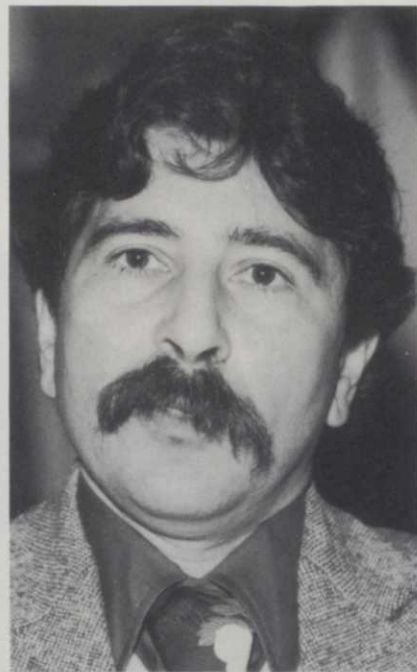
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M.J. Duberstein speaks in NJ

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



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SHORTCUTS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY.....This year marks two anniversaries for the Boy Scouts of America: 75th Diamond Jubilee and 55th year for its landscape architecture merit badge. Nearly 30,000 boys have earned the landscape architecture badge since its inception. Badge candidates—some as young as 11 years of age—must complete six requirements in areas like home grounds planning, topography, drainage, gardening, and plant study.

THE BIG TIME.....Trees were the subject of a recent news short in "Business Week" magazine. The brief article dealt with what homeowners should do to protect their property from possible damage by fallen trees and quoted Howard Eckel of The Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio. (Davey, incidentally, publishes a free "Guide to Tree Beauty and Tree Care" booklet.)

MOLE CRICKETS BEWARE.....Mole crickets have been added to the Florida SLN label of Orthene 75S soluble powder insecticide for use on residential and commercial turf and golf courses. The label recommends a late afternoon or early evening application, after irrigation.

TRAINING AIDS.....Three turf-related organizations have announced new training aids. The New York Turfgrass Association has three 35mm slide sets available—one each on insects, diseases and weeds of turf. Each is \$30 for members and \$45 for non-members. Write them at 210 Cartwright Blvd., Massapequa Park, NY, 11762. The Professional Lawn Care Association is offering slide/cassette training programs on weed control and turf diseases. For more information, call executive vice-president Jim Brooks at (404) 977-5222. And OMC Lincoln has an 18-minute video tape featuring Dr. Robert Shearman from the University of Nebraska. "The Living Carpet," describes common causes, symptoms and treatment of thatch and compaction. Copies are available through dealers or by calling (800) 228-4444.



Dr. Robert Shearman

FOR CHAIN SAW DEVOTEES.....One-year limited warranties are now being provided on all professional chain saws being manufactured by Beard-Poulan/Weed Eater. "We're the only manufacturer, domestic or foreign, who believes strongly enough in its professional chain saws to guarantee them for a full year," says product manager Walter Bennett. The company is the nation's largest manufacturer of chain saws.

ZOYSIA SPORTS TURF?.....Well-known research agronomist Jack Murray of the Beltsville (Md.) Agricultural Research Center has been doing a ton of research on slow-establishing zoysiagrass, a turf he feels has quite a future—as a sports turf. He says a zoysia-tall fescue blend (1-2 pounds tall fescue, to 1/2-1 pound zoysia) provides a good athletic turf. Murray also told the North Central Turfgrass Exposition audience that a synthetic zoysiagrass will be available in four to five years.

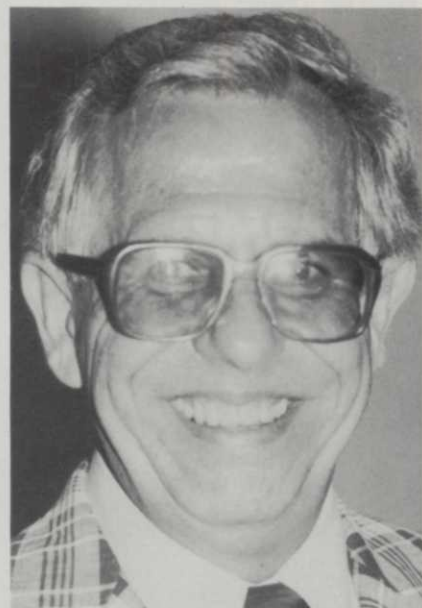
'pesticides' had never been coined," says Becker of the University of Florida. "Something like 'quanticides' and 'qualicides' would have been much more positive terms. Everyone wants quality products. And everyone wants these products in sufficient quantity to keep the price down."

Both, he insists, are by-products of the correct use of pesticides.

Semantics aside, Becker says pesticide users can be "their own worst enemies and fuel public concern that pesticides are bad."

His message: "We must put our house in order." And this for several specific reasons.

Credibility. The public perceives that pesticides are bad, that they contaminate our environment, poison



Dr. William Becker

our water and food supplies. Incidents like the contaminated watermelon scare in California this past summer damage credibility. Five pesticide-related deaths in Florida (two due to misuse, one to suicide, two in murder cases) attract national attention, he points out.

Also, the potential loss of pesticides for uses which they are now approved threatens green industry effectiveness. "We are losing nematocides in large quantities," Becker says. Meanwhile, manufacturers face higher costs of pesticide development, testing, approval, and marketing.

"The industry will continue to try to develop better pesticides where thousands of acres are going to be treated," Becker says. New products for smaller, specialized acreages are becoming increasingly scarce.

Becker warns, "there are enough

opportunities for pesticide problems and accidents" without the help of the green industry. "Too many of our competitors are cheating."

His advice: follow directions. They're on each pesticide label.

To prevent further restrictions on the use of pesticides, Becker outlines five steps.

● Use the right pesticide. Know your pest problem and know if a pesticide is needed. "Far too many pesticides are used because a problem 'may' develop. We fix far too many lawns which don't need fixing," he says.

● Storage. Give pesticides lock-and-key treatment. Only a few trusted employees should have access to them. Only reasonable quantities should be on hand. Inventory should be maintained. Storage should be fire proof, flood proof.

● Training. Becker emphasizes employees should be "trained, re-trained, certified, licensed, and tattooed and branded as qualified pesticide mixers, loaders, and applicators."

● Transport. The tailgate of a pickup truck is a dangerous place to transport a hazardous product. Can an eight-year-old boy get into pesticides

at a job site even after they've been safely delivered?

● Disposal. Pesticide users must join to lobby for and insist upon rational and reasonable solutions for the disposal of materials. Becker feels the improper disposal of chemicals is, perhaps, the public's greatest concern.

Says Becker: "Just as we have convinced our population that we cannot run our automobiles without gasoline, our homes without electricity, our daily lives without plastic, we must convince them that we cannot provide them with the quality and quantity of food and fiber—and attractive lawns—without pesticides."

—Ron Hall

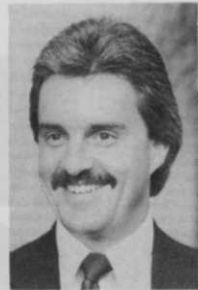
PEOPLE

HBJ promotes Kempner to associate publisher

Ron Kempner rises from national sales manager to associate publisher of WEEDS TREES & TURF. He has been with HBJ Publications for seven years. Jon Miducki joins WT&T as regional sales manager. Miducki was formerly regional sales manager for PEST CONTROL, another HBJ Publications



Kempner



Miducki

magazine.

The Professional Grounds Management Society says James B. Williamson completed the Grounds Manager Certification Program. Williamson is president of Colorado Clean, Inc., Colorado Springs, Colo., and is the 14th person to complete the program since it began April 1980.

Nice 'N' Green Plant Foods, Romeoville, Ill., gets a new salesman, Bret Rush, formerly with Ernie's Fertilizer Services, Walton, Ind. The Purdue grad operated a lawn care business before that.

The California Landscape Contractors Association tabs Roger D. Fiske as its 1986 president. Fiske has been a member of that organization since 1962.

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