

REBOUND

LETTERS FROM READERS

Bravo! Just read your premiere issue of **sportsTURF** and must say—well done. I especially enjoyed the article on artificial turf. I discussed rugs versus grass with several turf managers and have been told that carpets can be harder to maintain than natural turf. You might want to follow up with an article based on interviews with grounds maintenance managers of professional baseball and football teams about what's involved in keeping the plastic grass in top condition for longer life.

I look forward to reading upcoming issues. Please keep them coming.

Robert Tracinski, Public Relations Department

Deere & Company, Moline, IL

Congratulations on your first issue. I share your excitement and enthusiasm for this new publication. I'm proud to be one of your advisory board members and will do all I can to continue the pace set by your first issue. It's just great!

William B. Knoop, Extension Turf Specialist

Texas A&M University, Dallas, TX

Congratulations on your new publication. Looks great!

Cheryl Van Vliet, Communications Director

Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, Washington, D.C.

Congratulations on your **sportsTURF** magazine. Looks good.

Paul Voykin, Superintendent,

Briarwood Country Club, Deerfield, IL

Golf is golf is golf. Sports turf can be golf, football, baseball, soccer, bowling, tennis, and so on down the list. Won't it be great when every sport played on grass can look to a central source where all the data and answers can be found?

Total consolidation of turfgrass interests and total cooperation among agencies will be the answer to efficient operation of research and education facilities for sports turf.

Those of us who are involved in Safer Sports Turf feel fortunate to have a close working relationship with the new **sportsTURF** publication.

Fred V. Grau, President,

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation

College Park, MD

We are very impressed with the first issue received of your **sportsTURF** magazine. It would be greatly appreciated if you would send a sample copy to our campus coordinator of plant operations.

David L. Ross, Director of Athletics, Suffolk Community College, Selden, NY

Congratulations to you and your staff for having the guts to proceed with your vision relative to the need for a viable magazine to service the sports turf marketplace. If your first issue is any indication, I think you have hit "a home run."

Please allow me to make some comments which are dear to my heart.

I read with great interest the editorial in your premiere issue about the Sports Illustrated issue of August 12, concerning artificial turf. Let me say up front that our Enkaturf System positions my company on the natural side of the fence.

Since we are all aware of the power of the advertising dollar, the artificial turf proponents have had a field day over the past 10-15 years. Whenever a stadium is in the decision making process, the artificial turf people rally their forces as one, and there is no one out there who represents the other side of the fence. A number of small players do present the information about their products (seed companies, watering systems, etc.) but there is no unified front to counteract the artificial turf guys.

Two specific comments about your article. No matter what the artificial turf guys would like us to believe, the issue concerning greater incidence of injury on artificial turf is well-documented.

Point of fact one: The settlement of the player's strike several years ago included a paragraph in which it was agreed by the Owners and Players Association that a joint task force would be formed to decide whether a moratorium should be placed on the installation of any additional artificial turf fields. To the best of my knowledge, this task force has never been formed.

Point of fact two: I am told by some very knowledgeable people that the European Soccer Federation refuses to play on artificial turf in the U.S. on any of their tours.

Second, your article as well as the Sports Illustrated article both missed the key issue that in my opinion is the major reason for the continued increase in the use of artificial turf—the power of the television media! They don't care about injuries, they don't care about anything

except their ratings, and their tremendous buying power has been used to pressure the stadiums into installing artificial turf.

I hope your new magazine will at least consider taking a stand on this issue. We need the facts presented fairly, representing both sides of the argument. Then let the chips fall where they may.

Again, good luck with your new venture. We at American Enka will look forward to working with you in the future.

P. L. Skoglund, Jr., Director, Enka Geomatrix Systems, Enka, NC

The best thing I've ever read on turf problems and maintenance. Keep 'em coming.

Maxie Tyndall, Director of Parks and Recreation

Elizabethtown, N.C.

Being so busy, I was glad to get **sportsTURF** magazine and to see that you are there. I missed you in *Weeds Trees & Turf*.

The magazine is great! Your entire staff should be congratulated; people around the world need a good magazine devoted to athletic fields. We need to get the word to people involved in athletic fields. As is my speech, I always bring up that the athletic director, business manager, general manager, head of parks and recreation, and even the owner of professional teams should get involved.

George Toma, Turf Manager, Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City, MO

I would like to congratulate you on your new publication. I have just finished reading it and feel you have a lot to be proud of. It is a nicely written magazine and I am sure it will be an outstanding success, and a great contribution to the industry.

Avram Ben-Yehuda, President, Irri-Trol Manufacturing, Inc., Valencia, CA

I was at a resort the other day and saw your first issue of **sportsTURF** and was very impressed. I am a chemical, fertilizer, grass seed, and parts distributor for Northern Michigan calling on some 100 school systems and cities using large turf areas for football, baseball and many other outdoor sports.

Tom Reed, President Tri-Turf, Traverse City, MI