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MAIN EVENTS

14 FOOTBALL FIELD PREPARATION: GRADUATING TO DURABLE, SAFE GRIDIRONS

High school administrators are realizing that turf expertise is needed to help custodial or physical plant staffs keep stadium and practice football fields in safe condition under growing use levels. They can create a separate athletic field staff headed up by an experienced turf manager, hire a sports turf contractor, or place field management under the responsibility of a maintenance management company. By utilizing the skills of these experts, schools can save the cost and inconvenience of frequent field reconstruction and protect their investment in both the fields and sports programs. In any case, the answer to durable, safe gridirons is a well-designed, year-round maintenance program. Read how school districts from across the country have solved their football field problems.

28 SPOON-FEEDING SAND CREEK

When Bethlehem Steel built Sand Creek Country Club in northern Indiana in the mid-70s, it was treating its hard-working salaried executives to the best golf money could buy. The course was wall-to-wall bentgrass with USGA greens and more than 50 water and sand hazards. Maintaining such a course was equally challenging. When localized dry spots and fertilizer tracking tarnished the appearance of the greens and tees, Superintendent Peter Sinnott and his assistant Kevin Smith devised a weekly spray program of pesticides mixed with soluble fertilizers. Ten years later, although the course is now owned by a real estate development company from Chicago, it is still faithfully spoon-fed weekly. The private corporate course is now an important lure for a planned community to serve Chicago commuters.

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COVER: Lamonica Stadium in Clovis, CA, dressed up for the big game between high school rivals Clovis High and Clovis West.