

THE EXTRA POINT

STMA NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Most of us were brought up to believe that if one worked hard, success would follow. Our efforts would be noticed and the recognition and rewards would come.

But then, it isn't too difficult to recall those who cut corners by chatting with the teacher, being eager to run errands, and trying to please.

They got recognition, made the team,

were rarely in trouble, "lucked into" various opportunities, and usually got fairly good grades. They were ahead of the rest, and if they were also smart and worked hard, there were no barriers.

These people developed a political relationship with the individual in control of what they wanted. They became well known to the right person. Sometimes it was apple polishing. Sometimes it was aggressiveness. It was always politics. It was very effective then and still is.

Too often the sports turf manager is politically out of touch with the administrative decision makers. Even though political awareness is not in the job description, it is every bit as important to success as agronomic knowledge and managerial expertise.

Who are the people with the most influence over the operation? Do they know the sports turf manager? Is there any communication between them?

The answer to question frequently asked by sports turf managers is, "No, they can't see how much the fields are being used or what you need." They have to be told and shown. They can only be made aware through the political process—personal contact.

The administration has to know what the sports turf manager looks like, sounds like, and thinks like. Good working relationships can be developed through personal tours when things look particularly good and especially bad. Requests should only be made when they are rationally justified, with extensive homework completed. It is important to remember that administrators are rarely thanked for help received and a job well done.

The sports turf manager owes it to the facility, the users, the employees, and himself to become a significant part of the internal politics of his organization. It is not necessary to set aside moral principles or sacrifice dignity to be politically effective. It is most simply a matter of becoming known, developing lines of communication, and having credibility.

Steve Cockerham

FLORIDA CHAPTER IS UP AND RUNNING

The first official chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association is meeting monthly in Miami, FL, and has elected its first set of officers. Pro-tem Chairman Tom Mascaro relinquished his post with the installation of the new



South Florida Chapter Number One officers (L to R) Jim Barnes, Ed Birch, Dale Sandin, and John Mascaro.

officers but will remain active to help build the chapter. Attendance at monthly meetings has doubled to nearly 20 turf managers since last November when the chapter was formed.

Edmond Birch, Broward County Schools, is the first president of South Florida Chapter Number One. Dale Sandin, groundskeeper at the Orange Bowl, is vice president. Mascaro's son, John, of Turf-Tec International, was elected secretary/treasurer. Jim Barnes, with Broward County Schools, is education and meetings chairman.

The organization has adopted and will abide by the objectives and bylaws of the national. Emphasis will be on education and information. The chapter is working closely with Dr. John Cisar and Dr. Monica Elliott, both Florida extension turf specialists, and Dr. Ed Freeman, state turfgrass coordinator.

Topics discussed at the meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month, include specification for construction of sports fields, grasses, water management, and maintenance. For further information on the new chapter, contact: Edmond Birch, 22577 S. W. 64 Way, Boca Raton, FL 33428.

Both Birch and Tom Mascaro will speak on sports turf management during the Florida Turfgrass Conference and Show to be held October 8-11, in Tampa.

CATCH THE ACTION

Mark your calendar!

September 26 - Northeastern Sports Turf Institute

College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

January 19-21, 1990 -

Annual Conference and Trade Show

Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, Houston, TX.



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