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MAIN EVENTS

14 FROM GLOOM TO GLORY: TOWSON STATE RALLIES BEHIND BASEBALL DIAMOND

In the summer of 1986 when the athletic trainer at Towson State University near Baltimore, MD, declared the practice football field unsafe for use, school president Hoke Smith decided to draw the line. From this sobering state of affairs, arose a new spirit of cooperation among the administration, the athletic department and the physical plant staff. Smith agreed that departments which use the campus grounds for their programs should help pay for maintenance and improvements. Burdick Field, the university's baseball diamond, was the first athletic facility to benefit. Assistant athletic director Joe Ardolino and grounds superintendent Paul Thomas worked with Pat Santarone, veteran groundskeeper for the Baltimore Orioles, to make Burdick Field the 1989 Baseball Diamond of the Year in the collegiate category. The Towson State Tiger baseball team not only helped renovate the infield, they went on to win the NCAA Division I Eastern Conference Championship the next year.

23 PLANO MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE APPLIES CONSERVATIVE APPROACH TO GROWTH

One thing that attracts businesses and homeowners to Plano, TX, is its home town atmosphere. The city has made quality parks and open space top priorities and that extends to Plano Municipal Golf Course. Since taking over an existing daily fee course in 1985, the park department has made a series of conservative improvements, ranging from a new irrigation system to better maintenance equipment. As a result, the number of rounds has increased to the point where the course is self-supporting. Kevin Murray, superintendent of park operations, and golf course superintendent Butch Hartline can now look seriously toward further improvements. Their conservative approach to park and golf course management proves that municipal golf courses can pay their own way if they satisfy area golfers.

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COVER: Towson State University baseball coach Mike Gottlieb and Temple University coach prior to game on renovated Burdick Field.