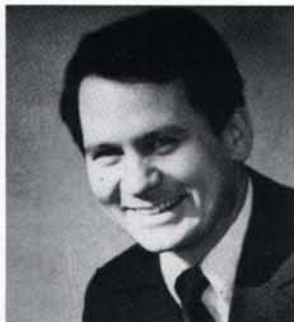


THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

DEADLINE NEARS FOR BASEBALL AWARDS



Baseball field managers take note: This is the last month to enter the Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards. October 31 is the cutoff date for entering this one-of-a-kind industry contest.

Keep in mind that there are three awards each year. One is for colleges and universities, another for parks and schools, and the third is for major and minor league complexes. Your facility will be compared with others in your class by a distinguished group

of major league head groundskeepers.

We are very fortunate this year to have four judges, one from each division of the major league. The National League-East is represented by Pete Flynn of the New York Mets. Steve Wightman of the San Diego Padres will be judging for the National League-West. Harry Gill of the American League-East Milwaukee Brewers and Jim Anglea of the American League-West Texas Rangers complete the panel of judges.

There is no particular set of standards you must meet. The judges base their selections on the type of diamond you produce under your particular circumstances. They take into consideration your effort, resources, and field use, as well as the impact your field has had on your team, school or community. The judges' goal is to recognize sports turf managers who use their skills in a professional manner to improve the quality of America's pastime.

This contest is really about pride and determination. Previous winners have gone far beyond the call of duty to produce top notch baseball diamonds. They have sought out information on field construction, renovation and maintenance. Then they have fought for the resources to put these techniques to work.

Rarely do they achieve their goals single-handedly. First they build a team by enlisting the support of management, their crew, players, and fellow sports turf managers. By clearing one hurdle at a time, the team ultimately reaps the rewards of an improved playing surface.

Each previous winner of the Baseball Diamond of the Year Award has been a story of personal and team accomplishment. From New Mexico to New York, from a local high school to a major league spring training facility, their success in improving the quality of baseball facilities has inspired sports turf managers across the country to learn more, to try harder, and never to give up.

I urge you to enter the contest. Explain to the judges in your entry the background of your facility, the efforts of your team, and the results of your achievements. Include photographs that showcase your field. Tell your story in full.

The entry form is on page 19 in this issue. Start filling it out now.

Bruce F. Shank

EVENTS

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

7-10 NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition, Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association, P.O. Box 612, Latham, NY 12110, (800) 873-TURF.

7-8 Guelph Turfgrass Institute, College Inn, Guelph, Ontario. Contact: Division of Continuing Education, University of Guelph, Room 160, Johnston Hall, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1, (519) 824-4120.

10-12 Green Team Conference and Trade Show, Sheridan Hotel, St. Louis, MO. Contact: PGMS, 12 Galloway Ave., Suite 1E, Cockeysville, MD 21030, (301) 667-1833.

13-15 Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Keller Conference Center, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Contact: Dr. Joseph Duich, Dept. of Agronomy, 405 Agric. Admin. Bldg., University Park, PA 16802, (814) 865-9853.

28-30 Turfgrass and Ornamental Chemical Seminar, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. Contact Barb Meyer, Purdue University, Dept. of Agronomy, Lilly Hall, West Lafayette, IN 47907-7899, (317) 494-4772.

DECEMBER

4-7 New Jersey Turfgrass Expo '89. Resorts International Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ. Contact: Dr. Henry Indyk, Crop Science Dept., P.O. Box 231, Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, (201) 932-9453.