As we enter a new decade, you will notice that we have added the word golf to our title. It could not have come at a more appropriate time. We did it for a number of reasons. Golf is an integral part of sports in the U.S. Even though we have been writing about golf since the inception of our publication, some people thought we excluded it in our editorial. So as we enter the 1990s, we hope Golf & SportSTURF magazine will help us all to do a better job.

Our focus will not change. The demand for sports fields is increasing each year. Professional baseball and football leagues will expand in the '90s. Soccer will come of age in 1994 when the U.S. hosts the World Cup for the first time. Turf horse-racing tracks are gaining popularity with both owners and bettors. Even elite sports such as polo, croquet, lawn bowling, field hockey, and rugby are experiencing renewed interest.

As our population grows, more sports fields will be needed to satisfy the demands of our citizens. Parks, schools, and community colleges must be built to serve fitness-minded children and adults. As more people participate in various sports on turfgrass, fields will not only require higher levels of maintenance to assure playability and appearance, but safety as well.

Golf continues to grow at a furious pace. The need for additional golf courses is increasing as more yuppies switch from tennis and racquetball to golf. It seems that each golf course is getting more play. The wear and tear on tees, greens, and fairways will put new demands on the professionals who have the responsibility of caring for our courses.

We must keep in mind how labor-intensive taking care of sports fields and golf courses is. However, with new equipment and technology we should be able to move forward while still keeping labor costs under control. We are also going to have to learn to be more selective in our use of water and pesticides.

Great opportunities abound for good, qualified golf course superintendents and grounds managers. The assistants of today will be the leaders of tomorrow. As they enter the new decade, they carry with them a responsibility of caring for these sports field, and golf courses as never before. We will all have to be more creative in the ensuing decade as we prepare to enter the 21st century.

The world is looking at the United States for expertise in the way we maintain our golf courses and sports fields. Japan, for example, has hired some golf course superintendents at extremely high prices to go over to Japan and teach their people how to maintain, groom, and keep a golf course in good condition.

The National Football League has sent grounds managers to England, Japan, and Sweden to prepare their fields for exhibition games. Chip Toma, groundskeeper for the Kansas City Chiefs, has traveled to China twice recently to help that country prepare for the Asian games. The world appreciates the skills of our professionals.

There are some excellent opportunities that await us as we enter the 1990s. Let's use them to the benefit of the industry.