PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
By Gil Landry

Any professional would have to be proud of the achievement of George Toma and his crew at San Francisco's Candlestick Park for the NFL championship game between the Dallas Cowboys and the San Francisco 49ers on January 17. Such national exposure is invaluable to our industry, giving us a more professional image.

Webster’s Dictionary defines the word professional as “of, engaged in, or worthy of the high standards of, a profession.” And profession is defined as “a vocation or occupation requiring advanced education and training, and involving intellectual skills, as medicine, engineering, teaching, law, etc.” In San Francisco, Toma and his crew defined professionalism for the sports turf industry. They engineered an extensive surgical procedure on that field and certainly added tremendous insight into our profession.

TOMA NAMED TO ALL-MADDEN TEAM
The Sports Turf Managers Association’s (STMA) Groundskeeper of the Year, George Toma, was named to CBS sports commentator John Madden’s “All-Madden Team” January 24.

The “All-Madden Team” consists of players and personnel who personify Madden’s football philosophy of hard work and a “what it takes attitude.” Madden cited Toma’s heroic work in preparing the football field at Candlestick Park for the NFC Championship Game January 17. Toma is the first groundskeeper to be named in the nine-year history of the program.

A co-founder of STMA, Toma has spent more than 40 years working in the sports turf industry. He has dazzled prominent figures with his baseball, football and soccer expertise. Toma has worked every Super Bowl since the first game at the Los Angeles Coliseum in 1967, and in 1972 he became the NFL’s playing field consultant.

STMA Chapter News

The New England Chapter: STMA—Future plans of the New England Chapter STMA include an all-day meeting to be during August in the mid-New England area. Further details will be announced soon.

For information on the meeting or other chapter activities, contact Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System at (508) 831-1225.

Midwest Chapter: STMA—The Chapter, in cooperation with Wheaton College, is sponsoring the National Midwest Regional Sports Turf Institute, which will be June 30. The Institute offers the opportunity to take part in education sessions, gain up-to-date information from suppliers at the trade show and share ideas with other sports turf professionals.