

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.

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Developing A Professional Edge

It is up to each of us to build on professional accomplishments; to recognize national fields with state-of-the-art equipment, along with local success stories where well-trained crews supported by adequate budgets produce safe, high-quality fields. Developing professionalism is one of our biggest challenges and toughest obstacles.

If you want to be considered a professional, you have to act, dress, and speak accordingly. Professionals may not always have all the answers, so they rely on other professionals such as colleagues, suppliers, consultants, reference books or associations for assistance.

Improving Our Image

The visibility our sports facilities receive offers our industry the opportunity to enhance its image. We need to be prepared, to handle the expecta-

tations that comes with better staff and more dollars.

There is no reason the sports turf industry can't have an association such as the golf course industry has. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) 64th Annual Conference and Trade Show drew more than 16,000 industry professionals and 600 manufacturers and distributors exhibiting more than 175,000 square feet.

In less than half that time—30 years—the STMA will be hosting an event of similar size, importance and value. Like Toma and his crew at Candlestick Park, the GCSAA is the model for success, a professional association fostering professionalism in industry and membership. Like the GCSAA, STMA must walk before it can run. Just watch, or better yet, join the team. After all, half the fun is getting there. □

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.

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.

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

New for 1993 will be the Infield Rodeo, a two-person team competition on infield dragging and line-marking to determine who's the best in the midwest.

Further details on the Institute will be announced soon.

For information on the chapter, these meetings or other chapter activities, call the chapter hotline (708) 439-4727, or Mike Trigg, Waukegan Park District (708) 360-4750.

STMA Florida Chapter #1—April 1, a field day will be held at the Institute of Food and Agriculture, 3205 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL. This will be a full-day program presented in conjunction with the University of Florida. Activities will include a tour of research plots and a review of research reports.

On May 18, a meeting and tour will be at the Palm Beach Polo Grounds from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Further details on this meeting will be announced shortly.

For information on the South Florida Chapter, or for details on these meetings or other chapter activities, contact John Mascaro (305) 938-7477 or Ed Birch (305) 938-0217.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association—ISTMA is developing the program for a June Sports Turf Workshop in the Eastern Iowa area. An August 4 workshop will take place in Des Moines, IA, at Sec Taylor Stadium, home of the Chicago Cubs AAA affiliate. This workshop will "cover the field" on baseball field maintenance. Further details on these workshops will be announced soon.

For information on these workshops, or other Iowa Chapter activities, contact Gary Peterson (515) 791-0765.

Colorado Chapter: STMA—The Colorado Chapter is in the planning stages for a late spring workshop on topdressing, a summer institute on care of soccer fields and a fall workshop on football field maintenance. For additional information on these meetings, contact Mark Leasure at (719) 597-1449.

For information on the Colorado Chapter and upcoming activities, contact Ron Marten, Falcon Colorado School District 49 (719) 495-3601.


Chesapeake Chapter: STMA—For information on the chapter and its activities, contact the chapter hotline (301) 865-0667.

Carolina Chapter: STMA—For information on the Carolina Chapter and its activities, contact Marc Farha, facilities manager for the Charlotte Knights (704) 332-3746.

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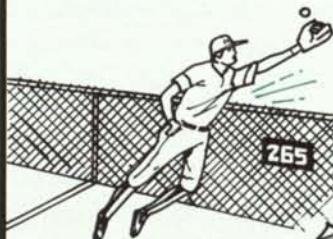
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