

# THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

## Living Trophies



In this issue we present the final 1992-1993 Baseball Diamond of the Year Award feature. The story covers the rise to excellence of Twi-Light Field in Danvers, MA, winner in the parks/high school/municipal category. Behind that ascendancy is John Schmidgall, trees and grounds supervisor. He was hired by a community with the uncommon foresight to know it needed a *professional* — one with an educational and practical background in athletic field management — to care for *amateur* baseball diamonds.

Just as Schmidgall is the man behind the scenes at Twi-Light Field, there are several people behind the Diamond of the Year Award scenes who deserve recognition. Most of you probably know the awards are sponsored by Beam Clay, the Sports Turf Managers Association and this magazine. The four judges, however, from each division of Major League Baseball, change every year. For 1992-1993 they were:

- Frank Albohn, stadium superintendent, Yankee Stadium, representing the American League East.
- Wilbur Loo, head groundskeeper, King County Stadium (in Seattle, WA), representing the American League West.
- Steve "Dirt" Dinardo, head groundskeeper, Pittsburgh Pirates, representing the National League East.
- Albert Meyers, head groundskeeper, Los Angeles Dodgers, representing the National League West.

Thank you, gentlemen.

Judges are not paid or in any way compensated for their efforts. They must review all the entries, based on written descriptions and photographs supplied by the entrants, on their own time. Part of winning has to do with the entrants' ability, not only to maintain a superior baseball diamond, but to communicate the excellence of their fields to the judges.

Diamond of the Year Award winners tend to be absolutely thrilled with the honor. Hopeful entrants often describe the award as their professional *goal*. It's difficult not to be touched by that kind of commitment and passion for a job so many people — but certainly not those souls in the town of Danvers — take for granted.

For their efforts, award winners receive plaques. But their real rewards are self-accomplishment and the baseball diamonds they labored to create and preserve. They are gems to be shared by grounds crews, players, fans and the surrounding communities.

They are living trophies.

Matthew Trulio

Correction: An April 1993 *sportsTURF* news item, "Turf Diagnostics and Design Gets NFL Recommendation," incorrectly implied that Turf Diagnostics and Design creates and builds high-performance turf systems. The firm was recommended by the National Football to *consult* on high-performance turf systems at venues within the league. We regret any confusion this error may have caused.

# EVENTS

CALENDAR

## JUNE

**3** Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day. Freehold, NJ. Contact: Edmund Milewski (201) 285-8300.

## JULY

**8** University of Georgia Turfgrass Field Day. Georgia Station, Griffin, GA. Contact: Georgia Turfgrass Association (404) 975-4123 or Extension Conference Office (912) 681-5189.

**18-24** International Turfgrass Society's 7th International Turfgrass Research Conference. Breakers Resort, Palm Beach, FL. Contact: Dr. George Snyder (407) 996-3062 or Dr. John Cisar (305) 475-8990.

**25-27** International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo. Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Contact: (502) 473-1992.

## AUGUST

**5** National Turfgrass Evaluation Program turfgrass research field day. USDA, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center West, Beltsville, MD. Contact: Kevin Morris or Jennatte Wills (301) 504-2125.

**17** Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day. O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, Madison, WI. Contact: Dr. Frank Rossi (608) 262-1490.

## SEPTEMBER

**26-29** Florida Turfgrass Association's (FTGA) 41st annual conference and show. Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL. Contact: FTGA (800) 882-6721.

Send announcements on your events *two months in advance* to:  
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