

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Community Asset

I read your fine article on Steve Wightman as Man of the Year in your January 1996 issue. Steve has also been an integral part of the turf management at Patrick Henry High School in San Diego. I first talked to Steve just a couple of months after he arrived in San Diego. I was actually calling for his predecessor; not knowing that Steve was the new guy in town.

I have been actively involved in field maintenance as a parent volunteer with the San Carlos Little League for 15 years. When my oldest son started playing football at Patrick Henry, I was asked to join the parent football booster club. I was immediately shown the field. Thus a call to Steve to ask if he ever volunteered some time and knowledge for a high school field. There was no hesitation in Steve saying, "Sure, I'll be glad to take a look." Fortunately the field is only ten minutes away from Jack Murphy Stadium.

The first thing he told us was, "There is a drainage problem you need to address." Unfortunately, like most school districts, there was no money to solve the matter at that time. Steve gave us a list of remedial measures that would probably buy us some time. The remedial action worked, and the football team continued to practice and play for several years. Two years ago, at my request, he surveyed our baseball infield, which had not been totally renovated in 25 years. He met with school officials and parents and gave us a recipe for redoing the field. Two months later we had a new infield — top to bottom. It was a total community effort. Steve would come by periodically and check on it to see how we were doing.

Last spring the football field finally gave up the ghost, and the school district was at a loss as to how to renovate it — or else they would have to close it because of a playing-safety concern. Again, Steve to the rescue. He again volunteered his time and expertise and designed an underground drainage system using a black corrugated drain pipe. The school

district agreed to fund the project to finally do the job correctly once and for all.

You should have seen the expressions on the school district officials' faces when the system was tested and you could actually hear the water flowing into the main drain from all parts of the field. We invited Steve and his wife to be our guests at homecoming this past fall to say thank you. He had to leave at half time as he had to be in Fullerton at 7:00 a.m. the following morning to help install the baseball field and mound at Fullerton State University; the same field you refer to in your article.

Professionally I serve as a council representative for Judy McCarty in the City of San Diego. Last spring one of the city's multi-purpose fields finally failed after 20 years of constant use. I again called on Steve for his recommendations. As a result, the city renovated the entire field and replaced 20,000 square feet of sod. It was the largest field renovation and resodding/reseeding project the city has ever done, according to their landscape maintenance department.

It is great to see someone of Steve's stature receive such a deserving award and to read about this very involved individual in your magazine. I have forwarded a copy of the article to the superintendent of schools, as she is the individual who gave the go-ahead to spend the funds to redo the football field at Patrick Henry High.

Jay Wilson
San Diego, CA

To respond, share your experience or express an opinion, write us at:

sportsTURF

68-860 Perez Rd., Suite J
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Fax:(619) 770-8019

E-mail: jwilliams@mail.aip.com

or

Call (619) 770-4370

if you have any questions regarding submissions.

**YOUR "ONE-STOP SOURCE"
FOR AMERICA'S LEADING
BASEBALL SURFACES & SUPPLIES**



THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE
... SINCE 1922

USED BY OVER 100 PRO TEAMS,
OVER 500 COLLEGES, PLUS THOUSANDS
OF TOWNS & SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE.
SPECIAL MIXES FOR INFIELDS,
PITCHER'S MOUNDS & HOME PLATE AREAS.

RED WARNING TRACKS

CONDITIONERS TO IMPROVE
LOCAL INFIELD MATERIALS:

IF TOO HARD AND POORLY DRAINING!

Terra-Green

THE REDDER, LESS DUSTY, MORE UNIFORM
SOIL CONDITIONER & DRYING AGENT
"SUPER-RED" FOR INFIELDS
"SUPER-GREEN" FOR TURF
THAT MORE PRO TEAMS ARE USING
TO IMPROVE AERATION & DRAINAGE
YET RETAIN MOISTURE IN HOT WEATHER!

IF TOO SOFT & DUSTY!

STABILIZER®

FOR FIRM, YET RESILIENT, PLAYING SURFACES

TO QUICKLY DRY INFIELDS!



The Original & Most Absorbent
DIAMOND-DRY.

TO REMOVE STANDING WATER!

SUPER SOPPER®
WATER REMOVAL MACHINES
& THE DIAMOND PUMP™

**PLUS LEADING BASEBALL SUPPLIES
AT THE BEST PRICES NATIONWIDE!**

HOLLYWOOD® BASES
FIELD MARKING MACHINES
TAMPERS • DRAG MATS • RAKES
SAFETY FENCE • WINDSCREEN • RAIL PADS
BATTING PRACTICE COVERS • RAIN COVERS
PERMANENT FOUL LINES & MUCH MORE!

**OVER 200 INFIELD PRODUCTS
FREE INSTRUCTIONAL BROCHURES
DISTRIBUTION CENTERS NATIONWIDE!**

800-247-BEAM

908-637-4191 / FAX 908-637-8421

PARTAC PEAT CORPORATION
KELSEY PARK, GREAT MEADOWS, NJ 07838

INTRODUCING

**REGIONAL INFIELD MIXES
Blended for Your State and Climate!**

Call 1(800) 817-1889 use **Fast Fax #1250496**
and/or Circle 125 on Postage Free Card