

STMA MESSAGE

In the Public Eye



By Mike Schiller

Wow, half of 1996 has sped by! I hope that spring and early summer weather

in your part of the country has been better than what we have experienced in the Chicagoland area. We suffered from a lack of moisture in the early spring, but we have more than made up for it in the past few weeks.

Many of our softball and baseball leagues are way behind due to rain-outs. Though we all love a good challenge, I certainly wish us a little less-challenging weather for the remainder of the summer.

I got the chance to watch some television in early June, and saw golf pro Tom Watson win his first tournament in nine years. What a lesson in perseverance for us all. He's such a fine gentleman and a great striker of the ball. I was really happy to see him win again.

Speaking of winners, I also got to watch some of the NCAA College Baseball World Series games.

I was proud to observe the fine job that Jesse Cuevas and his staff have done at Rosenblatt Stadium. I've known Jesse for a few years — he's one of our former STMA board members. Jesse, my hat is off to you and your fine staff for the excellent facility you provided during the series and the rest of the year.

With television coverage of the College World Series, the Olympics and the summer contingent of professional baseball and soccer games, our sports turf fields are definitely in the public eye. All your fields are "watched" just as closely — by the players, coaching staffs and fans — whether you're providing the playing surface for parks and recreation department sports, elementary, high school or college teams, or any step in the professional ranks. Your focus on safety first, then aesthetics, is what makes all this play possible — and what continues to earn the sports turf manager increased respect.

And — as long as we're focusing on fine facilities — maybe you have a

soccer, football, softball or baseball facility that you're especially proud of. Now is the time to put together some slides and photos and to document some of your hard work. Get those details down now and enter your field in the Field of the Year awards program. For more information, contact Steve Trusty at 800/323-3875.

As each of you provide safe facilities for people of all ages and abilities, you *should* be proud of yourselves and the efforts you put forth.

Speaking of people to be proud of, I'm especially proud of our education committee. They've put together an excellent



program for our annual conference, January 15-19 in Colorado Springs. I really hope you're making plans *right now* to attend. You're sure to pick up at least one or two new or better ways of doing something that will make your job easier or more efficient and improve your fields.

Have a *great* summer!

Life is short. SOD IT!

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