

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE



Congratulations To All

With this issue, *sportsTURF* reaches the halfway point in reporting the fields of the year, and at this time, we want to congratulate not only the winners of the awards but also the “losers”: those who submitted their fields for consideration but did not quite reach the top spot. In many instances, the voting was razor close and the winning edge was a field’s budget — or the

lack thereof. Given a choice between two or more fields of equal quality, the judges tended to pick the lowly budgeted.

For these awards, like so many others, the real honor lies in just being considered. In the case of the Beam Clay Baseball Diamonds of the Year, for instance, the judges were asked (1) to “recognize professionalism in maintaining outstanding baseball facilities” and (2) to award no points if no candidates were “sufficiently qualified.” In all of the categories, the bulk of the fields that entered received points from at least one judge. This means most the fields that entered were deemed professionally maintained, outstanding baseball facilities — which is no faint praise, coming from three Major League groundskeepers.

Any sports turf manager with a substantially renovated field should consider entering it for next year’s awards (call STMA at 712/366-2669 for entry forms). It doesn’t matter if the field is short on staff and budget and long on fickle, inclement weather. The judges take such adversities into consideration. The main thing they seem to look at is the ingenuity and tender, loving care of the management.

Ask the Experts

Internet site of the month is SportGrass Turf System at the following address: <http://www.sportgrass.com> The site provides the e-mail addresses of and a chance to correspond with the following turfgrass specialists: Dr. John Rogers, Dr. Dave Minner, Dr. Norman W. Hummel, Dr. Milton Engelke and Chuck Dixon.

Hebrard Moved

People trying to reach Mike Hebrard in follow up to his April article, “Field Striping and Painting,” are welcome to contact him at his new address: Athletic Field Design, 12586 S.E. Bluff Dr., Clackamas, OR 97015; phone (503) 698-6383, fax (503) 698-7289.

EVENTS

CALENDAR

July

10 Field Day at Penn State, a tour of the school’s turf plots and athletic fields. Penn State Univ., University Park, PA. Contact: Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization, (610) 375-8469, ext. 212.

12 Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association Mid-Summer Seminar. Suplizio Field, Grand Junction, CO. Contact: Troy Smith, Denver Broncos, at (303) 649-9000. Fax: (303) 438-9645.

16 Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association Workshop on Wheels. St. Paul, MN. Contact: Brian Deyak, (612) 255-7223.

23 The 1996 Lawnmower-Man Open Golf Tournament. West Woods Golf Club, Arvada, CO. Contact: Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association’s 24-Hour Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645 and leave a message, or call Troy Smith, Denver Broncos, at (303) 649-9000.

24 Training with the Bears, a tour of the professional football team’s new state-of-the-art training facility. Chicago Bears Training Facility, Lake Forest, IL. Contact: Midwest Sports Turf Managers Association, (847) 439-4727.

25-27 Turfgrass Producers International Summer Convention and Field Days. Hyatt Regency, Sacramento, CA. Contact: Tom Ford, TPI, (800) 405-TURF or (708) 705-9898.

28-29 OPE Technicians Certification testing (8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.). EXPO, Louisville, KY. Contact: OPE Technicians Certification, (512) 442-1788, fax (512) 442-1789.

28-30 International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment EXPO. Louisville, KY. Contact: (703) 549-7600.

Send announcements of your events two months in advance to: Editor, *sportsTURF*, 68-860 Perez Road, Suite J, Cathedral City, CA 92234. Fax: (619) 770-8019.