

STMA MESSAGE

A Lesson Learned



*By Bucky Trotter,
sports turf
manager,
University of
Kentucky, and
STMA board
member,
category II*

Some years ago, I began to distance myself from STMA. I had been involved with STMA from the start, but I was disappointed in the direction I perceived STMA was taking. I didn't renew my membership and for two to three years had no contact with anyone in the association. For some reason, I even felt proud of myself.

It was a mistake I will always regret, both personally and professionally. I did something that my parents, teachers, high school coaches and teammates had always taught and encouraged me not to do. I gave up when I thought things were not

going well. At the time, it even felt like the best thing to do.

At a meeting of the Sports Turf Managers of the Southeastern Conference, Dr. Gil Landry and I talked about STMA. Gil is a friend I respect and listen to. During that meeting at Auburn University in January, 1992, Gil told me something that changed my feelings about STMA and, more importantly, reminded me of those past lessons about life. He said that if I had such good ideas, I should get involved and become active. Gil reminded me that you should never give up and all my whining and complaining would never help the situation. He said it's easy to be negative and coach from the stands, but all that complaining is non-productive.

Gil's comments were made with the passion of someone who had labored for years to maintain something that he felt was very important. He is right — and I will always appreciate him for making me understand that perseverance is a vital quality that unfortunately is disappearing in our society. Instant grat-

ification seems to be what everyone wants, without the sacrifice and hard work required to accomplish something worthwhile.

Gil Landry is one of many who weathered the storm through the growth and "hard times" of STMA. There are far too many such people to mention, and I, for one, am glad they had the guts to hang in there and see a commitment through. I'll always be grateful for my second chance at participating in STMA.

Come join in and be an active member of the Sports Turf Managers Association. Together, we and this association will both prosper and reach lofty goals.

Make the 1997 Conference part of your plans. The outstanding educational program will offer a broad range of topics — something for everyone. STMA can be your conduit to friends and colleagues, where you'll always find supporters ready to offer assistance and lend a hand.



Rocky Mountain High-er Education

**Sports Turf Managers Association
8th Annual Conference & Exhibition
January 15-19, 1997 - Colorado Springs, CO**



Make plans now to join your colleagues and the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) in beautiful Colorado Springs. Let the beauty of the Rocky Mountains create the perfect backdrop for our many educational sessions and the trade show.

Highlights of the 8th Annual Conference & Exhibition

- o Educational sessions ranging from the basics of agronomics to surf in' the World Wide Web
- o A new and improved Trade Show.
- o TWO "Seminar on Wheels" tours
- o At the Annual Banquet, STMA will present the Field of the Year Awards and the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award for the Sports Turf Manager of the Year.

Highlighting the Conference, "the nitty gritty dirt man" -- George Toma -- reflects on the Centennial Olympics...AND THEN SOME

**For More Information contact:
SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
"Promoting Better and Safer Sports Turf Areas"
1375 Rolling Hills Loop, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
(800) 323-3875**