

From Somewhere in the Zone

By Dave Ashman

Submitted for your approval. Meet Dave, a hard-working turf guy whose only mistake was he went to visit a friend in the ticket office. When turf people stray too far from the field, it can and often does get ugly.

"Sorry, Wrong Number"

Dave had completed all of his work and went to visit a colleague in the ticket office. The game was winding down, and he knew his friend would not be very busy at that time. As he arrived at his friend's office, there was a small line of people buying tickets for future games. Dave's friend was the only person in the office, so she had to serve those people. After Dave sat a few minutes in the office, the phone rang. Dave's friend was still busy with customers, so he answered the phone for her.

The caller said, "Get lefty ready," and hung up.

Dave's friend asked who was on the phone, and he replied that it must have been a wrong number. A few minutes passed, and the line of people at the ticket window was getting longer. Dave's friend continued to sell tickets to future games. A moment later the phone rang again.

The caller said, "Get Q up," and then hung up. The voice was barely distinguishable over the background noise.

Dave's friend asked who was on the

phone, and he replied that it must have been a wrong number. A few more moments passed, and the phone rang again.

Dave picked up the phone, and the caller unleashed a tirade of colorful adjectives and metaphors. The gist of the message was to "get off your butt and start throwing."

By the time Dave asked, "Who is this?" the caller had hung up. Dave's friend asked who was on the phone, and he replied that it was some under-medicated person with a wrong number. Everyone in the line at the ticket window was served, and the two friends began to converse about the strange day. Then the phone rang again. Dave answered the phone.

The caller erupted into a rage, "How many [colorful metaphor] times do I have to [colorful adjective] tell you to get [color metaphor] Q warmed up?" and so forth.

Dave finally shouted into the phone, "Wait a minute! Who are you and what are you doing?"

The caller responded, "I'm the [colorful adjective] manager."

Dave tried to tell him he had a wrong number, but the caller advised Dave to stop [color metaphor] around and get the lefty ready. Dave told the manager there wasn't anybody in the office named Q.

"Well, who is there then?" demanded the manager.

"Just me and the woman who works here," Dave told him.

The caller erupted again, "Woman! Let me speak to her!"

Dave passed the phone to his friend. She said, "Hello," and then passed the phone right back to Dave.

The caller said, "I have just one question. Can she pitch?"

Thanks

I would like to mention the names of the several people who contributed to the above, but they have requested anonymity. However, I do thank them and all others who have submitted stories and pictures to me. They are all great and I look forward to sharing them in this column.

One of the many benefits of joining an organization like the STMA is the interaction with the membership. It is always reassuring to learn you are not the first person to face a particular problem.

The concept of this column is to share experiences from members of the sports turf community. If you have a story or anecdote you would like to share, write it down (include your name and phone number) and send it to the following: Ashman & Associates, 3164 North Greenbrier Road, Long Beach, CA 90808.

Rookies

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