



Stadium of the Near Future?

When the idea for grass squares originated seven years ago, several factors had provoked a brainstorming session among members of the Greenway Group (pictured on page 19):

1. the increasing interest being expressed by athletes for a natural-turf playing surface, particularly at the professional level;

2. the economic necessity for the multi-purpose use of stadiums, including many activities that did not require a natural-turf surface;

3. the World Cup Soccer standards requiring a natural-turf playing surface (certain venues under consideration utilized a synthetic surface for athletic activities).

From the brainstorming session came a set of criteria required to convert a synthetic surface to a natural-turf surface: (1) rapid conversion, (2) instant playability, (3) instant restoration. To meet those criteria, Dr. Henry Indyk proposed a transportable modular system. This led to the development of the original one-foot-square model, followed by improvements that evolved into the present system.

The present system, however, is only one step in a grander scheme. When Indyk proposed the idea of grass squares, he envisioned their use within a "Stadium of the Future." Pursuing the concept, GreenTech has developed a proprietary prototype design for such a venue where a field is moved directly into a stadium on a platform — truly a field-on-wheels. If the present experiment at Giants Stadium succeeds, the Stadium of the Future may be right around the corner.

Turf Training for the Future

In other areas, Disney's Wide World of Sports heralds things to come. As a "theme park" for athletes, it is the first of its kind and will likely spawn others down the road, at the same time providing a professional boost to the sports turf industry.

Among other present and future activities, the 110 acres of sports fields will supply a training ground for young and old sports-turf managers to broaden their skills in sports they may not have experience in handling. The complex has established a new Department of Sporticulture, which is beginning to organize a Central Florida Chapter for the STMA. Also, discussions have taken place about STMA's proposed Certified Sports Turf Manager Program using the complex for its yearly training grounds — a program Major and Minor League Baseball Associations along with other professional sports are planning to endorse.

As things shape up now, the complex will likely become not only a premier sports destination in the world, but a premier sports *turf* destination as well. Under the guidance of Murray Cook, *sportsTURF*'s Man of the Year in 1991, and his staff, the complex may be blazing trails for both the sports and the sports-turf industries to follow into the millennium.

Correction

In the April 1997 *sportsTURF*, on page 9 under the heading "Maintenance," the products of the following manufacturers should be included in the list of additives for drying turfed and skinned areas after a rain: Diamond Pro, Partac/Beam Clay, and Turface/Aimcor.

June

25 Pesticide Applicators Professional Association's (PAPA's) Pesticide Applicators Seminar. Ventura, California. Contact: PAPA. Phone: (408) 442-3536.

July

17- Turfgrass Producers International Summer Convention and Field Days. Minneapolis, Minnesota. Contact: Tom Ford. Phone: (847) 705-9898. Fax: (847) 705-8347.

23 PAPA Pesticide Applicators Seminar. San Jose, California. Contact: PAPA. Phone: (408) 442-3536.

26-28 International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo 1997. Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Sellers Expositions. Phone: (800) 558-8767 or (502) 562-1962.

29 Midwest Regional Turf Foundation's Turf Field Day. West Lafayette, Indiana. Contact: Bev Bratton. Phone: (765) 494-8039 or (317) 494-8039.

August

5 August 5 PAPA Pesticide Applicators Seminar. Fresno, California. Contact: PAPA. Phone: (408) 442-3536.

5 Golf Course Seminar at SUNY-Delhi. Delhi, New York. Contact: Dominic Morales at (607) 746-4413; or NYSTA at (800) 873-8873, (518) 783-1229.

6 PAPA Hands-On Pesticide Applicators Seminar. Ventura, California. Contact: PAPA. Phone: (408) 442-3536.

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.