



### Stadium of the Near Future?

**W**hen 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.