

STMA

in

KAFMO

Helps Little League

The stadium field of Little League Inc. in Williamsport, Pa., was in top condition for the 50th Anniversary of Little League Baseball's Championship series in August of 1996. By the final out, members of the Keystone Athletic Field Organization (KAFMO) had donated 782 volunteer hours of service.

The story begins in late September of 1995, when representatives from KAFMO met with County Extension personnel and representatives from Little League Baseball Inc. (LLB) to discuss the project. At that point, the sod had been stripped from the field.

After the meeting, Kurt Nilsson of Blue Mount Quarry contacted Hummer Turfgrass Systems Inc. and Alpine Services Inc. about the project and received positive responses.

Two days later, Grove Teates of Alpine Services met with a retired extension agent and KAFMO member, Don Fowler, at the field. Within three days, both Hummer and Alpine Services had signed contracts with Little League Baseball, and the ball was rolling.

Dan Douglas, of the Reading Phillies Baseball Club, visited the field on September 28 to discuss the existing drainage system and the additions needed. Plans were developed to properly channel runoff from both the stands and the field.

By October 9, Alpine Services began the renovation. Don Fowler accepted the responsibility of coordinator, keeping track of on-site developments and making the contacts to get volunteers to the site when their help was needed. Despite wet conditions, the work went on. Drainage system additions were made. With only a half-day lost to weather, Alpine Services completed the soil work, crown preparation and regrading. The field was ready for resodding by October 25. But wet con-

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ditions prevented Hummer from cutting the sod.

On November 8, Hummer was able to cut and delivered 70 skids containing 32,500 square feet of sod.

KAFMO volunteers and LLB workers joined the Hummer crews on November 9. The 15 person team worked straight through from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. until all sod was properly in place, the field was rolled and fertilizer had been applied. By November 11, the field was covered with four inches of snow, KAFMO volunteers had chalked up 300 hours, and the wait for spring began.

On May 7, 1996, twenty KAFMO volunteers edged, topped the infield with 3/4 inches of infield mix to meet the grade of the sod, finished the mound and home plate area, and mowed the field. Add another 90 volunteer hours.

On June 12, KAFMO addressed infield mix "gravel contamination" problems and launched a weed attack. Fowler worked with LLB crews on June 25 to put the final finish on the infield.

On August 7, five KAFMO members met at the field to evaluate the results of six weeks of summer camps and plan the final pre-Series grooming procedures. The remaining gravel contaminated mix was replaced.

On August 15, the field was edged. An additional 66 hours of volunteer labor provided the pre-Series preparations over the next two days. On August 18, the LLB field crew was joined by four KAFMO volunteers to finalize field preparations and paint the logos.

Four games were held each day for the next four days with KAFMO volun-



By the end of week two, compost had been added to half of LLB's field. Photos courtesy: Don Fowler.

The refurbished field proved a real hit with both players and spectators during last year's Little League Series.

KAFMO volunteers worked from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. until all sod was properly in place.

teers assisting the LLB crews and totting up another 160 volunteer hours.

There were no games on August 23. KAFMO members again converged on the field. They resodded wear areas, rolled and edged the skinned area, and topped the infield.

During the final game on August 24, LLB personnel, international competing teams, coaches and the crews from ABC Sports and ESPN all declared the field "a mini-major league facility."

And even better, according to Fowler, is that, thanks to the dedicated LLB crews and the ongoing consulting support and occasional helping hands from KAFMO, it's staying that way.

STMA Chapter News

Minnesota Chapter: The Minnesota Chapter has elected its 1997 officers and board members. President is Shannon Hendrickson, Farmington Schools; Past President is Ken Dehkes, Hamline University, St. Paul; President-Elect is Paul Griffin, City of Woodbury; Secretary/Treasurer is Connie Rudolph, Midway Stadium, St. Paul; Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation Representative is Tom Rudberg, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul; and Director at Large is Mike Kelly, Glen Rehbein Companies, Inc., Blaine, MN.

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The events schedule for 1997 is in the planning stages.

For information, contact: Connie Rudolph at (612) 644-0639.

Iowa STMA: The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association's Annual Membership Meeting was held at 3:00 p.m. on January 28 at the Des Moines Convention Center in conjunction with the 63rd Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show.

Those elected at the meeting include: Southwest Representative, Charles Vance, AVP Construction, Oakland; Central Iowa Representative, Bill Antons, Boone Community Schools; and At-Large Representatives, Ron Crooker, of Upper Iowa University, Fayette; and Kevin Vos, Muscatine Soccer Complex. Vos, who served as Vice-President in 1996, will serve as President in 1997. Rick Simpson, South Tama Schools, becomes Past President.

Mike Andresen, Iowa State University, had resigned his board position as Central Representative to accept the position as Iowa Turfgrass Institute

Representative, replacing Mike McCaffrey who has given nine years of service in that role.

Continuing their terms as Board members are: Ron Dykstra, Northwest College, Orange City; Dan Wright, Central College, Pella; Todd Garstang, Davenport Schools; Dale Roe, Iowa State University; Luke Yoder, Iowa Cubs; Bryan Wood, Commercial Turf & Tractor; and Mike Grooms, United Seed. The new board is planning an exciting and event-filled 1997.

For more information, contact: Lori Westrum at (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter will hold a Field Day on March 13 at the University of Florida in Davie. CEUs will be offered for the educational sessions at this full-day meeting.

The chapter's next STMA meeting is scheduled for April 8 in Parkland, FL. Included will be a mound building seminar and a tour of the new park facility.

For more information, contact: John Mascaro (954) 938-7477.

Southern California: The Southern California Chapter board is in the process of planning special events for

1997 and 1998. For information, contact: Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

Midwest Chapter: The Midwest Chapter of STMA is putting together the 1997 schedule of events. For information, call: The Chapter Hotline (847) 439-4727.

STMA Chapters on the Grow

KAFMO: The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization is currently working toward STMA affiliation.

Their next event, The Athletic Field Maintenance Conference, will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 20 at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa. For more information, contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

Great Plains STMA: For information on the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or pending events, contact: Mark Schimming at (316) 729-5839.

Arizona: For information on the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona or upcoming events, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954. □

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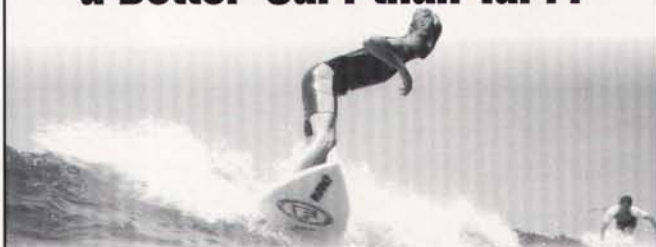
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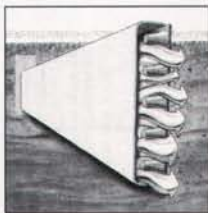
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