

TIP O' THE MONTH

Sloping a Mound

By Jim Puhalla

The top of a pitcher's mound is supposed to have a flat area five feet wide and 34 inches front-to-back, with the front of the flat area 6 inches in front of the pitcher's plate. From that point, it's supposed to slope one inch for each foot toward home plate.

To correct the slope, make a measuring tool using a piece of 2-inch by 4-inch by 10-foot lumber. Lay the board across the pitcher's plate so it extends 22 inches behind the plate

and about 8 feet toward home, then stake the home-plate end level.

Mark the board at the front of the pitcher's plate. Measure out 18 inches and make another mark, then make five more marks one foot apart.



The last mark will be 6 1/2 feet from the front of the pitcher's plate.

Adjust the top of the mound so it's flat all the way to

the back end of the board, and the slope toward home plate so that the mark 18 inches in front of the plate is one inch above the ground, the second mark is two inches above, and so on, until the sixth mark is 6 inches above the ground. Then slope the rest of the mound evenly to the bottom. □

If you have a tip, send it to sportsTURF, 68860 Perez Rd., Cathedral City, CA 92234.



Using a ten-foot-long board, you can make a regulation pitcher's mound.