Rolling Stones Help

Kickoff Nor-Cal

When the Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association held its first ever meeting at the Alameda County Complex, its 170 members were greeted by a massive six story stage built for the Rolling Stones' "Bridges to Babylon" tour. Throughout the day, stage hands and construction crews assembled the intricate steel-rigging using cranes, forklifts, tractors and trucks. It was easy to see the challenges the extravagant show presented the turf manager, who was expected to grow a high-quality professional sports field under those conditions.

Attendees of the grand opening had a chance to observe activities on the field from the country-club-like setting of the Coliseum's West Side Club, where Nor-Cal STMA President Sal Genito opened the day's activities. He introduced and thanked the chapter's 17 commercial sponsors, who made a strong commitment to the group by providing seed money to establish the chapter. Without these commercial supporters' willingness to get involved, the chapter would not exist.

Next came presentations by Bob Milano, sports turf manager, University of California, Berkeley, on sand-based field technology; Steve Trusty, STMA executive director, on the national association and its services; and Steve Wightman, turf manager, Qualcomm Stadium, on sports turf management "then and now."

Wightman focused on how our profession has changed over the last 20 years, and how professional associa-
tions are critical in such a specialized industry. He illustrated his point by reading a job opening from a past newspaper for a stadium turf manager, and it required “a high school education, reliability, and some experience with turf maintenance.” He then read a job opening for a stadium manager today: “must have a four-year degree in turf management or related field, must be proficient in computer irrigation management and personnel management; and must work cooperatively with decision-makers such as stadium manager, team presidents, owners, etc.” Clearly, the industry and expectations have grown.

The day concluded with walking tours of the Coliseum and the New Arena in Oakland, the rebuilt home of the Golden State Warriors. Oakland A’s head groundskeeper Clay Wood answered questions and described how he planned to resod the entire football playing surface for the remaining Raiders home games after the four — yes, four — Rolling Stones concerts. (He did a superb job, in a very short window that was complicated by rain almost every day.)

The Nor-Cal Chapter is off to an unprecedented start, and already it’s planning for a community service project and a field day in 1998.

**STMA Chapter News**

**Midwest Chapter:** The Midwest Chapter held its annual meeting December 3 at the Pheasant Run Resort & Expo Center in St. Charles, Ill., in conjunction with the Sports Turf Track of the North Central Turfgrass Exposition. Elected for 1998 are the following officers: president, Scott Pippen, Village of Lincolnshire; vice president, Jim Lewandowski, Hinsdale Central High School; past president, Marc Van Landuyt, Van’s Enterprises; treasurer, Donald Michaels, Conserv FS; and secretary, Tom Breier, National Seed Co.

For information, call The Chapter Hotline: (847) 439-4727.

**Iowa Chapter:** The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will again participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference, held January 26-28 at Des Moines Convention Center.


The afternoon session offers a combined golf course/sports turf session, “Selecting Sands and Soil Modification,” presented by Dr. Jim Crum.


The ISTMA Annual Membership Meeting is at 3 p.m., and will be followed by an informal social time with hors d’oeuvres, raffles and networking.

The sports turf session on Wednesday morning includes: