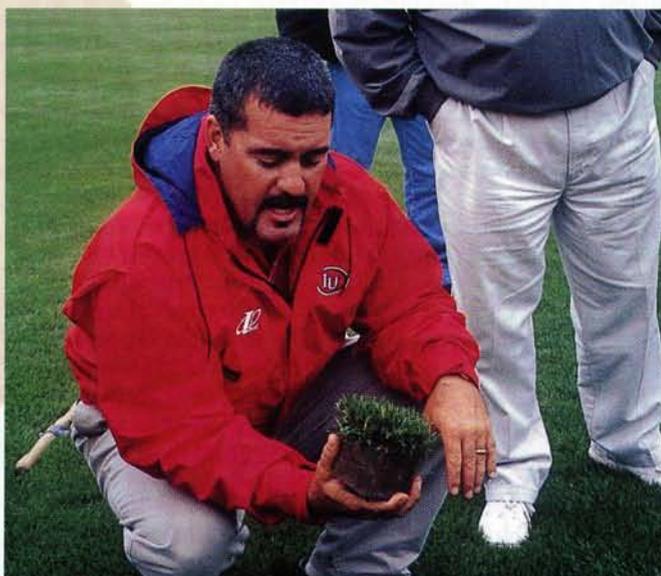


Big 10 regional workshop

by Boyd Montgomery, CSFM



Attendees spread out for an up-close view of the football field at Indiana University's Memorial Stadium.



Stan Moscrip details the football field turf maintenance program as he shows a section of turf and soil profile pulled from the field.

Driving rain couldn't dampen the spirits of attendees of the Big Ten Regional Workshop. This June event, hosted by Indiana University and the Indiana Chapter of STMA, was held in conjunction with the Big 10 Conference's traditional annual meeting of athletic facility and sports turf managers.

Thanks to the arrangements made by Brent Emerick and Stan Moscrip of IU, the morning educational sessions already were scheduled indoors. IU athletic facility staff members, outfitted in rain gear and friendly smiles, greeted attendees and guided them to the quickest, driest routes to the meeting site.

Terry Updike of B & B Fertilizer opened the session with a welcome on behalf of the Indiana Chapter. Emerick and Moscrip added a welcome on behalf of IU. Moscrip outlined the day's agenda noting the afternoon's planned tour of the athletic facilities would take place, viewed from the windows of the bus if necessary.

"Professionalism and Certification," presented by Steve Trusty, STMA executive director, was the morning's first topic. Following Trusty's remarks, Eric Adkins, CSFM, urged other Big 10 sports turf managers to become certified and suggested a "Conference Certification Challenge" be issued to those in other conferences as well.

Next was the panel discussion of "Hot Topics in the Big 10." Highlights of this session included the overview of the IU field program and details from Adkins on the STMA 2000 College/University Football Field of the Year, Northwestern University's Ryan Field (see page 08).

After the morning break, Dr. Tony Koski, assistant professor/extension, Colorado State University, gave a presentation on "Tips for Growing Healthy Roots." Koski stressed the need for an extensive, well-knit root system for athletic fields, noting this factor took precedence over the depth of the root system.

Each of the presentations included the opportunity for interaction with a question and answer session.

The tables buzzed with conversation as attendees enjoyed a great lunch. Then Moscrip announced the clouds had cleared and the on-field tours could begin.

Stops included: the Memorial Stadium football field and football practice fields; the Mellencamp Pavilion indoor practice facility; the Sembower Baseball Field and baseball practice fields; the Softball Complex and practice field; the Armstrong Stadium/Yeagley Field Soccer Complex and practice field; the Haugh Track Complex and practice field; the Assembly Hall Basketball Complex; and the golf team's new practice golf course that was in the final stages of grow-in. At each stop, IU athletic field staff members described the field history, outlined the maintenance program, showed key details, and answered questions.

As several of the attendees remarked, these well-organized field tours provide an excellent opportunity to discuss common problems and find solutions that have produced the best results. The group can compare notes on the actions and interactions of the turf under various procedures in specific conditions, resulting in great ideas to take back to their own field management programs.