

OSTMA Hosts Regional Workshop

by Boyd Montgomery, CSFM



OSTMA & KTC participants listen to Dr. A.J. Powell's presentation—*Managing Native Soil Fields.*

The Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA) hosted a regional workshop with the Kentucky Turfgrass Council (KTC) in Cincinnati on May 23, 2001. The event included tours of two professional facilities: Paul Brown Stadium and Cinergy Field.

The 110 participants started the day in the press box at Paul Brown Stadium. The first speaker, Dr. A.J. Powell of the University of Kentucky, addressed the issues of managing native soil fields. He was followed by Joe Motz, of the Motz Group, who spoke on Summer Olympic Field Construction Challenges. After a box lunch, the participants joined in a tour of the facility led by Doug Bradley, Head Sports Turf Manager for Paul Brown Stadium, and his staff. Bradley showed many of the new technologies that are going into field construction with the installation of Astrograss (a product of S.W. Recreational) on the playing surface. One stop on the tour was the pump room where Bradley explained how he controls the temperature of the field with his heating system. Bradley also outlined many of the maintenance techniques he relies on to keep his stadium field and practice facility in top shape.

The group then moved to Cinergy Field. Doug Gallant, Head Sports Turf Manager for Cinergy Field, and his staff led the participants on a tour of the facility and press box. Gallant explained the conversion of the field to a natural turf playing surface and noted this new surface would be used by the team for only two seasons. They will move their games to the new stadium in 2003. Gallant outlined his overall field maintenance program including special tech-

niques he has adopted. One of the techniques he explained was a method he was using to reinforce some of the wear areas by installing the Motz fiber system along his base paths and batters areas.

Participants took advantage of the tours to ask questions of the tour leaders about specific features of the facilities and the field maintenance programs. The format also provided ample opportunities for the attendees to network and learn from each other.



Doug Bradley describes the new Astrograss (a product of S.W. Recreational) system he is installing at Paul Brown Stadium. In this system, grass is grown on a mat with grass fibers and a 50% biodegradable backing. The installation was about 3/4 complete.



OSTMA & KTC participants get a guided tour of the Bengals' practice facility by Doug Bradley. Bradley manages over four acres of practice facility, including an Astroturf area for the team to practice on, in case they'll be visiting a stadium with Astroturf.