the front office

It's only a game

Excuse me for preaching to the choir but many times we Americans take our games too seriously. Though we’ve all often heard and perhaps said, “It’s only a game,” a lot of us make a big deal out of the local high school football game or our favorite pro team’s fortunes. And now, as many readers know first-hand, this obsession has made its way literally to the roots of these games, the playing surfaces themselves.

Common sense once reigned when it came to fans (and players too) regarding the grass on which their teams play. You didn’t hear much griping about the turf in mid-November because good reasoning allowed that grass doesn’t grow as well that time of year. Add Mother Nature’s whims to the beating turf takes for 3+ months from the athletes and it should be end of story.

Instead today it’s becoming a weekly event for a field to get trashed somehow in the media. New York Jet players and coaches blamed a loss at Giants Stadium on turf conditions when their kicker missed a potential game-tying field goal. I was watching a nationally televised college game when an announcer, talking about less-than-ideal turf conditions, said “Someone get the golf course superintendent over here!” And Heinz Field in Pittsburgh has taken some shots, from what I’ve read mostly related to the Steelers not playing well.

I guess not enough fans saw the newsreel clips this fall after Johnny Unitas’ passing of the NFL’s “Greatest Game Ever Played.” Did it matter that the turf that day was more dirt than grass? Or was it just a tremendous football GAME.

SAFE Ground Level campaign underway

As noted above, the demands on athletic fields and their managers have never been greater. A good playing field is in everyone’s best interest, and you can help the effort by responding to the survey results of a SAFE challenge of the game. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” —Margaret Mead

The bottom line for fans should be that in mediocre conditions, the turf is the same for in-good-playing-field is in everyone’s best interest, and you can help the effort by responding to the survey results of a SAFE challenge of the game. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” —Margaret Mead

SAFE thanks John Deere for creative development, production and printing of the SAFE Brochure, and The Toro Company and Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products for co-sponsoring the mailing of the Ground Level Campaign materials.

Act now, your donation will make a difference. The SAFE Foundation, 1027 South 3rd St., Council Bluffs, IA 51503, 800-323-3875, SAFE@st.omhcoxmail.com.

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