

Am I ready for some football? YES!

Usually I don't pay much attention to football until after Labor Day or the first Penn State game, whichever comes first. But it's mid-August as I write this and I'm looking forward to this autumn as much as any I can remember. "Upon further review," here are some reasons why:

- The Nittany Lions have a quarterback. Lefty Zack Mills showed the poise, speed, arm, and heart necessary for success last season.
- I get to watch Brian Urlacher play linebacker for the Chicago Bears.
- Steve Spurrier's coaching in the NFL! I admire Coach Superior's guts for taking his air show to the pros. Successful or not, he's bound to be entertaining.
- Parity. To some it's a dirty word, but you gotta love the NFL when its champion is the New England Patriots. Even the snowplow driver can't believe they won the Super Bowl.
- Major league baseball's labor situation. Barring a miracle, baseball's owners and players won't have reached an agreement on how to divvy up \$3.5 billion by the time you read this, which is ludicrous. I won't be as interested in a World Series even if there is one because MLB can't get out of its own way.

There's one more reason to anticipate a return to the gridiron: All of you readers producing wonderful playing surfaces and painting the local pride on them have opportunities to take photographs, which might someday appear in this magazine. Please take some pictures!

This Football Issue of *SPORTSTURF* marks the beginning of our 2nd year coming to you in this format. We hope you've grown more comfortable with us as we tweak here and there (most notably on the covers!) to assemble a useful magazine each month.

I have been neglectful in not telling you that Dr. Jeff Krans of Mississippi State is now on our masthead as Technical Editor. This means when we receive a submitted manuscript on research or similar topics, I send it to Jeff for his expert opinion. Plus, he's been very helpful in helping us line up topics and authors for technical stories that have been running in the past several issues, and will be in future issues. Thanks, Jeff, and good luck to the Bulldogs this season as they, like my Lions, try to come back from a disappointing year.

I also would like to acknowledge the work of Senior Editor John Kmita (he prefers to talk hoops about his alma mater, Southern Illinois), who contributes a great feature story each month, and our alternating duo of "Q & A" columnists: Dr. Grady Miller from the University of Florida (what will they do without The Visored One?), and Dr. Dave Minner from Iowa State (Cyclones have best team name in the land). Thanks for keeping it real.

So whether your favorite team plays on Friday nights, Saturday or Sunday afternoons, please enjoy fervently rooting them on this fall!



Comments always welcome.
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