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Salmagundi*

Baseball fans have always enjoyed their winter Hot Stove Leagues. Talking baseball in February might be bemoaning Tom Glavine's leaving the Atlanta Braves (for the Mets no less!) for just a few (million) dollars more. (If you had as much money as he does, wouldn't you just play with your friends?) Or speculating whether Dusty Baker will lead the Cubs out of their 50+ year hibernation back to the World Series. Or maybe just verbally expressing how much you look forward to those blue sky, bright sunshine, real green grass days of spring.

You read it here first Dept.: Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products is changing names to Jacobsen Turf, Commercial and Specialty Equipment. The new name not only recognizes the Jacobsen brand as a leading supplier of turf care equipment and services to the sports turf market worldwide but also matches what many of you having been saying for years—"Jake." The "orange" company has been leading up to this change for more than 2 years as they transform to better meet customer needs, says president Jon Carlson. Look soon for new logos on Bob-Cat, Brouwer, Bunton, Cushman, E-Z-GO, Jacobsen, Ryan, and Steiner brand products.


In response to our January column on the public's high expectations of field conditions, a reader with more than 50 years in the seed business writes: "Most of the problems on native-based field surfaces I have seen over the years has not been due to neglect . . . but rather overuse. You cannot maintain any athletic field for any period of time if you do not permit any rest and recuperation for the field.

"The problems lie with the administration, be it the athletic director, president of the school board, college president [etc.]. They know nothing about turf safety or playability but rather are concerned about the revenue the athletic department can generate . . . add insufficient funding for seed, fertilizer, aeration, dethatching equipment, and lack of manpower to make the problem even worse." Hear, hear.

We messed up Dept.: Some details were wrong in the December story on constructing Strongsville High's new football field. Jason Griffiths from Agricultural Design, Inc., Seville, OH, specified the turf, Medina Sod Farms produced it, and Griffiths was foreman for the crew that installed the turf (he laid the 48-inch rolls himself). We also said the sod was produced on typical western Pennsylvania clay-based soil, but actually it was grown on Fitchville silt loam, says Griffiths.

Also, we ran a product item in January for a Toro sprinkler line that is not for sale. My apologies to readers who responded via our Reader Service program and to our friends at Toro. We regret these errors.

*sal-ma-gun-di. 1. a dish of chopped meat, eggs, etc. flavored with onions, anchovies, vinegar, and oil. 2. any mixture or medley.



Comments always welcome.
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