

# Talkin' Turf

## with Doug Gallant

**The best way to get the most out of any crew is leading by example.**

**D**oug Gallant is head groundskeeper for the Cincinnati Reds and their new home, Great American Ball Park. He took a few minutes during preparation for their opener to talk to SPORTSTURF:

**Q: How did you get started working with turf? Who was your mentor?**

A: I started in sports turf when I was 17 working for Worthington City (OH) schools. Tim Gerhring, Dave Wickline, and Kevin Boll really gave me every opportunity to learn as much as I wanted at a young age. I was fortunate because the fields we maintained were considered high profile and we had the resources to do the necessary aerification, topdressing, fertility, etc. I worked around classes and in the summers for 6 years. After graduating from Ohio State I landed a job with The Motz Group and built on my knowledge by working on a variety of fields

all across the country.

I do not have one mentor. There have definitely been many people that have influenced me and have helped me along the way. It seems at every step along the way good people have been there to help me move to the next step. In the early years it was the staff at Worthington and then Joe Motz really took over from there and here I am. My wife, Lisa, has also always been there to encourage and support me along the way.

**Q: What was your biggest challenge last year?**

A: My biggest challenge last year was modifying our infield dirt. After several trial and errors we got it to meet the players expectations and they really liked the way it played. This year we have the challenge of opening a new ballpark and everyone who has been through that knows all the challenges that entails.

**Q: How do you get the most out of your crew?**

A: I think the best way to get the most out of any crew is to lead by example. I would never ask a crewmember to do anything I have not done myself. I try to do as much as possible to spread the workload evenly so no one person is burdened with more work than anyone else does. A head groundskeeper is only as good as his crew.

**Q: What do you do to relax away from your field?**

A: Away from the field I love to spend as much time with my wife and kids as possible. I enjoy my time at our house that is located in a rural county 45 miles east of Cincinnati. We live in a tight knit community and I enjoy helping where I can.

**Q: What advice do you have for turf managers?**

A: Work hard and never lose sight of the big picture. There are a lot of times when our hard work goes unnoticed, but if you have the pride that burns inside then it is all worth it.



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