

PERRY BELIEVES IN INNOVATIVE THINKING

Floyd Perry, director of GMS (Grounds Maintenance Services) for Sports Fields, presented a series of workshops in the Midwest last summer, sponsored by Conserv FS. The workshops were held at different locations in Illinois and Wisconsin.

During the morning sessions, Perry presented a series of slideshows. In one, highlighted some innovative equipment that sports turf professionals on low budgets have created on their own to save time, labor, and money. The slides underscored his message of "Work smarter, not harder."

Perry also presented a series of slides that showcased field designs that are aesthetically pleasing, and easier to maintain. "Do something creative," Perry said. Perry told attendees to write down the good things that they do, and also the things that they would like to improve upon. He urged them to tap into their creative side, because there is a "genius" in everyone.

From a business standpoint, Perry said that a sports turf manager's most important

tool is a camera. It is easier to get funding if you can show your boss any concerns you would like addressed. A camera also comes in handy for capturing creative ideas you see being implemented at other fields.

The afternoon sessions were devoted to pitcher's mound, home plate, and lip maintenance. There were also equipment demonstrations of drill-and-fill technology, line marking machines, and other equipment.

Perry is the author of three groundskeeping pictorial guides: "Covering All the Bases," "There Ain't No Rules!" and "Softball Facilities Maintenance - Maintain It Easy - Keep It Safe." He also produced a three-part video presentation entitled "The ABC's of Grounds Maintenance," which highlights timesaving maintenance techniques for baseball, softball, soccer, and football field maintenance.

The event sponsor, Conserv FS, has developed alliances with certain vendors to provide a multitude of options for athletic field renovations. The Certified Turf Specialists at Conserv FS work closely with turf managers from professional teams, colleges, and high schools.

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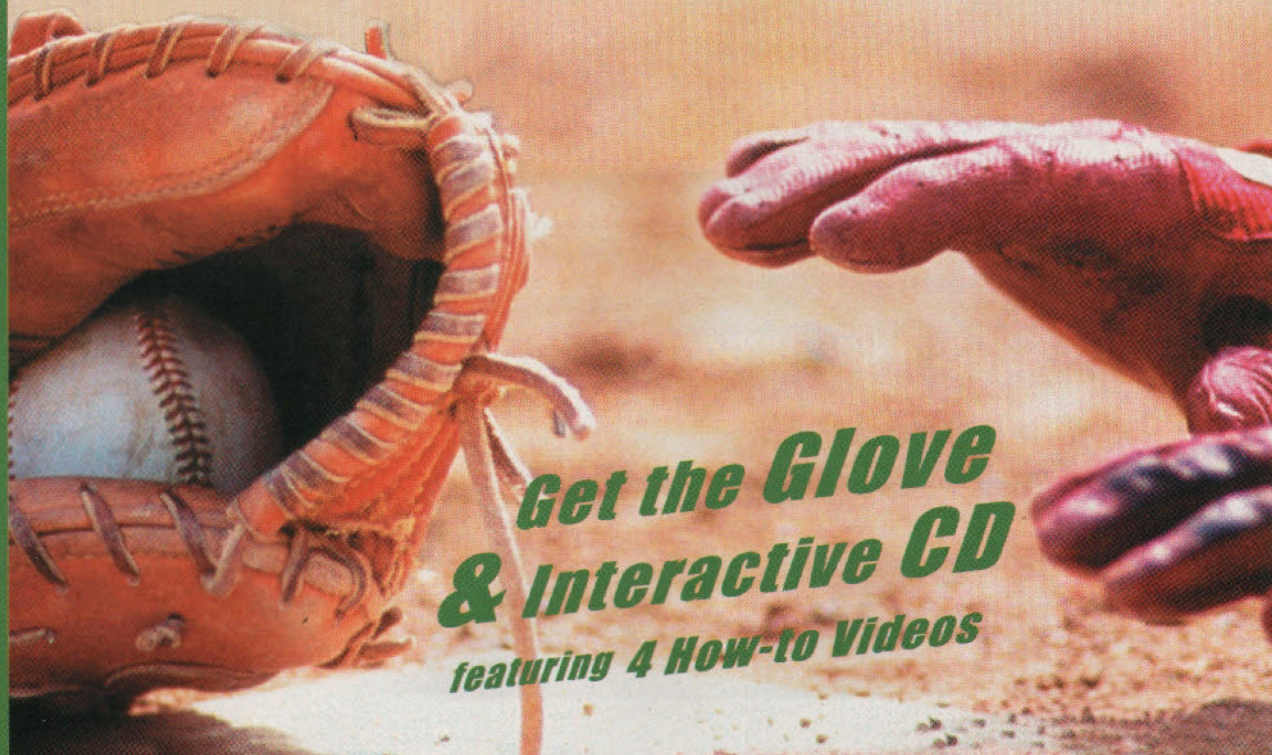
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