

# Meet the newest Certified Sports Field Managers

**R**ecognizing the importance of fostering and improving professionalism within the sports turf industry, the Sports Turf Managers Association developed the Certified Sports Field Manager certification program. The stated purpose of the program is to: Increase professionalism in the sports turf industry; promote better and safer sports turf areas; establish credentials that signify a specific level of expertise; increase career opportunities and promote the sports turf manager and the profession; provide recognition for attaining a level of expertise and performance as professionals in the industry; stimulate and motivate improved performance and increased professionalism; and increase opportunities for education and training.

CSFM status denotes those individuals who have gone above and beyond the requirements of job performance and have demonstrated a superior level of competence. Since January of 2004, five individuals have achieved certification status:

Jason DePaepe, CSFM, is Athletic Turfgrass Manager for the University of Colorado Athletic Department, Boulder. He is responsible for all athletic field maintenance programs at the University.

Michael Buras, CSFM, is Assistant Superintendent of Grounds for the Longwood Cricket Club, Chestnut Hill, MA. He is responsible for supervision of personnel in maintaining the grounds at the tennis club, which includes 25 grass courts, 13 clay courts and landscaped areas. His duties include designing and overseeing improvement projects and managing the tennis courts during men's Pro Championships, Davis Cup, Federation Cup and numerous amateur grass court national championships.

Joseph Case, CSFM, is Superintendent of Grounds for St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City. He supervises all athletic field maintenance, purchases, and budget. His duties also include supervision of all campus maintenance of the grounds, including turf, plants, and trees.

Ronald Hostick, CSFM, is Gardening Specialist for San Diego State University. He oversees all aspects of maintenance of sports turf at the University, which includes two sand-based fields, three native soil fields, and two multi-use fields.

Kevin Malone, CSFM, is Project Manager and develops and manages sales of athletic field construction and renovation at The LandTek Group, Amityville, NY.

In order to qualify for the opportunity to test for certification status, the individual must achieve, and document the achievement of, a minimum of 40 points earned through a combination of education and experience. After verification of achievement of the 40 points in education and experience, the individual must take the Certified Sports Field Manager in-depth, four-part written examination. This examination addresses competencies established by professionals, educators and researchers within the industry on agronomic, administration, pest management, and sports specific issues. In order to achieve certification, the individual must score a minimum of 80 percent on all four segments of the examination.



Beaver Stadium, University Park, PA, September 2001. Photo by Paul Curtis.

Those achieving CSFM status have demonstrated their personal level of professionalism and their ability to apply those professional standards in their own sports field management program. The 3-year certification renewal cycle is designed to keep Certified individuals responsive to industry progress and technological advances.

Just as great sports accomplishments raise the bar for all competitors, excellence in field care raises the level of expectations for all sports turf managers. The results are better fields and safer fields at all levels of sports competition. If you are not already a Certified Sports Field Manager, consider taking the steps to become certified. Contact STMA Headquarters to receive the information you need to start the process: STMAHQ@st.omh-coxmail.com or 800-323-3875.

## Looking for the BEST!

Each year the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) presents Field of the Year Awards in Baseball, Softball, Football and Soccer. A panel of judges views and evaluates all entries, making selections by type of field within the following categories: professional; college and university; high school, municipal or park. Each field is evaluated on the qualities of the field along with how well the resources available for the maintenance of the field are used. In 2003, the program was expanded to include the Sports Field Complex of the Year Award for multiple field/multiple use facilities in the same three categories.

Each of the award recipients will be featured in an article in *SPORTSTURF*. And thanks to the continued support of the Awards Sponsors: Bayer; Carolina Green; Covermaster Inc.; Hunter Industries; Jacobsen; Nu-Gro; TURFACE; Turf-Seed, Inc.; West Coast Turf; and World Class Athletic Surfaces, each of the recipients will receive a plaque, a jacket and up to six crew shirts, one registration for the STMA 2005 Annual Conference & Exhibition in Phoenix and up to \$500 toward travel and/or lodging expenses for the Conference.

Your field looks great, so why not take pictures now for submission into the Field of the Year or Sports Field Complex of the Year program? Take shots of the sidelines, centerfield, the infield and outfield, the goal areas. Show your field prepped for action; show you and your crew on the field, painting, mowing, all of those things that you do. Snap action shots of players. For the sports field complex, show an overview of the facility and fields. And make sure to include a few "vertical" shots, especially a "beauty" one.

Detail the challenges you've faced and overcome, your maintenance program, your budget for one year, a description or outline of the equipment used to maintain your field and an outline or organizational chart of how your staff or crew are organized (to include the total number of maintenance staff). Include your own special "tricks of the trade" and why you feel that your field or complex merits top honors.

Complete criteria for each of the awards are included in the Awards Program Booklet. You can download it directly from [www.sportsturfmanager.com](http://www.sportsturfmanager.com) or call 800-323-3875. **ST**