

from the sidelines

# Salmagundi III

**When I showed** up to file the paperwork with my son's fall soccer league last month, my knees nearly buckled when the volunteer told me his age group was "closed." "Closed" sounds good when you're buying or selling a house maybe but the word nailed me. I was technically beating the deadline for sign-ups but should have mailed in the material months ago.

My wife said later, "Maybe you should have told them that you coached last year." To which I was thinking, "A good coach wouldn't have procrastinated so long!"

All's well though: the kid will get his first real football experience through the NFL's Flag Football program (and probably play soccer to boot).

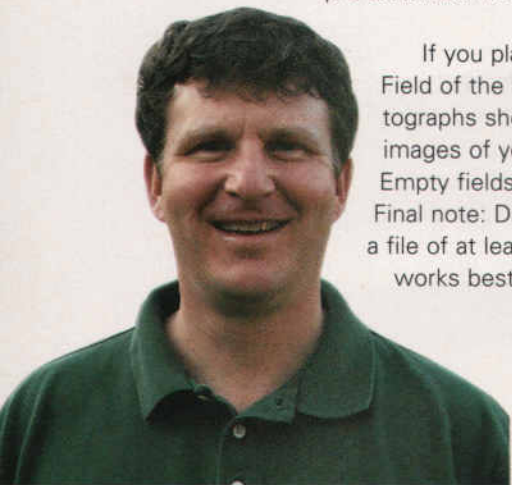
Speaking of football, is it America's favorite sport? I for one anticipate autumn mostly for two reasons, the weather and football. Football is the perfect spectator sport, from seeing a beautiful stand of turf to the promise of local tradition, whatever that might be.

Baseball's attendance, especially if you factor in minor league and independent league games, shows that game continues to appeal to millions as well. I still follow the pennant races and enjoy the game's numbers, but I admit some of the marketing nonsense gets to me. The All-Star Game in Detroit last month was nearly unwatchable for this old-schooler. How long until team names are for sale?

Heather Nabozny's field looked terrific, and next time I run into her, I'm going to ask about the All-Star Game designs in the infield dirt at Comerica Park. I'm not sure what they were or how it was done, but I'd never seen it before.

Kudos to Clay Wood of the Oakland A's, too, I caught his infield mowing design, a checker-board effect, on television recently and thought it was cool.

Last month our publisher, Steve Brackett, and I had the privilege of meeting with Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Board members during their summer session. Imagine the time these Board members put in, all in addition to devoting time to their families, as well as excelling at those pesky full-time jobs! All of our readers are fortunate to have these dedicated professionals working on behalf of turf managers everywhere.



**ERIC SCHRODER, EDITOR**

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If you plan entering your field in this year's prestigious STMA Field of the Year Award program, I urge you to take some photographs showing users actually on the field, and better yet, images of you and your crew maintaining or preparing your field(s). Empty fields, no matter how green, don't make for exciting photos. Final note: Digital cameras are great but if yours isn't able to handle a file of at least 1 megabyte, use a 35mm. Old school film still works best for us.

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