

from the sidelines

Drought means new sod

Many turf managers across the country faced drought or post-drought conditions this football season. We talked to one of them, Ted Thorn, director of grounds for the athletic department at the University of Iowa:

Thorn reports that he replaced the 8 or 9-year old field at Kinnick Stadium early this fall after the Hawkeyes had played two games on it. "We had 54 days last summer with 90+ degree temperatures, and that direct heat raised the soil temperatures enough that we just didn't have any roots," he told ST. "We probably could have survived without the new sod and not affected the outcome of any games, but we were not happy with it."

"Right now it's not as cosmetically pleasing as it will become but it plays great."

Cygnat Turf from northeast Ohio, fresh from a visit to Chicago's Soldier Field, came into Iowa City and stripped, re-graded, and put down thick-cut, sand sod. "We took out 4 1/2 inches of biomass," says Thorn. "We started on a Sunday, and began putting down the sod that Thursday, and finished on Wednesday. We could have been done sooner but had some truck transportation issues."

Kinnick Stadium is undergoing some renovations, but the pieces that affect the field had been done with the old turf still in place, Thorn says. Cost of the project was a bit less than \$150K.

By the way, the NCAA ruled in mid-October that Iowa would not have to paint over their pink visitor's locker room as part of the renovation.

New look next month

Beginning with the January 2006 issue, we will be sending you a redesigned and resized *Sports Turf* magazine. In an effort to better serve our more than 25,000 readers, each month we'll cover relevant topics under the headings of Field Science, Facilities & Operations, Irrigation/Drainage, and Tools & Equipment. The excellent "Q&A" column by Dr. Dave Minner and Dr. Grady Miller will continue inside the back cover, and we'll also keep you up to date on Sports Turf Manager Association activities, including Field of the Year winner coverage.

Also in January we'll introduce "John Mascaro's Photo Quiz." A sports turf version of the popular column in *Golf Course Management*, the quiz will contain a photo of a problem that can occur on athletic field and some clues that will allow you to try to figure out what caused the problem. The answer will appear on another page in the magazine.

John Mascaro continues his father's legacy as an inventor, entrepreneur, and educator. The late Tom Mascaro invented the Aerifier in 1946 and the Verti-Cut in 1955 as well as many other products for the turfgrass industry. He traveled extensively and took at least 100,000 turf-related photos. For 21 years, beginning in 1961, Tom used his slide collection to write a monthly column for GCM and its predecessors.

Look for information in January on how you can submit photos for future installments of "John Mascaro's Photo Quiz."



ERIC SCHRODER, EDITOR

Comments always welcome.
Call Eric at 717-805-4197,
email eschroder@aip.com,
or write P.O. Box 280, Dauphin, PA 17018.

SPORTSTURF®

833 W. Jackson, 7th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607
PHONE 312-846-4600 FAX 312-846-4638
WEBSITE <http://www.greenmediaonline.com>

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STMA OFFICE
805 NEW HAMPSHIRE SUITE E
LAWRENCE, KS 66044
PHONE 800-323-3875 FAX 800-366-0391
EMAIL stmainfo@sportsturfmanager.com
WEBSITE www.sportsturfmanager.org

INTEGRATED CONTENT TEAM
GROUP PUBLISHER STEVE BRACKETT
EDITOR ERIC SCHRODER

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DIRECT MAIL LIST SALES
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READER SERVICE SERVICES
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION AND DIRECTOR OF READER SERVICE
JOANNE JUDA-PRAINITO readerservice@aip.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
PHONE 847-763-9565 FAX 847-763-9569

REPRINTS
CLAUDIA STACHOWIAK 866-879-9144 x121

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