

STMA Presents Awards at Baseball Winter Meetings

STMA members Steve Horne, Dennis Klein, Greg Elliott, and Chad Olsen are the Sports Turf Managers of the Year for their classifications in Minor League Baseball (MLB). The awards are sponsored by STMA for MLB and were presented by STMA President Bob Campbell, CSFM, at the Baseball Winter Meetings in Anaheim at an awards ceremony on last December.

Horne of the Memphis Redbirds, (Pacific Coast League) is the Triple A winner; Klein of the Round Rock Express (Texas League) was selected as the Double-A winner; Elliott of the Lake County Captains (South Atlantic) won the Class A honor; and Olsen of the Aberdeen IronBirds (New York-Penn) is the winner from the short-season leagues.

In recent years, all 16 leagues have selected a top sports turf manager for recognition by Major League and Minor League Baseball. STMA's four winners are selected from these league winners. In addition to being named Sports Turf Manager of the Year for their respective leagues, the winners were judged on criteria that includes: the playability, appearance, and use of the field; game day routine; personnel and budget management; career goals; support of the industry; letters of reference from the league president and general manager; and the development and implementation of a comprehensive, agronomically sound maintenance program.

STMA and the MLB have partnered to raise the visibility of the work of sports turf managers.

STMA and NIAAA Partner for Safer Athletic Fields

A partnership between the STMA and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), the professional organization for high school, middle school, and junior high athletic directors, was officially adopted at the fall STMA Board meeting after a year of mutual interest and discussion.

That partnership grew from a desire to open educational and informational



Eastlake Ballpark, Eastlake, OH, home of the Lake County Captains

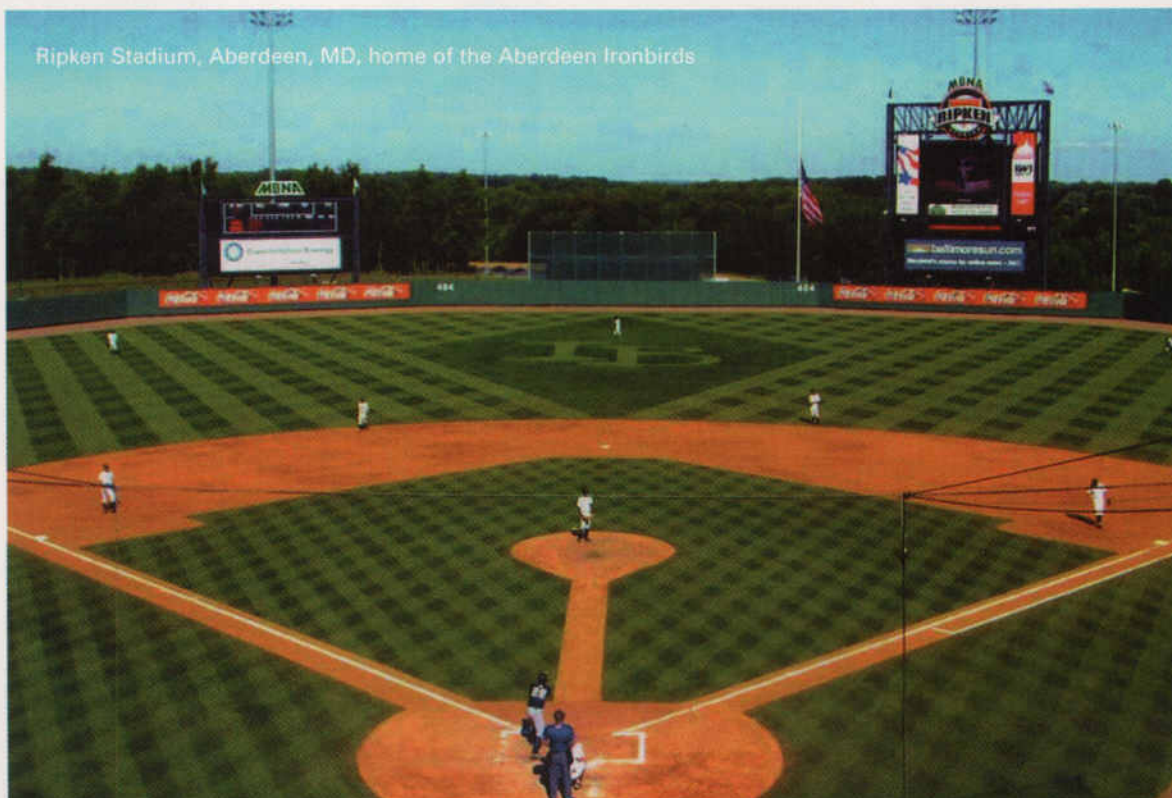
channels about safety and sports field management challenges facing NIAAA members. As an education partner, STMA offers to NIAAA members access to local sports field managers who can provide technical knowledge and advice. This will be helpful to those athletic directors who do not have an STMA member at their school.

NIAAA's mission to promote the growth and image of interscholastic athletic administrators and to develop state athletic administrator organizations to strengthen the interscholastic athletic program of each state. The organization is

closely aligned with the National Federation of State High School Associations and state athletic administrators' organizations as well as individual athletic administrators.

NIAAA members can contact STMA headquarters to be referred to a local member. Through this partnership, STMA members are also available to speak at NIAAA events. To further the networking, STMA will provide contact information for local school athletic directors to our chapters so that they can invite them to field days and other educational events throughout the year. This networking should help to further their understanding of local sports field management issues. NIAAA state education coordinators have been provided a complimentary subscription to *SPORTSTURF* magazine as another educational tool.]

In addition, each organization will share information and promote each other's events, such as attendance at their respective annual conferences. STMA participated at the NIAAA annual conference in December as an exhibitor and provided an instructor to co-teach "Athletic Administration: Athletic Field Management," a post-conference symposium. STMA is aggressively pursuing other partnerships to help advance the visibility and importance of its members to the sports world. **ST**



Ripken Stadium, Aberdeen, MD, home of the Aberdeen Ironbirds