

Soil Tester and the ASTM F-355 method.

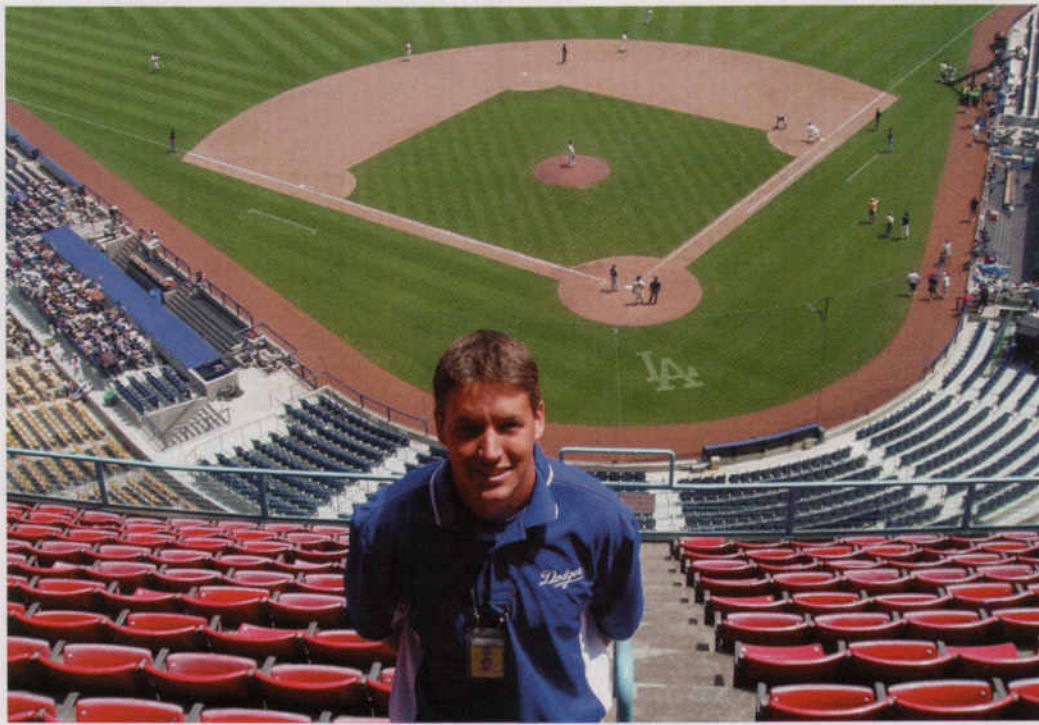
Ball bounce will be evaluated with an apparatus I developed here at Penn State named PennBounce. This apparatus quantifies ball bounce by measuring the coefficient of restitution (COR) for a playing surface. COR is defined as the ratio of a baseball's velocity after impact with the surface as a proportion of its velocity prior to impact. The apparatus uses infrared chronographs placed twelve inches from the testing surface in an arrangement to obtain the inbound and outbound velocities of baseballs propelled at varying speeds and angles to the surface.

Information regarding soil texture, soil moisture, cutting height, and thatch layer will also be collected. The survey will allow for average baseball field surface conditions to be determined at varying levels of competition.

Upon completion of the survey, field plots will be created at the Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Research Center, University Park, PA. Skinned infield plots, natural turfgrass plots, as well as in-filled synthetic turfgrass plots will be evaluated in order to determine the effects of various management practices have on altering the playability and safety of

these surfaces. Specifically, the effects of moisture and inorganic amendments (i.e. calcined clay) on skinned areas will be investigated.

This project will provide an understanding of how maintenance procedures used in baseball field management effect the playability and safety of the field. It will also provide input into the relevancy of commonly used material testing methods. By gauging actual strain on set forth onto the player due to surface type and correlating that information will values obtained through traditional testing methods (Clegg Impact Tester, etc.), we can begin understand how accurately the evaluation tools we are equipped with today will predict field safety in the future.



#### Sports turf at Ohio State

By Pamela Sherratt

The Buckeye Sports Turf program at The Ohio State University is now in its fourth year. During that time we have been striving to improve our sports turf research, teaching and extension efforts.

Historically, most of the turfgrass science majors work toward a career in the golf course industry. Out of the 100+ majors it was not uncommon to have just 2-3 that wanted to go on to be a sports field manager. Today, there are 107 turfgrass

# REMOVABLE PAINT FOR SYNTHETIC AND GRASS FIELDS



## TEMP-LINE



Now you can add or remove football, soccer or lacrosse lines and logos to meet all your event needs.



NFL Approved Vendor

Call (800) 677-7930  
for a free sample kit

[www.ecochemical.com](http://www.ecochemical.com)

Circle 156 on card or [www.oners.ims.ca/5062-156](http://www.oners.ims.ca/5062-156)



science majors and 27 of them are looking for a career in sports turf.

There are currently 18 graduate students in the OSU turf program and 2 post-doctoral associates. Two Ph.D. students recently graduated. One of them, Young-ki Jo, will be going on to the University of Wisconsin as a post-doc to study gray leaf spot and pink snow mold resistance. Some of the graduate student research projects are: characterization of biomass on sand systems; sports turf rootzone materials; phosphorus fertilizer programs; and effects of foliar nitrogen.

Dr. Dave Gardner advises sports turf students and has revitalized the OSU turf club to encourage greater participation from sports turf students. One change has been to make sure that a sports turf student holds either the President or VP position. This year, sports turf student John Koenig is VP.

We are blessed to have great sports turf internships at professional facilities like the Cincinnati Reds, Boston Red Sox, Ohio Stadium, Jacksonville Jaguars, Akron Aeros, and Columbus Crew. This spring we had three students with Dave Mellor at the Red Sox. International internships are also a possibility. The International Program annually sends 3-5 turf students to England, Ireland or Australia. Most recently, Erica Titus worked at Cirencester Polo Club in England, preparing pitches (fields) for England's royalty. Once they have graduated, sports turf students also have the chance to go on to work at professional sports facilities, such as Brian Holtzapfel, who just started a job with the LA Dodgers, or Derrick Grubbs at the Cincinnati Reds.

There is now far better representation from professional organizations such as STMA, and the OSTMA. Students now have professional organization that encourages them to participate and awards student scholarships. In 2004, the OSTMA awarded over \$2,000 in scholarships to Weston Applefeller, Erica Titus, Gregg Caspio, and John Koenig. 2005 was the first year of participation in the STMA Collegiate Quiz. 11 students made the trip to Phoenix in January. The OSU team took 6th place in the quiz and is planning for next year. 2005 was also the first year for the Buckeye Sports Turf "Students of the Year" awards. This year was a tie between Erica Titus and Rodney Brockwrath.

**CA Poly-San Luis Obispo**

By David Green






Cal Poly's turfgrass program had another exciting year in 2004-2005. Our students continued to diligently prepare for their future, but still found plenty of time to have fun. The year started with the first Cal Poly Turfgrass field day in October.



**Is your turf as tough as your team?**

**GN-1™**  
Patented  
**Hybrid Bermuda**  
a product of Greg Norman Turf Company.



-  Exceptional dark green color
-  Excellent wear recovery
-  Good cold tolerance
-  Tolerant of high salinity soils
-  Lower maintenance costs

GN-1 patented hybrid bermuda is the ideal choice for your athletic field, golf course or residential play yard needs.

 **Pacific Sod**  
The Professional's Choice

**800 942-5296**

[www.PacificSod.com](http://www.PacificSod.com)

