Penn State wins STMA student challenge

The inaugural Student Collegiate Challenge at the Sports Turf Managers Association gathering in Phoenix pitted 15 teams from colleges and universities taking a written exam on sports turf and sports field topics, and identifying live plants and weeds.

The Pennsylvania State University team of Shawn Mahonski, Kristen Althouse, Kyle Slaton and Shawn Meredith finished first; Iowa State University's Chris Hickman, Tim Doyle, Adam Thomas, and Lance Johnston placed second; and third place honors went to Colorado State with Nick McNamee, Nate Tuck, and Andy Sears. Winners each received a $25 STMA gift certificate and the team took home a permanent plaque.

Brad Jakubowski and Chad Follis created the event; Steve Cockerham and Steve Ries from the University of California-Riverside Agricultural Operations wrote the test questions, and Dr. Leah Brilman with Seed Research of Oregon oversaw the grading of the tests. Lions rule!