Conference Attendance Rises in Phoenix

The 16th annual STMA Conference and Exhibition brought nearly 900 conference attendees, an association record high, to Phoenix, Jan. 19-23. for classroom and hands-on education. In the 90,000 sq. ft. trade show, attendees got a first hand look at the latest industry products and equipment offered by 157 exhibiting companies.

The conference events were enhanced by the generous support of many companies. The conference sponsors include The Toro Company; Covermaster; Hunter Industries; West Coast Turf; Turface Athletics; Ewing Irrigation; Beacon Athletics; Midwest Rake; Pro's Choice, Sports Turf Company, Inc., Weatherbug, and Cygnet Turf.

A presentation and panel discussion about synthetic turf and natural turfthe advantages, disadvantages, uses and cost comparisons—and the most recent research data available opened the conference.

Keynote speaker Ron Santo, former third baseman for the Chicago Cubs

and current radio color commentator for the Cubs, gave a heartfelt presentation about his career and personal challenges, which includes amputation of both leas due to diabetes.

Forty-six sessions and workshops, a dozen roundtable discussions and three, full day, off-site seminars were packed into the five-day conference.

In addition, a five-hour training session was held for chapter officers to discuss issues including the new chapter affiliation agreement, compliance, website and volunteerism challenges. John Deere, the gold level sponsor, and silver level sponsors Alpine Services, Inc., Hunter Industries, Stabilizer Solutions and Syngenta, support the STMA chapter program throughout the year.

Students were able to take advantage of many activities specifically geared to them including the inaugural Student Collegiate Challenge. Fifteen teams from various colleges and universities participated in a written exam on sports turf and sports field topics and identified live plants and weeds. Winning first



DuPont™Turf Blanket™

Works as a buffer between your turf and the elements

The DuPont™ Turf Blanket with DuPont™ Xavan® is a highstrength, lightweight nonwoven polypropylene fabric that effectively helps minimize damage from winterkill, wind, and insects. It passes both air and water, and helps create a greenhouse-type environment (higher soil and air temperatures, retained moisture) conducive to root growth, extends the growing season and allows for earlier green-up of your sports field.

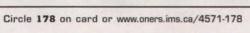
> Ideal for over-wintering, germination, and latelearly season daily covers.



The miracles of science

For more information about DuPont™ Turf Blankets, call Earth & Landscape Solutions (ELS) at:

(800) 289-2448





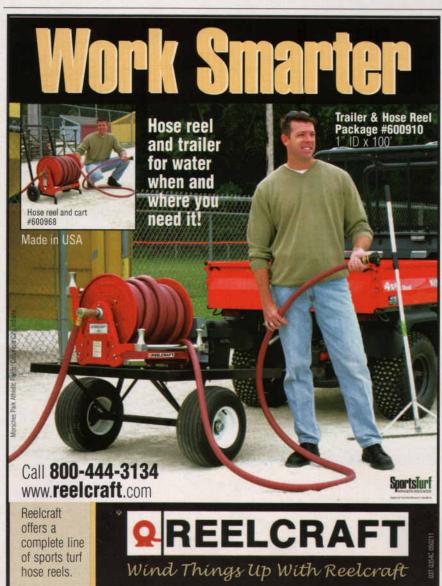
Circle 179 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/4571-179



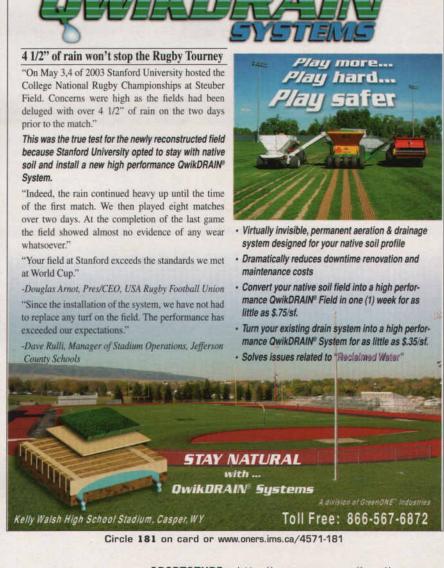
place was The Pennsylvania State University with Shawn Mahonski, Kristen Althouse, Kyle Slaton and Shawn Meredith; Iowa State University took second place with Chris Hickman, Tim Doyle, Adam Thomas, and Lance Johnston; and third place honors went to Colorado State with Nick McNamee, Nate Tuck and Andy Sears.

The first place team members each received a \$25 STMA gift certificate and the team took home a permanent plaque. Hunter Industries sponsored the Student Challenge. 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.

The STMA Awards banquet culminated in the awarding of the Founders Awards, STMA's most prestigious honors. Steve LeGros, GCA Services at the University of New Hampshire, received The Dick Ericson Award, which is given to a sports turf manager who positively impacts the sports turf industry and exhibits effective team leadership. Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame received the



Circle 180 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/4571-180



QwikDRAIN® Fields deliver Value, Performance & Safety

Profile of New Board Member Daily

Darian Daily has been involved in the professional sports turf industry for 16 years. After graduating with a BS in Plant and Soil Science from Middle Tennessee State, Daily worked with a variety of sports turf fields including parks and recreation, college baseball, AAA baseball, and professional soccer. He currently is head groundskeeper at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati.

Daily's professional highlights include:

- * 1999 STMA Municipal Football Field of the Year.
- * Employee of the Year with Brentwood (TN) Parks in 1999, and Employee of the Year with the Columbus Crew Stadium in 2000.
- * First Head Groundskeeper at the first soccer-specific stadium in the U.S.
 - * Hosting the 2000 MLS Cup
- * Hosting the United States World Cup Qualifier with Mexico on Feb. 28, 2001

Daily has been an active member of the STMA for eight years and has served on the membership committee. He was a founding member of the TVSTMA, and served as President of the OSTMA 2001-2002. He currently serves as chairman of the OSTMA Program Committee. Darian currently resides outside of Cincinnati with his wife, Carole, and 4-yr-old daughter, Peyton.

George Toma Golden Rake Award, which acknowledges an individual's strong work ethic and job performance. Dr. A.J. Powell, University of Kentucky, was awarded the Dr. William H. Daniel Award, which acknowledges his significant contributions to the sports turf industry through research, teaching and extension outreach. The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was presented to Lynda

Wightman of Hunter Industries. The Gill Award recognizes an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and acknowledges their dedication and service to the STMA.

In addition, Field of the Year winners were honored. The winners for Baseball include: Thomas Nielsen, Louisville Slugger Field, Louisville, KY (professional); Jarad Alley, Isotopes Park, Albuquerque, NM (collegiate); and Joseph Harris, Doubleday Field, Cooperstown, NY (schools/parks).

In the Football category, three winners took home awards. They are: Chris Morrow, Dallas Cowboys Football Facility, Irving, TX (professional); Leo Goertz/Craig Potts, Kyle Field at Texas A&M, College Station, TX (collegiate); and Jim Wilson, Blue Valley District Activities Complex Football Field, Overland Park, KS (schools/parks).

For Soccer, John Netwal, CGCS, North Scott Community Schools, Eldridge, IA, was honored for his work in the schools/parks category.

The Softball winner was Jennifer Roeber, Bowlin Stadium, Haymarket Park, Lincoln, NE (collegiate).

Two Complex-of-the-Year awards were

presented. In the professional category, Joe Kennedy III, Surprise Recreation Campus, Surprise, AZ, and in the schools/park category Blair Elliot, Aspen Recreation Center Community Campus, Aspen, CO, took top honors.

Bayer Environmental Science, Covermaster, Jacobsen, Hunter Industries, Nu-gro, Turface Athletics, Turf-Seed, West Coast Turf and World Class Athletic Surfaces sponsor the STMA awards program.

STMA Announces Election Results

The following officers and directors were elected to serve on the 2005 STMA Board of Directors:

Officers

President - Mike Trigg, CSFM, Waukegan Park District, Waukegan, IL Past President - Bob Campbell, CSFM, University of Tennessee Athletic Department, Knoxville, TN

President-Elect - Mike Andresen, CSFM, Iowa State University, Ames, IA Vice President - Commercial - Victoria Wallace, Tee and Green Sod, Inc., Exeter, RI

Secretary - Abby McNeal, CSFM, Invesco Field at Mile High, Denver, CO Treasurer - Boyd R. Montgomery, CSFM, Sylvania Recreation Corporation, Sylvania, OH

Board Members

Professional Facilities - Darian Daily, Paul Brown Stadium, Cincinnati, OH (see sidebar).

Colleges & Universities - Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Other Schools - George C. Trivett, CSFM, Granite Falls Middle School, Lenoir, NC

Parks & Recreation - Lance Tibbetts, CSFM, Town of Windham, Windham, ME

Commercial - Tra DuBois, World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc., Leland, MS Research, Teaching, Extension - Dave Minner, Ph.D., Iowa State University, Ames, IA

