



# SAFE winner makes All-Star team

**Steve Gilbertson**, turf manager for the Lino Lakes (MN) Parks Department, won the SAFE (Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments) raffle last winter at the STMA Conference. The prize was joining Heather Nabozny's crew for MLB's All-Star Game in Detroit last July.

*SPORTSTURF* spoke with Gilbertson about his experiences. Our first question was about those designs in the infield dirt. "Those were a big internal joke," he said. "They were Major League Baseball's idea, they provided the stencils and so on. The "A" was readable, the "S" was fairly readable, the "G" not readable at all. I helped install them. We wetted down the infield dirt to get it dark brown, then we placed the pre-cut stencils down and put new, dry dirt on the stencil. Then we lifted the stencil. It was gone by the 5th inning."

Gilbertson helped drag the infield between the 6th and 7th innings. "I was concentrating those 2 minutes so there wasn't any time to look around at the crowd," he said.

Did he get a chance to mix with any All-Stars? "Well there's not any 'stargazing' for the crew," said Gilbertson. "The level of professionalism in that crew is tremendously high. I did get up close with some celebrities during the

Celebrity/Legends softball game, and saw Jack Morris, which was a thrill since I'm a Twins fan and was there in person for his famous World Series Game 7 performance in 1991," he said.

"I did get some fly balls during batting practice but MLB dictates that you can't keep them or even toss them to fans in the stands."

What memories will remain? "The crew in Detroit. Heather and her crew were fabulous and take lots of pride in their jobs; you can tell they do it the same whether it's the All-Star Game or a regular Tigers game," he said. "We did things to that field I'll never do at home! It was a once-in-a-lifetime shot and I really enjoyed it."

STMA established the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments to support sports field specific research, educational programs and environmental concerns to promote user safety. STMA initially funded SAFE with a contribution of \$100,000. These funds are the first endowment for the Foundation, and only the income from this contribution will be used by SAFE. For more information see [www.sportsturfmanager.org](http://www.sportsturfmanager.org) or contact STMA Headquarters at 800-323-3875.

## **Ball Diamond Conditioner Specialists**



**Infield Custom Blends**



**Vitri-Cal Clay**



**Diamond Clay Conditioner**



**Calcined Clay (Turface)**



**Mound Clay Fortifier**



**Diamond Sands**

We've got a conditioner for every application. Which means less maintenance, less rain-outs, less wind erosion, less complaints and safer conditions at any level of play



**MAR-CO**  
CLAY PRODUCTS INC.  
**1-800-950-2555**  
[www.marcoclay.com](http://www.marcoclay.com)

Circle 158 on card or [www.oners.ims.ca/5065-158](http://www.oners.ims.ca/5065-158)

## The game must go on.

No more wet, muddy or frozen fields. Ever. Whether you play on grass or artificial turf, the Airfield® sports drainage system is for you. We move water 13 times faster and reduce irrigation requirements by up to 70% over any other system, with a Gmax rating up to 15% lower for enhanced player safety. And if that wasn't enough, our Airforce® system keeps your field cool during high temperature play and warm to prevent snow and ice buildup. With all that you have going on above your turf, isn't it time you thought about what you have going on beneath it?

441 S. Fretz  
Edmond, OK 73003  
Office: 405.359.3775  
Toll Free: 888.287.9657  
Web: [airfieldsystems.com](http://airfieldsystems.com)



Circle 159 on card or [www.oners.ims.ca/5065-159](http://www.oners.ims.ca/5065-159)