

Call him "Joe Schmuck"



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Hey, Joe Buck, why don't you find that silver spoon you were born with and stick it back in your mouth next time you want to make a comment like "It's dirt, really" when talking about growing grass in Chicago in January?

In case you missed it, Buck, a broadcaster for Fox, spouted that exact nonsense during the Carolina Panthers v. Bears playoff game telecast January 15. I'll take a bite out of my lawn if someone can prove to me that Buck has ever had a conversation with a sports turf manager about how difficult it is to prepare a natural turf field for an NFL game in the middle of winter.

If it wasn't for Buck's father, the late Jack Buck, a true broadcasting legend, greasing the skids, I wonder where Sonny Boy would be today?

For the record, I thought Ken Mrock and his crew's field looked terrific for the conditions at that game, and was certainly NOT a factor in the game's outcome.

Twenty teams competed in STMA's 2nd annual Student Collegiate Challenge at the Annual Conference. Congrats to our "Q&A" columnist Dr. Grady Miller, whose students from the University of Florida made up two of the top four finishing teams. Joey Stevenson, Chase Best, Daniel Mudd, and Nick Gressley from Purdue University won the Challenge. And of course a team from my alma mater, Penn State, finished third. Congratulations to all.

The winner of the 2005 Terry Mellor Memorial Scholarship is Cheryl Burton, chief groundskeeper at Mt. Mary College in Milwaukee. The scholarship is awarded annually in memory of the brother of David Mellor, director of grounds with the Boston Red Sox, to honor individuals who commit to professional development through continuing education, and is sponsored by Turface Athletics. Burton has been with Mt. Mary College for 8 years and currently pursuing her associate's degree in horticulture landscaping.

William Ray, turf student at Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College in Tifton, GA, won the fourth annual Toro Super Bowl Sports Turf Training Program. Ray joined grounds crew to prepare and maintain the game field and practice facilities at Ford Field for Super Bowl XL last month. After serving in the U.S. Army, Ray focused on his education to prepare for a career in sports turf management.

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