



NO "SURPRISE"

Joe Kennedy III wins Complex of the Year again

The Surprise Recreation Campus, a 170-acre, \$73 million facility 40 miles northwest of Phoenix, has won the Sports Turf Manager Association's Professional Complex of the Year for the second consecutive year. The facility is the spring training home and player development center for the Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers, as well as home to MLB's Arizona Fall League and the independent minor league franchise, the Surprise Fightin' Falcons.

Joe Kennedy III, CSFM, is baseball maintenance manager for the complex, which also hosts events as diverse as July 4 celebrations, high school football games, cross country meets, Special Olympics, Chamber of Commerce family events and on and on. In fact, Kennedy reports the city is spending \$1.5 million to add a three-field youth baseball complex and \$1.1 million for a facility to meet the needs of mentally and physically challenged community members.

Kennedy's duties are massive: "I oversee the maintenance operations [for the entire campus]. I coordinate the on field activities and maintenance schedule for both the Texas Rangers and Kansas City Royals throughout the year as well as other outside agencies and public usage. I am directly involved with everything from developing and overseeing operational budgets to developing our fertilization program and overseeing capital projects to making sure the bathrooms are stocked.

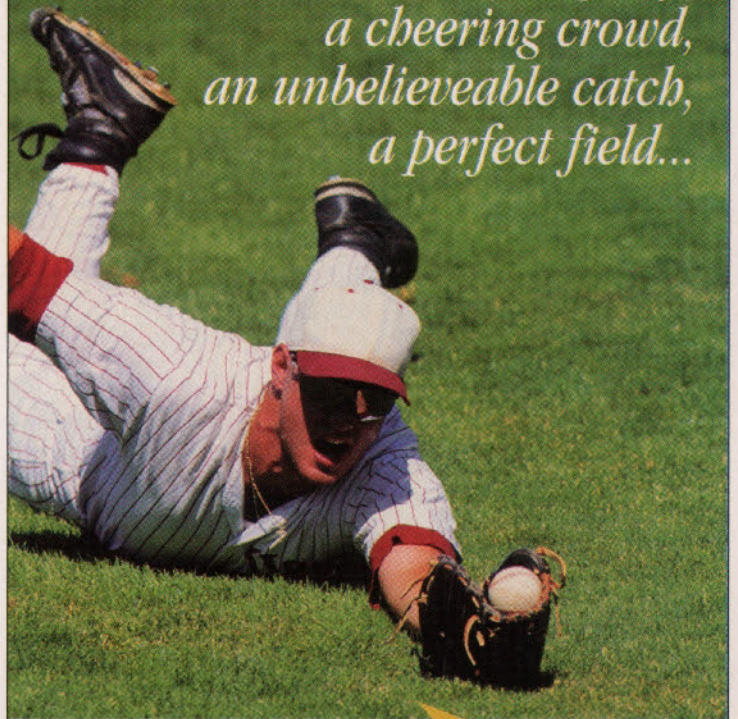
"But most of all I have the privilege and honor of coaching, instructing and working with some of the top professionals in all of the sports turf industry, my grounds crew team," he says.

Kennedy studied business at a small college in Missouri and then eventually earned his professional certification in turfgrass from the University of Georgia. "Some people who know me think I may suffer from Attention Deficit Disorder but somehow I found the perfect job for me in sports turf management.



*I'll always
remember that
day...*

*A spring day,
a cheering crowd,
an unbelievable catch,
a perfect field...*



EXCELLERATOR[™]

Excellerator makes *your turf* memorable by supplying beneficial silicon, calcium and a powerful micros package resulting in:

- improved wear tolerance
- quicker recovery for better playing surface
- stronger, tougher turf

For a distributor near you or for further information call

1.800.850.0527

or visit us at www.excellminerals.com

Fill in 131 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9133-131>

FIELD OF THE YEAR



"My first sports turf-related job was helping with field maintenance while attending college. My first full-time position was maintenance worker with the City of Peoria (AZ), taking care of softball and Little League fields, the swimming pool, and removing graffiti."

All the fields and common areas at the complex feature Bull's-eye Bermuda from West Coast Turf. "We overseed with perennial rye during the winter," Kennedy says. "All of our fields are sand-based with drainage tile systems collected in dry wells. Our Major League fields have a profile of 6 inches of pea gravel topped with 10-12 inches of a USGA spec blend of sand and peat moss. Our Minor League fields

used 6-8 inches of a higher gradation of sand with no organics over the same pea gravel bed."

Irrigation and drainage

The irrigation system was designed to accommodate the ever-increasing demand on potable water in the Southwest. Kennedy currently uses non-potable water from a 5-acre lake on site. The system was designed to give the ability to use non-potable, potable, effluent or a blend.

The water is drawn from a 24-inch inlet with two 30-hp pumps, which have the capacity to provide 1500 gallons per minute. A 10-inch



power to move mountains

Save time & money with TYCROP's MH-400 Material Handling Unit

Call 1.800.845.7249 or visit www.tycropturf.com

Nothing's built like a TYCROP.



Fill in 132 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9133-132>



**BRILLIANT INNOVATION
BUILT
"SPORT"
TOUGH**



TOPDRAIN - Silt drainage made easy
• Three (3) sand filled trenches, 1.5" w x 8" d at 20" oc.



RECYCLING DRESSER - aerate 7" deep
• Topdress your own root zone in one pass, no more plugs!

**SALES
&
CONTRACT
SERVICES**



FIELD TOPMAKER - strip turf, mulch & load
in one pass

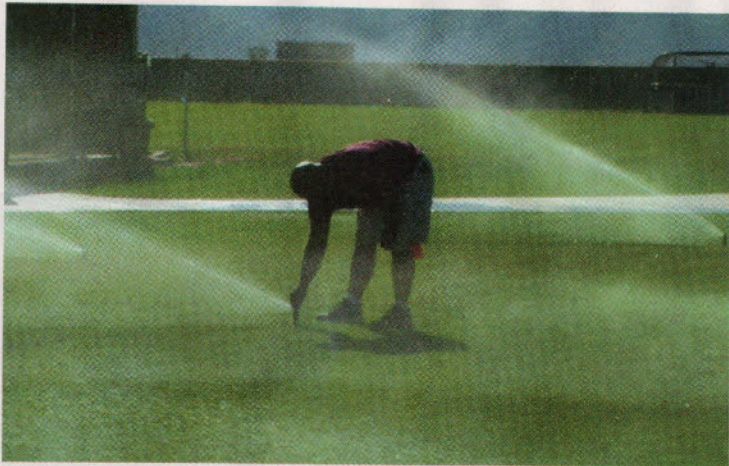
**NEW!
VERTICUT REEL
AVAILABLE**

**Dealership
opportunities**

North American Distributor
GreenONE Industries 888-KOROUS (567-6872)
www.korosystems.com

REVOLUTIONIZING THE SPORTS TURF INDUSTRY

Fill in 133 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9133-133>



mainline hoop supplies the water from the pump house. Each field then has a 3-inch mainline loop that provides water to two 12-inch valves. Each field has a 3-inch master valve and the ability to isolate any of the 12 valves and still supply water to the rest of the field. Each playing field is equipped with an average of 90 sprinkler heads and 10 1 1/2-inch quick couplers. The Campus is a Hunter irrigation facility, Kennedy says.

The drainage system for the Stadium field includes the standard extensive subsurface drainage system with a pump located approximately 30 feet beyond the left field foul pole. The field is gravity-drained into a pit, and then excess water within the stadium can be pumped into a retention area about 440 yards away.

The Major League practice fields, with percolation rates of 12-18 inches per hour, are designed similarly with a geotextile layer separating the old subgrade from the new one. Four- and 6-inch drain tiles 20 feet on center run through the 4-inch gravel layer and connect into a dry well outside the centerfield fence. The central tile is equipped with a flapper-style backflow valve to prevent backup during a flood situation. The gravel layer is topped with 10 inches of USGA sand/peat blended sand.

Work/family balance

"I am sure balancing family life with work demands is the most difficult situation we as sports turf managers have to deal with," says Kennedy. "I am blessed with a beautiful and patient wife and three outstanding children. My wife has been with me since my early years in the business and has always been understanding. I try to focus on the time I do spend with my family and live each moment to its fullest as if it were my last.

"I am also fortunate to have an exceptional support staff that shares in our scheduling demands. My upper management and city council here at Surprise has always supported a "family first" motto that has had a huge influence on my accepting this position," he says.

How does Kennedy see his job changing in the next 10 years? "I see the role of a sports field manager experiencing great strides in technological advances in both equipment and management aides. We will have to be knowledgeable in both natural and artificial surfaces and continue to be on the cutting edge of environmental issues such as water conservation, alternative fuel equipment with low pollutant emissions, and the use of natural & organic fertilizers," he says. ■



Synthetic Turf Council

THE SOURCE

for standard guideline documents

to assist in the selection and use

of synthetic turf systems

THE SOURCE

for obtaining unbiased and non-

proprietary information that promotes

the matching of product performance to

the needs of the user

THE SOURCE

for identifying certified providers who

strive to uphold industry standards

The Synthetic Turf Council is a non-profit association of companies who represent 85% of the synthetic turf industry. The STC membership is comprised of professional designers, landscape architects, engineers, manufacturers, builders, testing laboratories, suppliers, installation and maintenance specialists who are committed to end-user satisfaction. Tel 706.270.6699; Fax 706.278.9899

www.syntheticurfCouncil.org

SYNTHETIC TURF...
The Preferred Playing Surface