

# Lebanon Valley College sets small college bar



Lebanon Valley College (PA), led by Kevin Yeiser and his staff, Keith Evans, Ryan Schmidt, and Chris Tshudy, won the Sports Turf Managers Association's 2005 College Complex of the Year Award. LVC previously has won two other Field of the Year awards, and Yeiser's fields are in demand by local high schools, community groups, NCAA championship tournaments, and have been used as training sites for Olympic and other international soccer teams.

One Saturday last year, Yeiser reports, the 100-acre complex hosted a high school soccer match, a 20-team field hockey tournament, a college softball game, and a college baseball game, all within 10 hours. "In order to keep overtime costs down, some staff started work later in the day so they could stay later to do some cleaning up and light maintenance immediately after the events. We have found that any work that can be accomplished after events saves us time the next day to focus on other work," says Yeiser.

*continued on page 34*





## The Best Dressed Sports Fields Start Out In Our Hands.



America's leading sports fields use America's best field marking paints and custom stencils. When great teams choose to decorate their fields, they turn to World Class.

**WORLD  
CLASS**  
athleticsurfaces

**We Make The Games Look Better • [www.worldclasspaints.com](http://www.worldclasspaints.com) • 1-800-748-9649**

Fill in 128 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9138-128>



**YOUR "ONE-STOP SOURCE"  
FOR AMERICA'S LEADING  
BASEBALL SURFACES & SUPPLIES**



THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE  
... SINCE 1922

A SUPPLIER TO EVERY MLB TEAM,  
OVER 150 MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS,  
OVER 700 COLLEGES, PLUS THOUSANDS  
OF TOWNS & SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE.  
SPECIAL MIXES FOR INFIELDS,  
PITCHER'S MOUNDS & HOME PLATE AREAS.

REGIONAL INFIELD MIXES AND  
RED WARNING TRACKS FOR  
EVERY STATE & CLIMATE FROM  
BULK PLANTS NATIONWIDE!

PLUS INFIELD CONDITIONERS:

**IF TOO HARD AND POORLY DRAINING!**

**Pro's Choice**

THE REDDER, LESS DUSTY, MORE UNIFORM  
INFIELD CONDITIONER & DRYING AGENT  
FOR CONSISTENT INFIELD CUSHION  
IN WET OR DRY WEATHER!

**DIAMOND PRO®**

IMPROVES DRAINAGE & ENHANCES COLOR!

**IF TOO SOFT & DUSTY!**

**STABILIZER® & HILLTOPPER®**

FOR FIRM, YET RESILIENT, PLAYING SURFACES

**TO QUICKLY DRY INFIELDS!**

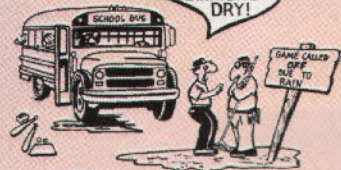
The Original & Most Absorbent is Now

**NEW & IMPROVED GRANULAR**

**DIAMOND-DRY.**



WHAT!  
We Came 100 Miles  
And You STILL Don't Use  
DIAMOND  
DRY!



**OVER 200 OTHER INFIELD PRODUCTS!**

3 Grades & 6 Colors!

**FENCEGUARD**

Protective Safety Covers  
for Chain Link Fence

WALL PADDING • WINDSCREEN • RAIL PADDING  
TAMPERS • DRAG MATS • RAKES  
HOLLYWOOD® BASES • FIELD MARKING MACHINES  
BATTING PRACTICE COVERS • RAIN COVERS  
PERMA-MOUND™ PADS • MOUND BRICKS  
SAFE "T" MATT™ BATTER'S BOX PADS  
TYPAR® GEOTEXTILES & TURF BLANKETS  
ON-DECK CIRCLES WITH TEAM LOGOS  
PERMANENT FOUL LINES & MUCH MORE!

FREE INSTRUCTIONS & BROCHURES

**www.BEAMCLAY.COM**

**800-247-BEAM**

908-637-4191 / FAX 908-637-8421

PARTAC PEAT CORPORATION

KELSEY PARK, GREAT MEADOWS, NJ 07838

*"The best infield mix I've ever used."*

— **GEORGE TOMA**

Fill in 129 on reader service form or visit

<http://oners.hotims.com/9138-129>

## FIELD OF THE YEAR

### Lebanon Valley College complex maintenance

#### March

Winter cleanup; light application of quick release fertilizer; hand overseeding and topdressing where needed.

#### April

Broadleaf applications

#### May

Annual grass control; mid-month biostimulant application; insect control application; apply slow-release fertilizer at month's end; start renovations as fields become available

#### June

Preventive disease control if necessary; begin wetting agent applications; irrigate if necessary; continue renovations

#### July

Apply wetting agents; irrigate; sports camp preparation; disease control if needed

#### August

Renovate camp damage where possible; apply wetting agents; irrigate; apply fertilizer at end of month

#### September

Liquid iron or fertilizer supplement application; fertilizer application; spot topdressing and seeding

#### October

Spot seeding

#### November

Core aerate; baseball and softball infield renovations for spring; late fertilizer application to all fields

All this from a Division III liberal arts school with less than 1,700 students. Yeiser says, "We try to keep all our fields game ready to help recruiting. To do this and keep within our budget, we constantly are reviewing and adjusting our work schedules."

All Lebanon Valley's fields have native clay/loam soil rootzones indigenous to the area. Yeiser last year introduced sand into the profile of some of the game fields to improve drainage. Calcined clay is also added to the soil profile of turf areas and in the skinned areas. Those skinned areas also consist of Diamond-Tex infield mix and vitrified clay.

Only the football field (originally constructed in 1902) has a drainage system, a 40-year-old terra cotta-like material that runs laterally across the field approximately 18 inches in depth and which Yeiser says "works beautifully."

Yeiser is responsible for planning and implementation for all aspects of the field maintenance and is involved with field planning and design. He's also responsible for maintaining the entire 200-acre campus. Add to the game fields, practice fields, and intramural fields are all the complex's landscaping that Yeiser and staff maintain. "You won't find a chainlink fence or traditional steel bleachers anywhere in our complex," says Yeiser. "We planned carefully to take advantage of surrounding land features and existing tree lines to create venues that complement [nature]."

"We have surrounded the fields with flowering and shade trees, shrubbery beds, ponds, fountains, waterfowl, and every space is linked together by walkways and bridges throughout," says Yeiser.

So when does Yeiser get to go home? "I have a very understanding family and a wonderful wife. It is easier now than it was when my son and daughter were growing up. I would like to think that they understood that the job had responsibilities that needed my time but I was always there for my family when it was most important. I tried to set an example and be the kind of father they can be proud of," he says.

Speaking of pride, Yeiser says the greatest pleasure he derives from his job is "watching the reaction from recruits and others who visit our complex for the first time." ■