

F.O.Y.

Field of the Year



Griggs leads **Wizards crew** to FOY victory in KC

TYPICAL OF THE SPORTS TURF PROFESSION that the 2009 STMA Field of the Year Professional Soccer winner's pitch is inside a baseball stadium.

Jay Griggs, Director of Sports Field Operations for the Kansas City Wizards of the MLS, led his crew at CommunityAmerica Ballpark, a multi-purpose stadium in Kansas City, Kansas, home of

the Kansas City T-Bones of the independent Northern League, and temporary home of the Wizards. (The Wizards are building a soccer-specific stadium in Kansas City that is due to open mid-2011.)

Full-time staffers Justin Bland and Mike Moyer, and part-timer Ryan Locke are also credited with bringing home the award despite difficult circumstances.

“Today the more events you can have the more money you can make. Our concern is at what point are there going to be more events than time for maintenance and field quality?”



“Playing soccer in a baseball stadium has given us many challenges over the past 2 years,” Griggs wrote in his entry. “Baseball here is played on an all-grass skin area with sliding pits, like the old artificial turf fields looked. It’s challenging converting from baseball to soccer and back again 10 times a year.

“Our biggest concern was the wear spots at positions in the grass

infield; for the most part we held up pretty well in those areas with regular maintenance fertilizer applications. In the position areas and around the pits we aerated as needed to fight compaction and aid the laying sod process.

“Our main goal for soccer was to have a good uniform playing surface that wouldn’t affect the play of the game. We generally have

COMBINATOR





VACUUM SWEEPER
shown with optional verticutter



DUMP TRAILER



VERTI-CUTTER



AFT TRENCHERS

www.stecequipment.com

864.225.3666



MarkSmart™ with Game Day Markers for







- Professional Style Flags, Pylons, Distance Markers
- Most Economical in the industry
- Easy install with our Patented Anchor System
- Call for Free Literature



Any time is the right time to **MarkSmart™**

Call or click today!

MARKERS, INC. 1-800-969-5920

www.markersinc.com

“Quality Products at Reasonable Prices”

33490 Pin Oak Parkway, Avon Lake, OH 44012

Equipment list

- Deere 2653b reel mower
- Deere Pro Gator
- Deere 2020 sprayer
- Deere 3520 tractor
- Deere Aercore 1000
- Deere 1200a bunker rake
- Dakota Turf topdresser
- AerWay machine
- 2-ton Wacker roller
- Case 420 skid steer
- 48-inch sod installer
- Classen 19-inch sod cutter
- McClain gasoline edger
- Lesco ride-on fertilizer spreader

a 2-3 day window in which the infield skin is removed from sliding pits and track material from the warning track to be sodded over to have a full grass surface for soccer events.

“There are 1,000 square feet of pit areas and 3,500 square feet of warning track that we have to sod for every event. A major concern with the sodded areas is that they are on a hard clay surface and limestone under the warning track so we are constantly fighting hot spots. These areas have to be tended to and hand-watered nearly non-stop.

“We also have a section of seating that extends from the left field wall and runs to right center field in which flooring is put down to accompany 350 field side seats. We have are compaction in those areas, and in the summer we are concerned about the flooring being set up and on the field throughout the heat of the day. We have seen tip burn and discoloration.

“Not only the Northern League T-Bones and the Wizards use the field; there are campouts, high school and college baseball, and high school and college soccer. We don’t have many extended periods of time for regular field maintenance so we’re still concerned about reaching that breaking point with the field.

“Today the more events you can have the more money you can make. Our concern is at what point are there going to be more events than time for maintenance and field quality?”

SportsTurf: What changes did you make to your maintenance plan this year, if any?

Griggs: We really did not make any changes to the budget or the field maintenance plan. We tweaked a few things here and there but over all it is the same.

M2MEDIA 360

Maximize your positive press from your feature in
SportsTurf

Reprints
 Maximize the marketing power of your feature.

Eprint
 Give your feature a presence on the World Wide Web.

Custom Plaques
 Showcase your great press in a public area for all to admire.

For custom reprints contact us today!
 Call 866.879.9144 x131
 or email us at reprints@m2media360.com

Now offering short-run reprints!
 Order 100 copies or less.

SportsTurf
has gone mobile!

Now you can access all the latest news and events anywhere, anytime. Simply visit
www.sportsturfonline.com/mobile4
 to stay connected.

ST: Has the team and/or stadium owner publicized your winning this award from STMA?

Griggs: Our team has publicized our award in local newspapers and on our website.

ST: What's the best piece of turf management advice you have ever received?

Griggs: Never let your personal wants get in the way of your fields' needs.

ST: How do you balance your work and personal time?

Griggs: This is a very tough situation for us. We have so many events on this field that we find ourselves having to come back in to work during the night time hours to get things done, but we make a conscious effort to fit family time in as much as possible.

ST: If a community organization was starting a soccer program and had \$15,000 to spend on maintenance for an 8-field complex, on what would you suggest they buy with budget?

Griggs: I would suggest that they should invest in some type of aerification equipment. Usually these types of fields get a whole lot of play and become overly compacted, if they could open the field up in some form they could possibly help prevent puddles and rain outs. ■



Face-to-Face Real Social Networking

GIE+EXPO brings together the whole industry to create one powerful social network – face-to-face. Gain insights to best-practice strategies used by your counterparts across the nation, tap into manufacturers' plans for new products and get a jump on industry trends. GIE+EXPO events are specially organized to help take you to the next level in building a positive social network that is sure to benefit your business.



FREE Concerts at
FOURTH W! STREET



**NEAL
MCCOY**

Neal McCoy, 9pm
Thursday, Oct. 28



**HEIDI
NEWFIELD**

Heidi Newfield, 9pm
Friday, Oct. 29

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.GIE-EXPO.COM

GIE+EXPO



The 14th largest tradeshow in the USA!

Thursday, Friday, Saturday | October 28-30, 2010
Kentucky Exposition Center | Louisville, Kentucky
www.gie-expo.com | Email: info@gie-expo.com
Toll Free: (800) 558-8767 | Phone: (812) 949-9200