FROM THE PUBLISHER any times as I've sat down to write this column I've

wanted to write about the people who make up this industry. Each time | started to write, | felt my words were trite and unimportant. However, my mind always seems were me and unimportant, nowever, my mind aways seems to come back to people. After all, it is they who make things because We live is a people world. The more think about happen. We live in a people world. The more I think about it, the stronger I feel that it is important to recognize those

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to meet with and talk to people from all facets of our industry – people from who make our industry tick. all walks of life, with varied backgrounds, who in one way

all walks of life, with varied backgrounds, who in one way or another found their way into our business. I must

ontess I'm impressed. I'm impressed with the fact that most of these people started "in the trenches" and worked heir way up. I'm impressed that so many chose this field because they like to help make I'm impressed with the tact that most of these people started "in the trenches" and worked their way up. I'm impressed that so many chose this field because they like to help make things grow and like to work outdoors. ings grow and like to work outdoors. However, I am most impressed by the dedication I see all around. It is one thing to be successful and earn a good living, or get a better return on your investment. It is another However, I am most impressed by the dedication I see all around. It is one thing to be successful and earn a good living, or get a better return on your investment. It is another story to dedicate yourself to your life's work and have it carry over to your spare time as well. be successful and earn a good living, or get a better return on your investment. It is another story to dedicate yourself to your life's work and have it carry over to your spare time as well. The Metropolitan Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Norther confess I'm impressed. ory to dedicate yourself to your life's work and have it carry over to your spare time as well. The Metropolitan Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Northern blic Golf Course Superintendents Association are just two groups whose members donate things grow and like to work outdoors. The Metropolitan Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association are just two groups whose members donate their spare time to interface with local high schools. They invite the groundskeepers from Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association are just two groups whose members donate their spare time to interface with local high schools. They invite the groundskeepers from these high schools to attend seminars and they even go so far as to volunteer to visit

their spare time to interface with local high schools. They invite the groundskeepers trom these high schools to attend seminars and they even go so far as to volunteer to visit the high school stadiums and help solve their sports turf problems. They don't get paid these high schools to attend seminars and they even go so far as to volunteer to visit the high school stadiums and help solve their sports turf problems. They don't get paid to do this. it's a labor of love. do this, it's a labor of love. I've seen individuals whose every waking moment is involved with the sports turf industry-tom early morning, when they go to their jobs, through to the evening --attenting mean I've seen individuals whose every waking moment is involved with the sports turt industry-from early morning, when they go to their jobs, through to the evening-attending meet-ings, seminars, conventions and trade shows. I have even met people who use convenfrom early morning, when they go to their jobs, through to the evening-attending meet-ings, seminars, conventions and trade shows. I have even met people who use conventions the whole family. to do this, it's a labor of love.

on time as a vacation, taking along the whole family. I have observed some of these people rise from obscurity to become highly successful and I have marveled at their success. It is now very obvious to me that this didn't hannen I have observed some of these people rise from obscurity to become nighty successful and I have marveled at their success. It is now very obvious to me that this didn't happen by chance. Their dedication and their pride is what made it happen. tion time as a vacation, taking along the whole family. chance. Their dedication and their pride is what made it happen. Those who toil on the sports fields and the golf courses can't fake it for too long. They ave to know their stuff. It is unfortunate that others don't fully appreciate the profession. and I nave marveled at their success. It is now very obvious to me that it by chance. Their dedication and their pride is what made it happen. Those who toil on the sporte fields and the colf courses can't take it Those who toil on the sports fields and the golf courses can't fake it for too long. They have to know their stuff. It is unfortunate that others don't fully appreciate the professionalism it takes to manage these large turf areas. I have been involved in other industries. nave to know their stuff. It is unfortunate that others don't fully appreciate the profession-alism it takes to manage these large turf areas. I have been involved in other industries, but never have I seen the esprit de corps, the concern and dedication that I see when

alism it takes to manage these large turf areas. I have been involved in other industries, but never have I seen the esprit de corps, the concern and dedication that I see when I look at our industry. ook at our industry. We are a large group of independent thinkers. We do a lot of experimenting, always oking to develop better turf practices. We are constantly striving for improvement We are a large group of independent thinkers. We do a lot of experimenting, always looking to develop better turf practices. We are constantly striving for improvement. Our industry is served by many small companies that generate billions of dollars int oking to develop better turf practices. We are constantly striving for improvement. Our industry is served by many small companies that generate billions of dollars into be economy of this country. I believe one of our greatest assets is the fact that because I look at our industry.

Our industry is served by many small companies that generate billions of dollars into the economy of this country. I believe one of our greatest assets is the fact that because we have so many companies in this field, we benefit from their entrepreneurial endeavors. the economy of this country. I believe one of our greatest assets is the fact that because we have so many companies in this field, we benefit from their entrepreneurial endeavors. We benefit from the variety of equipment tools, seed, fertilizers and chemicals they make we have so many companies in this field, we benefit from their entrepreneurial endeavors. We benefit from the variety of equipment, tools, seed, fertilizers and chemicals they make available to us. They too are part of us and have the dedication and commitment. We benefit from the variety of equipment, tools, seed, fertilizers and chemicals they may available to us. They too are part of us and have the dedication and commitment. Now we need to chare our knowledge with others dust as content of the management of the second se railable to us. They too are part of us and have the dedication and commitment. Now we need to share our knowledge with others. Just as sports turf managers at major tadiums have techniques to share with their counterparts at schools and parks, the field Now we need to share our knowledge with others. Just as sports turf managers at major stadiums have techniques to share with their counterparts at schools and parks, the field managers at these facilities may have practical solutions that the stadium field manager stadiums have techniques to share with their counterparts at schools and parks, the field managers at these facilities may have practical solutions that the stadium field manager can use. This process of exchange has begun and the entire industry will benefit greater. managers at these facilities may have practical solutions that the stadium field manager can use. This process of exchange has begun and the entire industry will benefit greatly. Using our ingenuity along with our enthusiasm is what makes this industry tick. We're In use. This process of exchange has begun and the entire industry will benefit greatly. Using our ingenuity along with our enthusiasm is what makes this industry tick. We're rowing by leans and bounds, and it's people who turn the wheels. I personally congratu-Using our ingenuity along with our enthusiasm is what makes this industry tick. We're growing by leaps and bounds, and it's people who turn the wheels. I personally congratulate all of you. You deserve a hearty round of anniause.

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growing by leaps and bounds, and it's people who turn the v late all of you. You deserve a hearty round of applause.

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

PLAYING TO WIN MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Success or failure in any business can be boiled down to two things: a good team and a winning attitude. Put those two together and you'll achieve your goals. You are the coach of your own destiny.

This industry's greatest asset is its connection to sports. Even money pales by comparison to the excitement of a team after winning a tough game. Sharing a common goal with a group of people, spending hours preparing and practicing and achieving that goal can create a spirit found only in sports. This *espirit de corps* leads

people to discover new abilities, new energy and a new determination to learn the skills necessary to win.

Take these same characteristics and apply them to your job, as Johnny Grimes did in Denison, TX. Read the story about him in this issue and you'll be amazed at what can be accomplished when a sports turf manager involves an entire community in a sports field improvement program. Grimes applied his skills as an American Legion baseball coach and former minor league baseball player to obtain the necessary funds to improve an old high school football stadium.

As the field improved, so did the Denison Yellow Jackets. The high school team, which had never made the state finals, battled their opponents on their improved gridiron to become state champions! Grimes' winning attitude permeated an entire community.

Just as Grimes drilled his baseball team, he developed a winning routine for his his field maintenance crew – and makes them stick to it the entire year. There is no off season for the Denison field crew. Both he and his staff polish their knowledge and skills at sports turf management seminars when they are not working on the fields. If there is a new technique to improve the school's fields, it will be practiced and added to the maintenance routine.

Instead of a play book, Grimes has a list of maintenance procedures which must be followed precisely. This list covers 12 months, not just the three or four months prior to the fall football season. It was put together with the help of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. If something doesn't work, the trouble is in the execution, not in the procedure. Knowing that, Grimes' crew follows its play book to the letter.

The fact that Grimes thinks like a coach helps him obtain the support of Denison's coaching staff, an important key to any field maintenance program. The field crew is part of the Yellow Jackets team working to reduce injuries and send the team to the finals year after year. In four years, the team has not lost a single player to ankle or knee injuries because the fields are always smooth and safe.

A good coach motivates people to perform to the best of their abilities. As part of the team, the field crew must also be encouraged to use all their abilities to produce the best field possible. That's where sports and field maintenance come together. Break this link and you'll find yourself at a great disadvantage.

As every coach tells his players, "If you don't want to win you'll never make the big leagues." Certainly, professional sports figures play to win and have developed skills to keep winning. Sports turf managers, in their own way, are professional sports figures and should share the same determination to be on a winning team.



JUNE

24-25 Washington State University Turfgrass Field Days, Puyallup, WA. Contact Dr. Roy Goss, Western Washington Research and Extension Center, Puyallup, WA 98371. (206) 593-8540.

EVENTS

CAL ENDAR

26 Midwest Sports Turf Institute, College of Du-Page, Glen Ellyn, IL. Presented by the Sports Turf Managers' Association. Contact Susan Benson, Business and Technical Institute, College of DuPage (312) 858-2800, ext. 2196.

JULY

20-22 Mississippi Turfgrass Association summer meeting, Biloxi, MS. Contact Jim Perry, P.O. Box 5426, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

AUGUST

6 Annual Turf Research Field Day, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact Dr. Henry Indyk, Rutgers University, Soils and Crops Dept., P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903

14-15 Pennsylvania State University Turf Field Days, University Park, PA. Contact T. L. Watschke, 16 Tyson Building, University Park, PA 16802.

26-28 International Sport Summit, Hilton Hotel at Rockefeller Center, New York City, NY. Contact Sport Summit, 372 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018. (212) 502- 5306.

28-30 International Lawn Garden & Power Equipment Expo, Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Contact Expo 86, (800) 558-8767.

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The turf management team at Denison's Munson Stadium includes (left to right) Jimmy Stout, Johnny Grimes, Jim Daniels, Ken Gardner and Stanley Brown.

Community of 23,000 north of Dallas near the Oklahoma border has rallied behind the Denison High School Yellow Jackets like New Jersey did for Bruce Springstein. Ever since the Yellow Jackets became State 4A Football Champions in 1984 the city just hasn't been the same.

There's just one place to be on Friday nights in the fall, at Munson Stadium where under the lights the local teenage heroes have lost only one game in the past two years. The spirit generated by the team is spreading throughout the community and to other sports such as baseball and basketball.

It's a fever which has shown no sign of dropping. The players have it, the coaches have it, the school superintendent has it, the school board has it and so do the taxpayers. What's so fascinating is that they all caught this fever from the maintenance director of Denison Public Schools, Johnny Grimes.

Although football is a fall sport, it takes a year-round management program to keep the fields in shape. By providing the Yellow Jackets with one of the finest fields in Texas, Grimes has brought new spirit to Denison.

14 sportsTURF

"Reducing injuries was the main purpose of upgrading the fields. Improved team spirit and building champions are really the side benefits of safer fields."

Grimes isn't even a native Texan. He moved to Denison 17 years ago from Laurel, MD, where he grew up and settled down after playing Class C baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals. Although he was an electrician and machinist, his first love was coaching baseball.

Grimes, as a coach, got deeply involved in American Legion ball in Denison. His enthusiasm spread to his teams. They started racking up wins in northern Texas. Players' families got hooked. Parents chipped in time and money to put lights up for the Denison High School field where the American Legion played its games. They made the infield better than some Graves had seen while playing Class C ball. Mothers helped sew uniforms and team banners. Being a player (or even a batboy) for the Denison American Legion teams was something parents told their neighbors about.

This wave of enthusiasm spread across the community. Kids started practicing harder after school in hopes of making the team. Local banks donated money to build new dugouts, backstops, a scoreboard and fencing. There was no longer any doubt that Denison would support a sports program whole hog if it was inspired.

Munson Stadium field had not been improved since the WPA built it during the Depression. Called "mud field" by the coaches and players, the stadium seemed to prevent Denison's Yellow Jackets from being serious contenders for the state football finals. Parents wondered if Grimes could work a similar miracle for all the district's athletic facilities. They encouraged Grimes to apply for the maintenance supervisor position then open at Denison Public Schools.

"My family was comfortable in Denison and it was exciting to think about contributing to my kids' schools," says Grimes. "The money wasn't great but the challenge was tremendous. I couldn't pass it up." Grimes decided to take the job.

"When I came on board in 1979," says Grimes, "the Maintenance Director had his system in place and major improvements took time to work out. Denison's tax base was not growing as rapidly as the tax base in Dallas. It already had one of the highest tax rates in the state so Grimes realized he would have to start slowly.

"Fixing lights and plumbing at the schools was not a problem," he says. "My main concern was Munson Stadium. Teamwork, donations and volunteers had made the American Legion field shine. Munson Field had to look as good or better. I had to learn as much as I could about sports turf and pick a crew that could do the job."

He selected two men specifically to care for athletic fields, Stanley Brown and Jimmy Stout. Stout had managed fields for another school district but Brown had no previous turf experience. "In a way, it's better to hire crewmembers without previous experience," admits Grimes. "That way they follow the program to the letter. It's one reason I think we have gotten the results where others failed."

"I called Texas A&M extension in Dallas and got a hold of Dr. Bill Knoop. He really surprised me by agreeing to drive 60 miles to see the stadium. We took soil samples, had them analysed and sketched out a plan. To this day, Dr. Knoop visits Denison once a month to check up on the field."

At Knoop's suggestion, Grimes and his field crew attended a Texas A&M seminar on sports turf management. They have attended the seminar every summer for the past five years.

As part of the seminar package, Knoop gave each field manager a booklet on managing common bermudagrass football fields which included a maintenance schedule. "We've found that athletic people are very comfortable with a regimented schedule," Knoop confides. "Without a clear cut schedule, they tend to slack off on maintenance after a few years. So we developed a publication called Guidelines for Maintenance of Athletic Fields which they could follow and put into a routine." A schedule was just what Grimes wanted.

"Knoop predicted our fields would be in good shape within five years if I stuck to a program of fertilization, aerification, weed control, overseeding and mowing. It took only two years. By keeping up with maintenance, our chemical budget has actually dropped in the past two years.

But first there were a couple of big ticket items to get through the budget process: a better mower and an irrigation system. Grimes thought he could soften the blow by having the school maintenance staff install the irrigation system. The strategy worked. The school board came up with the money for an irrigation system. Knoop's recommendation was all it took for the board to okay \$5,000 for a reel mower. Knowledgeable about irrigation, Grimes installed a three-row, 16-head system using Toro 640 Series heads and a Toro controller. The capacity of the system was 950 gallons per hour. Travelling sprinklers, used prior to installation of the automatic system, are still used during heavy winds.

In 1982, Grimes was promoted to Director of Maintenance. Although his duties increased, the sportsman in Grimes kept his attention from being diverted away from the stadium and practice fields. He promoted Jim Daniels to the maintenance supervisor position and stressed the importance of a regimented field maintenance program. Daniels shared Grimes enthusiasm right off the bat.

Every Monday morning Brown aerifies the stadium field. The knives are removed from a pull-behind aerifier and replaced with hollow tines. After marking each irrigation head with a flag, Brown makes two passes over the field. When asked if this was really necessary, Knoop said probably not, but the most important thing about the schedule is developing a routine and sticking to it. "If aerifying every Monday helps establish a routine, it's the right thing to do."

Grimes has another reason for aerifying frequently. "I wanted to make sure the water was getting down to the roots,"

"During most of the year, we irrigate from midnight to mid-morning twice a week. Rather than running each zone for a hour straight, we run three cycles of 20 minutes each. We use the footprint method to judge when the irrigation should be shut down. If you walk across the field, turn around and see your footprints, the field is saturated and the irrigation should be stopped. Watering at night cuts down on evaporation and humidity during the hot Texas days." Every 28 days the entire irrigation system is closely checked and adjusted for proper operation. Any malfunctioning parts are repaired or replaced. "We keep on top of irrigation and maintenance of the field throughout the summer," Grimes stresses. "The schedule covers the entire year, not just the few months of the season."

After sprigging between the hashmarks in 1982, the field has been overseeded with common bermuda seed every April. Grimes plans to resprig between hashmarks every five years and worn spots as needed. In late November, an application of preemergence herbicide is made. In June the crew applies a postemergence herbicide. Four applications of fertilizer are made according to the schedule; April 15, June 15, August 15 and November 1. A 15-5-10 fertilizer is used at a rate of 1 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. of nitrogen. A week before we fertilize, the crew applies a liquid soil conditioner to help get the fertilizer to the roots.

Twice a week the stadium field is mowed at two inches. During the football season the height is dropped to 1½ inch. Grimes reports no problems with thatch on the field with the frequent mowing and irrigation schedule.

During the 1985 season, 37 games were played in Munson Stadium. "We try to accomodate every school team that wants to use the field," says Grimes. "Not only does the varsity use the field for games, so does the junior varsity, the freshmen, and the eighth and ninth grade teams in their playoffs. Last year the Boys Club had its playoffs on the field. The kids get excited playing in a stadium."

continued on page 16



The Texas State Champion Denison Yellow Jackets have not suffered a serious knee or ankle injury in the last four years on either Munson Field or the practice field.



Increased gate receipts enabled Denison High School to replace old wooden bleachers with aluminum stands, in addition to a new press box and locker rooms.

"For each game day there are five practice days, so we have upgraded our maintenance on the practice fields too," states Grimes. "The crown of the practice field had to be built back up and the field sprigged. We started aerifying it every two weeks, increased the number of irrigation heads from 10 to 16 and followed the same schedule of overseeding, weed control and mowing we use at the stadium. Both fields are treated in October for grubs when needed.

In 1982, the miracle started to happen.

"We have not lost a player to knee or ankle injuries in four years," boasts Grimes. "Reducing injuries was the main purpose of upgrading the fields. Improved team spirit and building champions are really the side benefits of safer fields."

"Visiting teams and their coaches started asking questions about Munson Field," he states. "They wanted to know why our common bermuda fields looked so much better than theirs. Yellow Jackets would come back from an away game and tell others how much better our field was. Everyone in the football program was getting excited.

"As the turf program started to get results, Denison hired Coach Marty Criswell," Grimes points out. "With his interest in maintenance the program took off. Without the cooperation of our school board, coaching staff and administrators, this kind of program could not have been achieved. We also have strong support from our local fans. With Coach Criswell's support we have also helped other schools and colleges in our area. By doing so, Denison gains an image of helpfulness and cooperation."

Although the team had never made the finals in the 5A Division, they entered the tougher 4A Division. Suddenly the team was winning more games than it lost. "We had the talent and the talent was healthy, not sidelined with injuries like many teams," Grimes summarizes.





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GRISWOLD CONTROLS (714) 559-6000 2803 Barranca, Irvine, California 92714 Finally, the Yellow Jackets did something they never before thought possible, they made the finals in the tough 4A Division. "These young men found themselves travelling to Dallas to play in the state finals in huge Texas Stadium, home field of the Dallas Cowboys. They joked afterwards that Denison's common bermuda field was better than Texas Stadium's AstroTurf," said Grimes.

"The true reflection of our athletic program is seen in the overall achievements of not only our coaching staff, administration, field preparation and player dedication, but the statistics themselves," says Grimes. The Yellow Jackets were 16-0 in 1984 and won the State 4A Championship. The next year they made the finals with a 13-1 record.

One of the extra benefits of having a strong team and making the finals is significantly greater gate receipts. The school district is now getting back its original investment in Munson Stadium. The old wooden stands were torn down and replaced with aluminum and concrete stands. The press box was also rebuilt. Work has begun on new dressing rooms, concession stands and restrooms. Every time the home team scores a touchdown, a new scoreboard flashes jubilantly and sirens go off.

One of the extra benefits of having a strong team and making the finals is significantly greater gate receipts.

The school's notoriety assisted in the passage of a bond issue to construct a new allweather track. As the school develops its track and field program it finds its baseball and basketball teams now making the state finals. Many of the baseball players come from the American Legion team Grimes coached for 17 years. Since his school duties had become so great, he was forced to give up coaching two years ago.

What started on the American Legion field has spread to every sport at Denison Public Schools. Grimes knows that the condition of the field has a major impact on a team's performance. With the support of the school administration, coaches and fans he can provide the type of facilities that not only make winners, but keep them winning. As Knoop noticed, "Johnny Grimes is not the kind of athletic field manager who will lose interest and drop the routine that is so important to success."

The reward to Grimes is the success of his former players. His son recently made the U.S. Marines All-Star baseball team. Fourteen out of 15 players on his American Legion team won college baseball scholarships. The fifteenth was a junior who was the best short reliever Grimes has ever coached. Grimes recruited him from the basketball team after he noticed the young man had "quick wrists."

Many of the American Legion players also play for Denison. "The only time kids aren't playing baseball in Denison is during football season," points out Grimes. Many of the players who help the team make the American Legion finals have now achieved the same honor for the school team, winning the state finals for the first time last year." But Grimes is not finished. He recently installed an irrigation system at Austin College in nearby Sherman, TX. He's still helps the American Legion when he is not running the maintenance of ten school campuses and 101 acres of turf. Of the city's 23,000 residents, 71 are on his staff in the maintenance, transportation, custodial or grounds departments of Denison Public Schools.

His enthusiasm is as great as ever. His engineering ability combined with his strong interest in sports drive him to fix things and make them better so others can enjoy them. That's the spirit that drives an entire community.

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STMA LAUNCHES MIDWEST SPORTS TURF INSTITUTE

The Sports Turf Managers' Association (STMA) is expecting 400 sports turf managers, athletic directors and college and park administrators from all across the Midwest to attend its first Midwest Sports Turf Institute, June 26, at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL.

The institute is being modeled after the successful Sports Turf Institute held for the past three years at California Polytechnic University in Pomona, CA. That event combines a half-day of seminars on field construction and care with an afternoon trade show. More than 480 turf managers from six states attended the Cal Poly event this year.

STMA executive director Kent Kurtz says the Midwest Institute has been designed to address the specific needs of everyone involved in making sports turf decisions. "There will be concurrent programs designed specifically for four different levels of field management," says Kurtz.

The first session has been planned for administrators, athletic directors and coaches. Master planning for recreation, renting versus leasing equipment, seeding versus sodding athletic fields and the special challenges presented by high school fields will be addressed.

Concepts in construction and maintenance of sports turf is the second session. Topics to be covered in this session are renovation and construction guidelines for the Midwest, softball field design and construction, soil mixes for baseball infields and vertical sand injection for drainage improvement.

The third session has been designed for field managers at stadiums and colleges. Topics will focus on special techniques of value to stadium managers, including use of pregerminated seed, field covers, geotextile covers and improved turf-type tall fescues. Harry Gill from the Milwaukee Brewers and David Frey from Cleveland Stadium will describe step-by-step baseball infield preparation as practiced in the major leagues.

STMA is encouraging administrators and field managers to bring their crew chiefs and foremen to the institute, so it is providing a fourth session on sports turf basics. This session will provide background on new and improved turfgrasses, primary weeds of Midwest sports fields, herbicides for these weeds and methods to correct and reduce soil compaction.

Both management and staff can view demonstrations of equipment together during morning and afternoon exhibit hours. That way they can discuss among themselves which equipment and chemicals best fit their needs. Regional distributors, sod growers, seed companies and sports turf contractors will be exhibiting at the institute.

The institute begins with a general session at 8:30 a.m. Three critical areas will be addressed in this session. DuPage Vice President Dr. Ken Kolbert will give the administrator's view of the value of improved sports fields. Kolbert will focus on field safety and fields as key assets to a college. William Bedrossian, corporate director of grounds for Servicemaster, which provides grounds maintenance for 205 colleges and universities, will explain how to increase operating funds for field maintenance through planning. Finally, financial specialist James Leatzow will explain existing laws as they apply to liability of sports facilities.

CORRECTION

In the May issue of **sportsTURF** in the story Tennis: The Sport of Choice on page 16, it was erroneously stated that the asphalt base of an Omnicourt tennis court in Knoxville, TN, had a slope of one inch drop per ten inches of surface. The correct slope is one inch drop per ten feet of surface. According to Rick Burke, vice president of the tennis division of Sportec International, manufacturers of Omnicourt, a slope of one inch drop per ten feet of surface is normal for drainage.



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DROUGHT IN SOUTHEAST STRAINS SPORTS FIELDS

Claps of thunder and dark clouds usually bring disappointment to sports turf managers across the Southeast in the spring. The prospect of cancelled events and rescheduling is usually unpleasant, but not this year. For more than two months, from mid-March to mid-May, no significant rainfall was recorded from northern Florida to North Carolina. The drought has been highlighted by major fires in North Carolina and spot fires in Georgia. Less than half the normal amount of rain has fallen in the Southeast this spring bringing the total to less than 13 inches.

"Facilities caught without irrigation are in real trouble," says Sam Newpher, grounds superintendent for the Atlanta Braves. "It's mainly schools and parks with some of the heaviest use fields. Depending on normal rainfall is just too risky when a field is used seven days a week. A high school in northern Georgia I helped this spring wanted to sprig its field without installing irrigation. The Booster Club was paying the bill so money wasn't a problem. Still the school administration was reluctant to accept responsibility for the new system. After changing the specifications to meet the school's demands. the irrigation was installed and the field sprigged. Had that system been left out, the sprigs would not have survived and the whole job would have been a waste. You're just wasting your money unless you put in irrigation."

"Many existing irrigation systems in this area have been designed more to augment natural rainfall than to replace it," Newpher points out. "At Fulton County Stadium, we've had to keep the water on much longer than normal and are hand watering more. Still we are able to see some gaps where the heads are not reaching uniformly. We have to be very careful to avoid wet spots while still getting enough water to the whole field."

Dick Hahne, track superintendent at Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Beach, FL, is concerned that his newly sprigged infield may not be as far along as he likes for the Firecracker 400 on Independence Day. He has been running his irrigation system up to 14 hours a day to keep the young sprigs growing in the sandy soil.

"I'm surprised there haven't been more restrictions placed on open field burning and water use," says Doug Moody, assistant director of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America based in Marietta, GA. "When I lived in New Jersey during its last two droughts, government agencies took the problem more seriously, restricting open burning, carwashes and irrigation. So far, the only restrictions in Georgia have been an even/odd day residential lawn watering restriction."

"New Jersey approached its drought from the standpoint that it would happen again," Moody explained. "It built additional reser-



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voirs and developed policies for future water shortages. This year, New Jersey is better prepared than most states to handle a water crisis."

Moody, who represents more than 1,000 lawn care companies in the U.S. and Canada, says his industry has an opportunity to get involved in water problems by advising customers of drought-tolerant turfgrasses and the importance of built-in irrigation to quality lawn care.

"There is a lesson to be learned from the drought," says Newpher, "that hopefully won't be forgotten when the thunder claps again and the typical downpours return. There's too much at stake with valuable recreational turf to risk it to natural rainfall. It takes months to get a drought-stressed field back into safe condition. With the pressure on public sports facilities today, who can afford to lose the time?"

SUMMIT TO MATCH OWNERS WITH NETWORKS, DEVELOPERS

Once a year the decision-makers of professional and amateur sports gather in New York City to confer on the *business* of sports. In three days in August, decisions will be made regarding new stadium construction, the cost of a 30-second spot during the upcoming Olympics and whether major televison networks are going to cut back on coverage of college sports as they've hinted.

The Eighth Sport Summit will be held Aug. 26-28, at the New York Hilton in New York City. Speakers for the three-day event represent all major television networks, the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee, the U.S. Olympic Committee, Major League Baseball, the National Football League, and the National Basketball Association. In addition, some of the marketing leaders in the sports business will describe their successes and failures.

A good look at the future will be presented; projects to be discussed include a roof for Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, MO, renovation of Denver's Mile High Stadium, a multipurpose arena in Miami, FL, final touches in Korea for the Olympics and new sports complexes at Auburn University and Michigan State University.

Architects, financiers, surface manufacturers, marketing agents, scoreboard manufacturers and team owners will be in New York City for the once-a-year event. Projects to be considered will range from the practical 10,000-seat arena for a college to the ultimate — the Olympics. Many of the same rules in design, financing, marketing and scheduling apply to all sports facilities despite the scale.

More information is available by contacting Sport Summit, 372 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10018 (212) 239-1061.