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PROGRAM



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME NINE, NUMBER SIX

JUNE 1993

MAIN EVENTS

8 LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR WORLD CUP SOCCER

When the United States was named host of 1994 World Cup Soccer, the privilege came with a stipulation: All of the games must be played on natural turf, even those held in the Pontiac Silverdome. Using state-of-the-art technique and technology, Paul Rieke and John "Trey" Rogers of Michigan State University are making that a reality.

14 MARKING AND STRIPING ALTERNATIVES

Without lines and marks, athletic fields are well-cut but undefined green pastures. Bob Milano of the University of California at Davis examines old and new methods for field marking and offers cost-effective alternatives.

18 IRRIGATION SYSTEM TROUBLE-SHOOTING

Diagnosing problems in irrigation systems can be tricky. The effect is visible, but the cause is often not. Taking a step-by-step, systematic approach to irrigation system problems saves time and eliminates false solutions.

22 ROTARY RIDER MOWER SELECTION TIPS

While reel mowers were once the only choice for the high-quality grass-cutting athletic fields demand, improvements in rotary mower cutting quality — as well as versatility far beyond that of reel units — are making them an increasing popular choice. Here's a few considerations to keep in mind when you set out to buy.

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ON THE COVER: Student researcher T.J. Dawson examines hexagonal pans of sod, a primary ingredient in the indoor natural turf system designed for 1994 World Cup Soccer at the Pontiac Silverdome. Photo courtesy: Bruce Fox.

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401 N. MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60611 (312) 644-6610

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AN ADAMS PUBLISHING COMPANY

68-860 PEREZ RD., SUITE J, CATHEDRAL CITY, CA 92234
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THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

Conference Call



Two months after the last regular season Major League Baseball game is played, Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore will host another major form of action: the 1993 Sports Turf Managers Association's Conference and Exhibition. The event is slated for November 6-9 and promises to be the best STMA conference yet. It will be open to STMA members and non-members alike.

Last year's conference faced one hurdle after the next. STMA and its management group, Smith Bucklin, were new to one another. They signed their management agreement at the end of June, which put both groups, to say the least, a bit behind in terms of planning the December conference in Indianapolis.

By most accounts — and believe me, I bluntly asked as many seasoned attendees as I could find — it was the best meeting the organization has put on to date. Attendance and exhibitor support, though by no means what they could have been — what they *will* be this year — were several times better than that of the year prior. But beyond the numbers, the 1992 conference was something of a rebirth for an organization once down and close to out. Those fortunate enough to have been in Indianapolis left enlightened and revitalized. They went home optimistic, both for the future of STMA and the sports turf industry itself.

We all have a healthy supply of reasons at the ready for why we'd like to attend but can't. We're too busy and tired, and can't afford it. We have the holiday season to get on with, and the conference falls right in the midst of it. We're not sure what we'll get for our trouble. Recalling years past, we doubt we'll get much.

Did I miss anything? These are all good reasons to stay away, and yet I urge you not to. Short of putting yourself through financial hardship to attend, *be there*. The job STMA and Smith Bucklin did in just five months in getting the Indianapolis conference up and running was miraculous. This year, they've had *time* to plan — they started during last year's conference.

Consider the STMA host chapter, Chesapeake. They are one of the most cohesive, forward-moving groups in the organization. And they're more than a little proud of their home turf, which means they've gone out of their way to make sure that you enjoy yourself while you're with them. And consider the unusual yet appropriate venue — a state-of-the-art professional baseball facility. Kind of beats your basic convention center for atmosphere, doesn't it?

Education, motivation, camaraderie — that's the *least* you can expect from the 1993 STMA Conference and Exhibition. With all this and much, much more at stake, the question is not, "Do I have the time, energy and money to attend?" The question is, "Can I afford not to?"

Matthew Trulio

EVENTS

CALENDAR

JULY

8 University of Georgia Turfgrass Field Day. Georgia Station, Griffin, GA. Contact: Georgia Turfgrass Association (404) 975-4123 or Extension Conference Office (912) 681-5189.

14-15 Second annual Midwest Association of Physical Plant Administrators and Professional Grounds Management Society conference. Miami University, Oxford, OH. Contact: George Persinger (513) 529-6786.

18-24 International Turfgrass Society's 7th International Turfgrass Research Conference. Breakers Resort, Palm Beach, FL. Contact: Dr. George Snyder (407) 996-3062 or Dr. John Cisar (305) 475-8990.

25-27 International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo. Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Contact: (502) 473-1992.

AUGUST

5 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program turfgrass research field day. USDA, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center West, Beltsville, MD. Contact: Kevin Morris or Jennatte Wills (301) 504-2125.

17 Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day. O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, Madison, WI. Contact: Dr. Frank Rossi (608) 262-1490.

SEPTEMBER

26-29 Florida Turfgrass Association's 41st annual conference and show. Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL. Contact: FTGA (800) 882-6721.

Send announcements on your events **two months in advance** to:
editor, sportsTURF magazine,
68-860 Perez Road, Suite J,
Cathedral City, CA, 92234.
Fax (619) 770-8019.

CARTER PROMOTED TO ZENECA MANAGER

Roy Lee Carter has been made national sales manager for ZENECA Professional Products. He will be responsible for sales management of PCO and specialty businesses for the United States.

Carter joined ZENECA (formally ICI Professional Products) in 1982 as a technical sales representative. He has held several positions in the company, including regional program coordinator, senior regional program coordinator and corn herbicide product manager. Most recently he was Southwest district sales manager.

APPOINTED GREENSMIX MANAGER

Peter Stratton has been appointed northeastern division manager for Greensmix Soil Blenders. His responsibilities include all sales in the northeastern United States. Greensmix is a supplier of custom-blended rootzone mixtures to provide specification sand, sphagnum peat moss, red-sedge peat moss, and amendments for turfgrass and rootzone media.

Prior to joining the division, Stratton was a division manager for Faulks Bros. Construction Inc., the parent company of Greensmix.

VALLEY CREST WINS TRAINING FACILITY CONTRACT

Valley Crest Landscape Inc. of Phoenix has been awarded a \$1.4 million contract for the construction of a professional sports complex, which will serve as the spring training facility for the San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners.

Phase I, completed in mid-March, has six baseball fields and approximately 40 pitcher's mounds. Phase II is scheduled for completion in time for 1994 spring training and games for Cactus League teams. It will offer six more baseball diamonds and a full-scale stadium.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Ciba-Geigy and Rain Bird have announced the winners of the Environ-

mental Steward Awards for golf course superintendents. The companies also presented a donation of more than \$12,000 to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Scholarship & Research.

Entries were reviewed by an independent panel of judges selected for their expertise in environmental issues, turfgrass management, water savings and other related areas.

Donations were made by the companies to GCSAA S&R in the names of all national and regional winners: \$500 for

each national winner and \$50 for each regional winner. Both sponsors also donated \$5,000 to GCSAA S&R.

The awards, which are to be held annually, are divided into national, regional and merit sections, then subdivided into three categories: public, private and resort golf courses. The national winners are as follows: Fox Hollow at Lakewood, Lakewood, CO, Don Tolson, CGCS (public); Caves Valley Golf Club, Owings Mills, MD, Bruce Cadenelli (private); and Barton Creek Resort, Austin, TX, Tim Long (resort).

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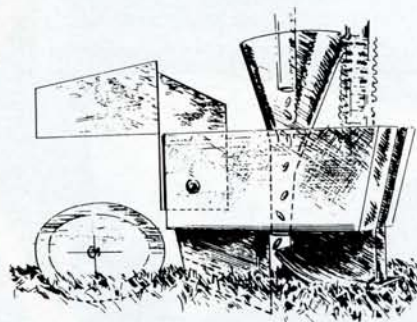
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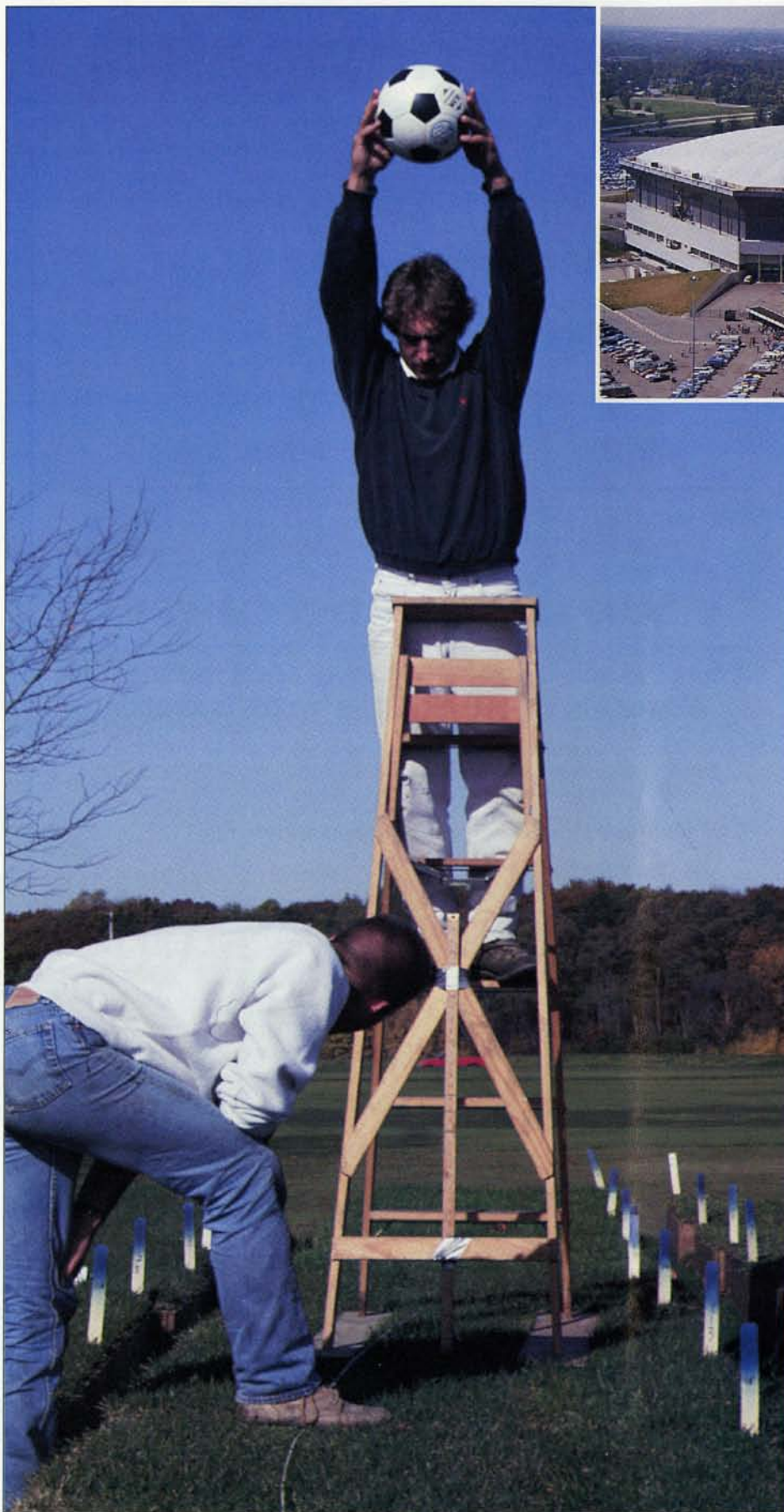
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Student researcher T.J. Dawson examines hexagonal pans of sod, a primary ingredient in the indoor natural turf system designed for the Pontiac Silverdome to host rounds of World Cup 1994. Photo courtesy: Bruce Fox.



The Pontiac Silverdome. Organizers expect the more than 80,000-seat venue to be filled to capacity more than once during World Cup 1994. Photo courtesy: Douglas G. Ashley.

Laying the Groundwork for World Cup Soccer

By Richard Lehnert

Since the state of Michigan is a leading turf producer, shipping sod there seems a bit like sending coals to Newcastle. But on Sunday, April 11, more than three acres of California-grown turf began to arrive in Pontiac, MI. Its home was Pacific Sod, near Los Angeles.

The sod was trucked 2,000 miles. To reduce weight, the producers grew the grass on compost laid over plastic. Little more than bare roots and a crown made the trip.

Once in Pontiac, it underwent further labor-intensive preparations. By April 22, it was laid into a large rectangular shape where it was to sit until mid-June. Then, the field was to be disas-