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Kubota's FZ2100 and FZ2400 with Zero Diameter Turn (ZDT) run circles around the competition.

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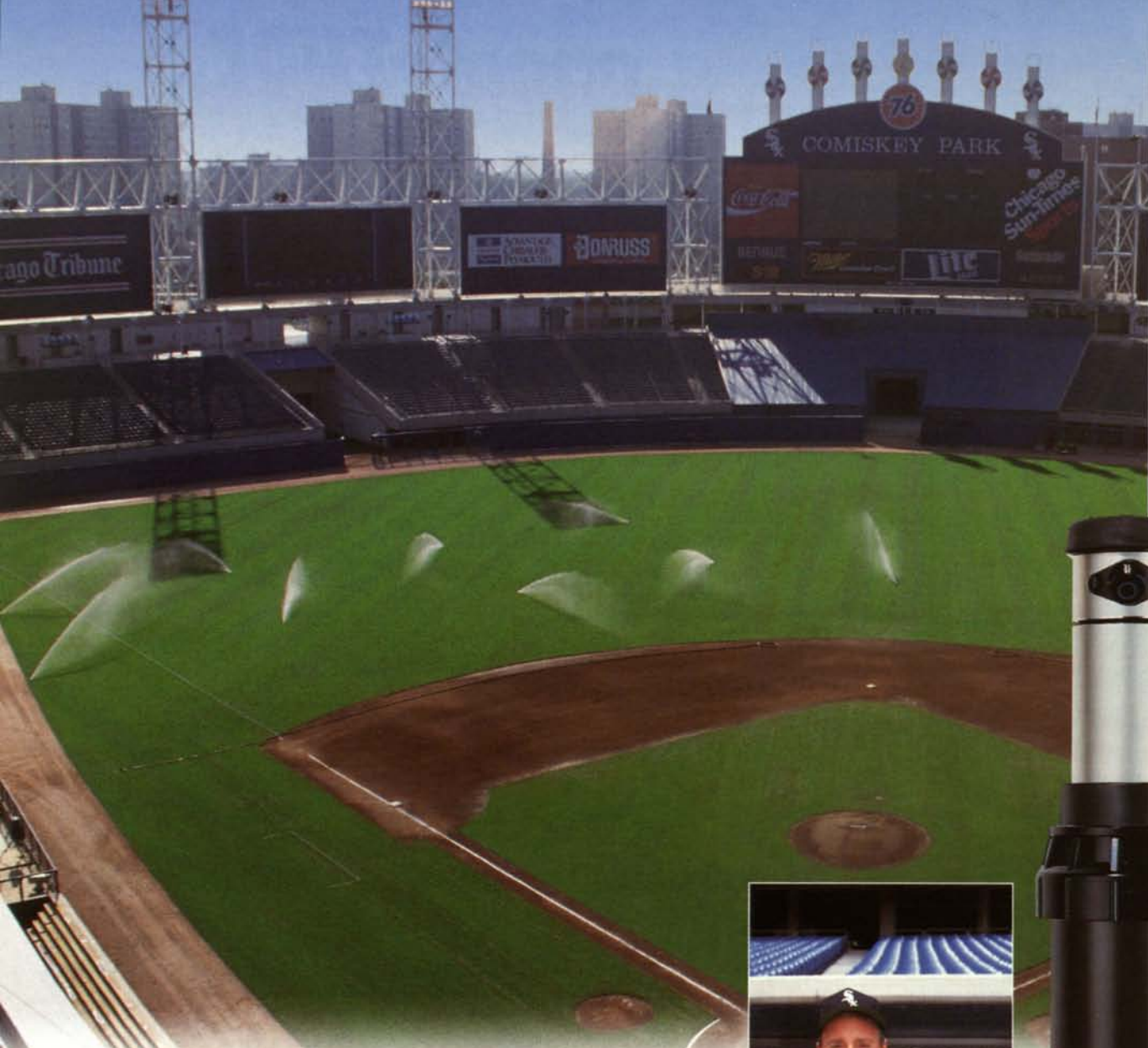
For productivity and versatility, Kubota's F-Series front mowers can't be beat. The F2400 is 4WD and 24 horsepower, while the F2100 is available in 2WD or 4WD, and has 20 horsepower. Both have Kubota diesel engines, and are equipped with hydrostatic rear-wheel power steering for easy handling. A wide selection of Performance Matched Implements provide the versatility. They include triplex reel, rotary, flail and mulching rear discharge mowers, rotary broom, leaf blower, snowblower, and front blade. Roomy operator's deck, tilt steering wheel, and excellent visibility increase comfort and productivity.

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VOLUME NINE, NUMBER FIVE

MAY 1993

MAIN EVENTS

8 THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF SOD INSTALLATION

Whether you install sod in 4- or 40-foot lengths, the basics remain the same. Proper selection, soil preparation, installation techniques and irrigation are among the keys to insuring your sod investment.

14 TURFGRASS RENOVATION: MEASURES FOR SUCCESS

Turfgrass renovation falls just shy of a "radical" remedy — it employs measures beyond normal maintenance, but stops short of removing existing grass and replanting. Lake City College instructor John Wildmon offers step-by-step renovation procedures to revive athletic fields.

18 WATER FEATURE QUALITY: USING ALL THE TOOLS

Lakes and ponds provide soothing, eye-catching diversity in park settings. Keeping these bodies of water "at rest" in pristine condition is no mystery — it just takes an understanding and implementing of the tools for the job. Here's a review.

22 MUNICIPAL DIAMOND OF THE YEAR: TWI-LIGHT FIELD GLEAMING

The town of Danvers, MA, wanted athletic field excellence, and community leaders knew they needed a pro. In John Schmidgall they got more than they bargained for — his attention to detail and professional knowledge pushed Danvers' Twi-Light Field to excellence and the 1992 Municipal Diamond of the Year Award.

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ON THE COVER: Twi-Light Field in Danvers, MA, the 1992 Municipal Diamond of the Year. Photo courtesy: John Schmidgall.



The More We Know, The More We Grow.

Sports Turf Managers Association Fifth Annual Conference & Exhibition
November 6-9, 1993
Oriole Park at Camden Yards
Baltimore, Maryland

Join the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) at the home of the 1993 Major League Baseball All-Star Game for its fifth annual conference and exhibition. This year's conference offers fantastic educational opportunities in a unique location — Camden Yards. The conference and exhibition offers:

- Exhibits on the Club and Lower levels of Camden Yards, featuring more than 100 booths with the latest in turfgrass technology.
- Practical education sessions on many aspects of sports turf management, including drainage systems, soil basics,

turfgrass selection, grooming infields, pesticide usage, multi-use fields, field coverage, and much more.

- Dynamic speakers covering the past, present, and future of sports turf, development of Oriole Park, innovation in the turfgrass industry and tips on teamwork from the pros.

Look for registration and exhibitor information this summer. For more information, contact Susan Seibert, STMA Headquarters, 312/644-6610. STMA's Fifth Annual Conference and Exhibit — Come grow with us!

**Sports
Turf
Manager's Association**



THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

Living Trophies



In this issue we present the final 1992-1993 Baseball Diamond of the Year Award feature. The story covers the rise to excellence of Twi-Light Field in Danvers, MA, winner in the parks/high school/municipal category. Behind that ascendancy is John Schmidgall, trees and grounds supervisor. He was hired by a community with the uncommon foresight to know it needed a *professional* — one with an educational and practical background in athletic field management — to care for *amateur* baseball diamonds.

Just as Schmidgall is the man behind the scenes at Twi-Light Field, there are several people behind the Diamond of the Year Award scenes who deserve recognition. Most of you probably know the awards are sponsored by Beam Clay, the Sports Turf Managers Association and this magazine. The four judges, however, from each division of Major League Baseball, change every year. For 1992-1993 they were:

- Frank Albohn, stadium superintendent, Yankee Stadium, representing the American League East.
- Wilbur Loo, head groundskeeper, King County Stadium (in Seattle, WA), representing the American League West.
- Steve "Dirt" Dinardo, head groundskeeper, Pittsburgh Pirates, representing the National League East.
- Albert Meyers, head groundskeeper, Los Angeles Dodgers, representing the National League West.

Thank you, gentlemen.

Judges are not paid or in any way compensated for their efforts. They must review all the entries, based on written descriptions and photographs supplied by the entrants, on their own time. Part of winning has to do with the entrants' ability, not only to maintain a superior baseball diamond, but to communicate the excellence of their fields to the judges.

Diamond of the Year Award winners tend to be absolutely thrilled with the honor. Hopeful entrants often describe the award as their professional *goal*. It's difficult not to be touched by that kind of commitment and passion for a job so many people — but certainly not those souls in the town of Danvers — take for granted.

For their efforts, award winners receive plaques. But their real rewards are self-accomplishment and the baseball diamonds they labored to create and preserve. They are gems to be shared by grounds crews, players, fans and the surrounding communities.

They are living trophies.

Matthew Trulio

Correction: An April 1993 *sportsTURF* news item, "Turf Diagnostics and Design Gets NFL Recommendation," incorrectly implied that Turf Diagnostics and Design creates and builds high-performance turf systems. The firm was recommended by the National Football to *consult* on high-performance turf systems at venues within the league. We regret any confusion this error may have caused.

EVENTS

CALENDAR

JUNE

- 3** Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day. Freehold, NJ. Contact: Edmund Milewski (201) 285-8300.

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.

- 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.

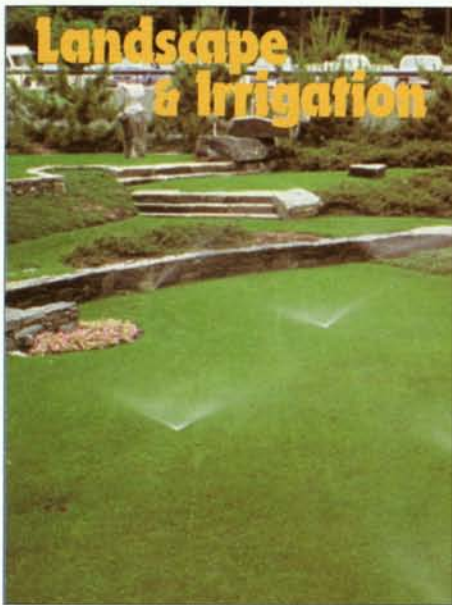
- 17** Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day. O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, Madison, WI. Contact: Dr. Frank Rossi (608) 262-1490.

SEPTEMBER

- 26-29** Florida Turfgrass Association's (FTGA) 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:
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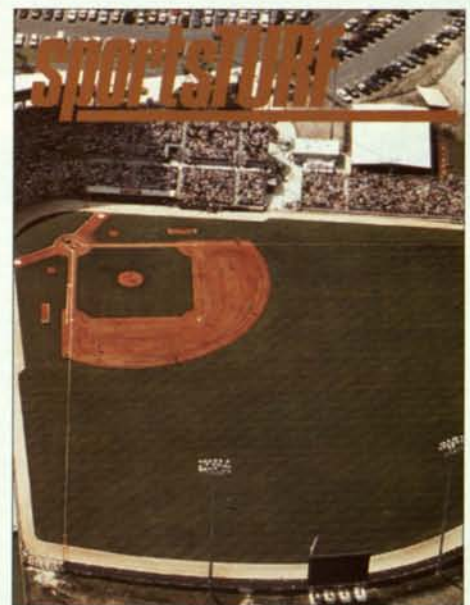
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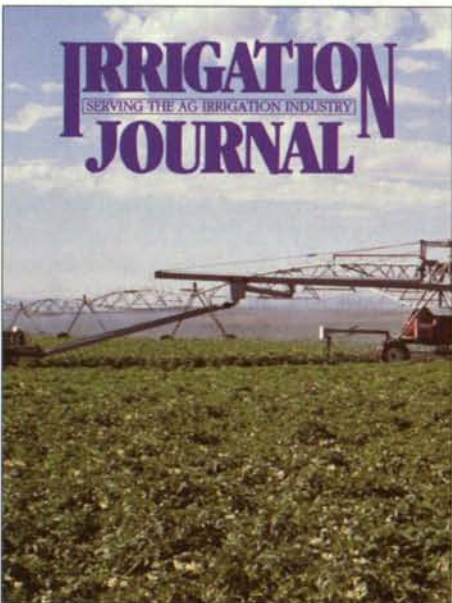
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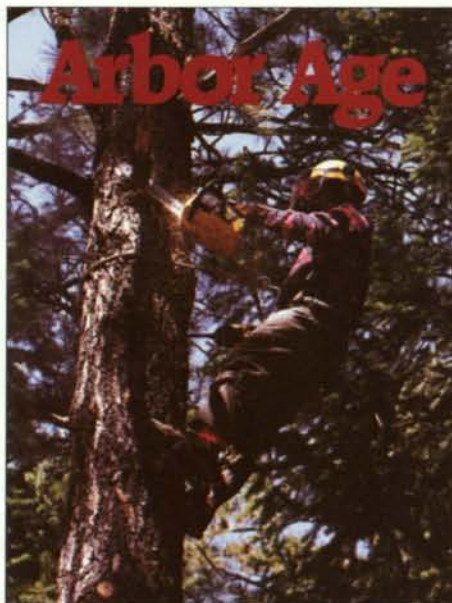
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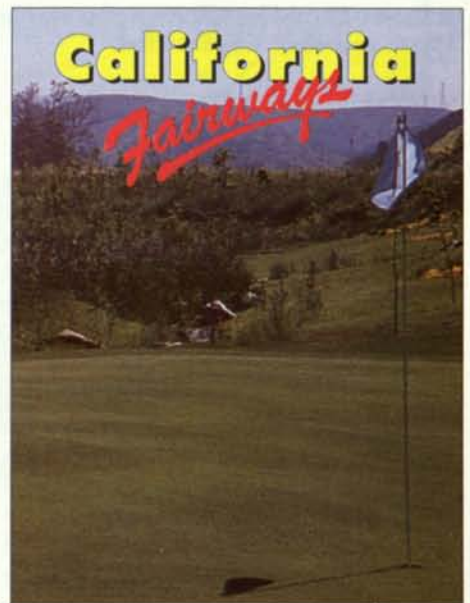
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The Long and the Short of Sod Installation

By Matthew Trulio



A Cynet 48 turf-installation machine was used to install the baseball field for the Florida Marlins at Joe Robbie Stadium. Photo courtesy: Cynet Turf.

In terms of field restoration “on the quick,” it would be difficult to name a more challenging situation than that faced by NFL turf consultant George Toma and his crew at Candlestick Park for the NFC Championship game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Dallas Cowboys on January 17. In one week, they transformed a quagmire into field suitable for a professional football game.

The key to success was *going long*. Prior to the contest, Toma employed a Magnum 42 Big Roll Harvester from Bucyrus Equipment Company to resod the middle sections of the decimated field. The 42-inch-wide, 35-foot-long rolls — cut 1-3/4-inch thick — of bermuda-grass sod from West Coast Turf of Palm Desert, CA, incorporated SodWrap™ from Conwed Plastics, which helped hold them together during harvest and installation.

Toma was, to say the least, “fresh” on the technique and technology — he flew up to San Francisco to meet with San Francisco Parks and Recreation offi-



Harvested rolls of sod at West Coast Turf in Palm Desert, CA, await delivery to Candlestick Park. Photo courtesy: Conwed Plastics.

cials and NFL representatives just days after he oversaw a similar procedure at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA.

After the Rose Bowl game on January 1, the field’s sidelines, end zones, and field center where the Rose Bowl logo was painted, had to be resodded in preparation

for Super Bowl XXVII. (The other areas of the field were overseeded with Ph.D. perennial ryegrass from International Seed.) Toma worked with Neal Beeson of Sports Turf Facilities Management, the Pasadena Parks and Recreation Department and Rose Bowl stadium crew, and West Coast Turf to get the job done in two days.

The Candlestick project was far more urgent. While the Rose Bowl would host the Super Bowl game in several weeks, Candlestick needed to be ready for an NFL championship game in one week. Despite applications of 12 tons of Turface, the field was still soggy. Toma and others knew they needed to provide a *stable surface in a hurry*, and that, in addition to reduction of manual labor, is the primary advantage of installing sod in long lengths.

“During the meetings in San Francisco, it was tough to convince people it would work — the press in San Francisco ripped me hot and heavy and said it was going to be another swamp,” Toma