

longer than necessary to avoid building up excessive heat beneath it and yellowing of the turf. We work on one logo at a time, and finish it completely before starting the next one. Logos are complex; most are copyrighted, and all must be accurate. We keep a copy of the logo on the field as we paint.

We start by using aerosols of each of our colors to paint any unique features or small details prior to coding out our logos. Then we paint with the airless sprayer equipped with a 4-inch wide tip.

We select one color first and paint all of that color before moving on. We always finish with white, so we can repair any mistakes. We only cover the tip of the grass plant with paint. Up close on the field, you can see green under the paint. That's what we want to

maintain for the health of the turfgrass.

Lowering sprayer pressure won't keep the paint from pushing the grass down and working down into the turf. It's better to raise the pressure. You will get finer droplets that dry quicker and stay in place.

We paint all the endzone logos first, and then move to the field logos. For each one, we establish a center point using the crossed string line method to ensure accurate placement.

When we installed a natural grass field, we changed from a center logo to two side logos to reduce additional stress on the high-traffic zone. It has been effective.

Rules state that you can paint over the line markings - *if* the referees can see the lines clearly. The 25-, 30- and 35-yard lines bisect our on-field logos.

We don't paint over the lines. Instead, we paint our logos around them. It's our subtle way of emphasizing that the field exists for the game.

Our field-painting crew finishes by stringing and painting the yellow restraining line for the press. It runs six feet outside of the three-foot border on the sides, and nine feet beyond the endzone. It extends all the way around the field. It's there for the safety of the players and the working crews - the chain gang and the referees.

We try to paint on Wednesday and Thursday, and touch up on Friday for Saturday games. The team has a 2-1/2-hour Thursday afternoon practice, so any paint must be dry by noon. If weather conditions look poor for drying, the painting schedule is moved forward.

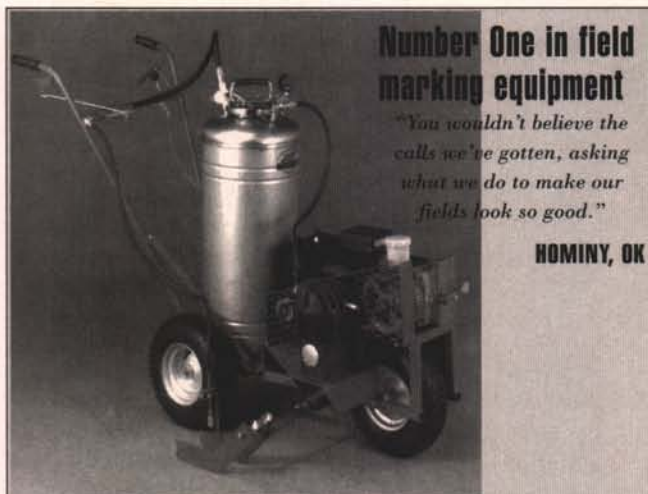
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Soccer

On a soccer field, one in-ground socket is placed at the very center point of the field. We remove the cap, drop in the string peg, and run the string out to the correct distance. We walk around this string 'circle,' dotting the line with an aerosol can of paint. Then we go back and connect the dots.

Other in-ground sockets are placed at the corners of the field, at the lengthwise sideline center points, and at the outer point of the penalty area on the sidelines. We don't put in-ground markers around the goal because it's a high-traffic area, so we must measure and line for the goal arcs and square out from the goal mouth.

Keep the perspective

If the press and the public see that your field looks great, they'll



Crossing two string lines allows paint crews to accurately line the field and center the logos.

Courtesy: Mike Andresen

think it is great. That's one bonus of aesthetics. You can consciously use this to your advantage to draw the eye to the logo instead of the hashmarks and other wear areas. Damage isn't quite as noticeable.

We do tend to think of field presentation as primarily a "fan thing" or a "media thing," but don't discount the effect it has on the team. They do notice that presentation, and they do appreciate it. □

Mike Andresen is athletic turf manager at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. He is a board member for the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association and is chapter relations chair of the national STMA.

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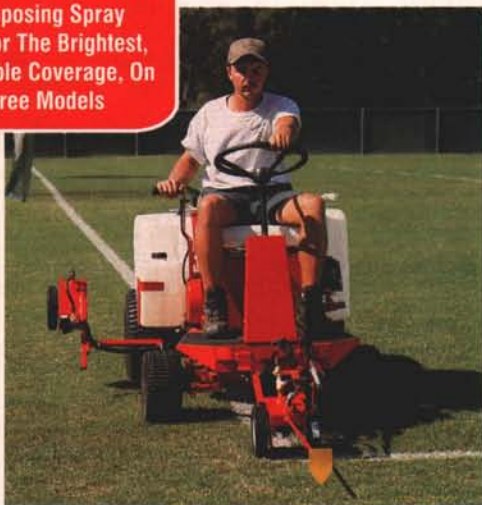
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FGCSA Seven Rivers Chapter donates \$75,000

Stuart Bozeman of FGCSA's Seven Rivers Chapter recently attended the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation's Board Meeting in Gainesville to present the Florida Turfgrass Association Directors with a check for \$75,000. Bozeman's organization raised the funds through their 1996 and 1997 Envirotron Classics. The event was held again on April 20, at the World Woods Golf Club.

As in the past, the donated funds will be directed toward the maintenance and equipment for the Envirotron facility at the University of Florida, Gainesville. The success of the Envirotron Classic owes much to the diligence and support of the Seven Rivers Chapter, Glen Oberlander, his committee members, and the companies that continue to show support for the turfgrass industry through sponsorship of the event.

Internet helps Blalock win bid

Blalock Design Associates, a Birmingham-based sports field and golf course design firm, has been awarded the contract to design the playing surface and supervise the construction of a 40,000-seat soccer stadium in Istanbul, Turkey. The stadium will be the first of its kind in Turkey, and it's scheduled to open in the spring of 1999.

Blalock was invited to bid on a portion of the \$65 million project after Louisiana State University professor Sadik Artune, a Turkish landscape architect, read two articles by Blalock on sports field construction that were posted on *sportsTURF's* web sight last summer. Artune knew about plans for the Turkish stadium, and he contacted Blalock through the Sports Turf Managers Association.

"It's a great feeling to be involved in a project such as this," said Blalock President and CEO Alan Blalock, ASLA. "It gives all new meaning to the term, 'nothing but net'."

Bayer presents twelve scholarships

The agricultural division of Bayer Corporation of Kansas City, Mo., recently awarded twelve scholarships to students from eight universities. The following students received scholarships:

- Jeffrey Beauvais, University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Michael Blaskey and Andrew Keilen, Michigan State University
- Jeffrey Coffman and Christine Kubik, Rutgers University
- Edward Dubisz and Jerry Parmenter, Cornell University
- Jay Hudson, University of Missouri - Columbia
- Todd Iwanicki and Eilford Smyers, Penn State
- Lee Pilz, Purdue University
- Gregory Rounds, University of Illinois - Champaign/Urbana

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Add life to rubber tracks

Futura Coatings has developed TrackFlex 8903, a sprayable finish for rubber running tracks. It restores texture to worn tracks, and is extremely color stable.

A standard 400-m, 4- to 6-lane track can be sprayed within a few days. After



a short strengthening time, the track is ready for re-stripping and general use. TrackFlex is environmentally safe; it is 78% solids by volume and contains no volatile organic content.

Futura Coatings, Inc.

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MVP stripes fields

MVP aerosol field-marking paint from Pioneer provides a fast, economical choice for striping athletic playing fields. The 24-oz. cans hold 22% more paint than ordinary spray cans, so fewer changes are needed to stripe a field.

MVP contains Optiwite optical



brighteners for bright white lines under natural light or stadium floodlights. MVP comes ready to use, dries quickly, won't wash away in the rain, and is guaranteed not to harm grass.

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55% controlled-release, 25-5-5 product.

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J.R. Simplot Co.

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Category Blast Service

Use this new Category Blast Service to get FREE information on the products or service categories listed below which you are planning to purchase within the coming nine months. You will receive information, and possibly other follow up contact, from appropriate companies advertised not just in this issue, but throughout the year in *sportsTURF*. Just circle the number(s) on the reader service card (opposite) corresponding to the product or service categories below and drop the card in the mail!

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JOHN DEERE SCOUTING REPORT FROM MILWAUKEE.

"We're a team," explains Gary Vandenberg, director of grounds for

the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, when speaking of assistant Dave Mellor.

"Dave and I get along very well and think a lot alike. Dave handles the day-to-day

scheduling of the crew while I handle the budgeting and management chores."

**Dave Mellor (left)
and Gary Vandenberg**

One thing they both agree on is John Deere. "Our John Deere equipment allows us to do a better job," says Mellor. "For example, the 1200A is so fast and efficient that we can groom the entire infield in just five minutes. That means we can go out and smooth the skinned area between pregame batting and infield practices. Players appreciate that extra touch."

Vandenberg and Mellor's equipment fleet includes a John Deere 1200A Field

Rake, 2653 Utility Mower, 220 Greens Mower, Gator® Utility Vehicles, and 1800 Sprayer.

"The 1800 is like a Cadillac," says Vandenberg. "You have all the controls at your fingertips and the wide boom allows you to make fewer passes. I've never seen anything better."

"If one thing stands out about the John Deere equipment, it's that we've had virtually no downtime," concludes Mellor.

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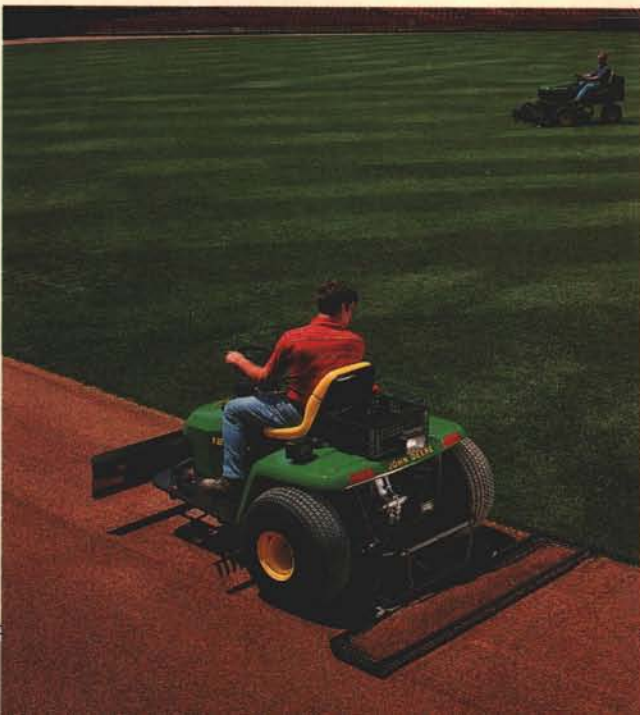
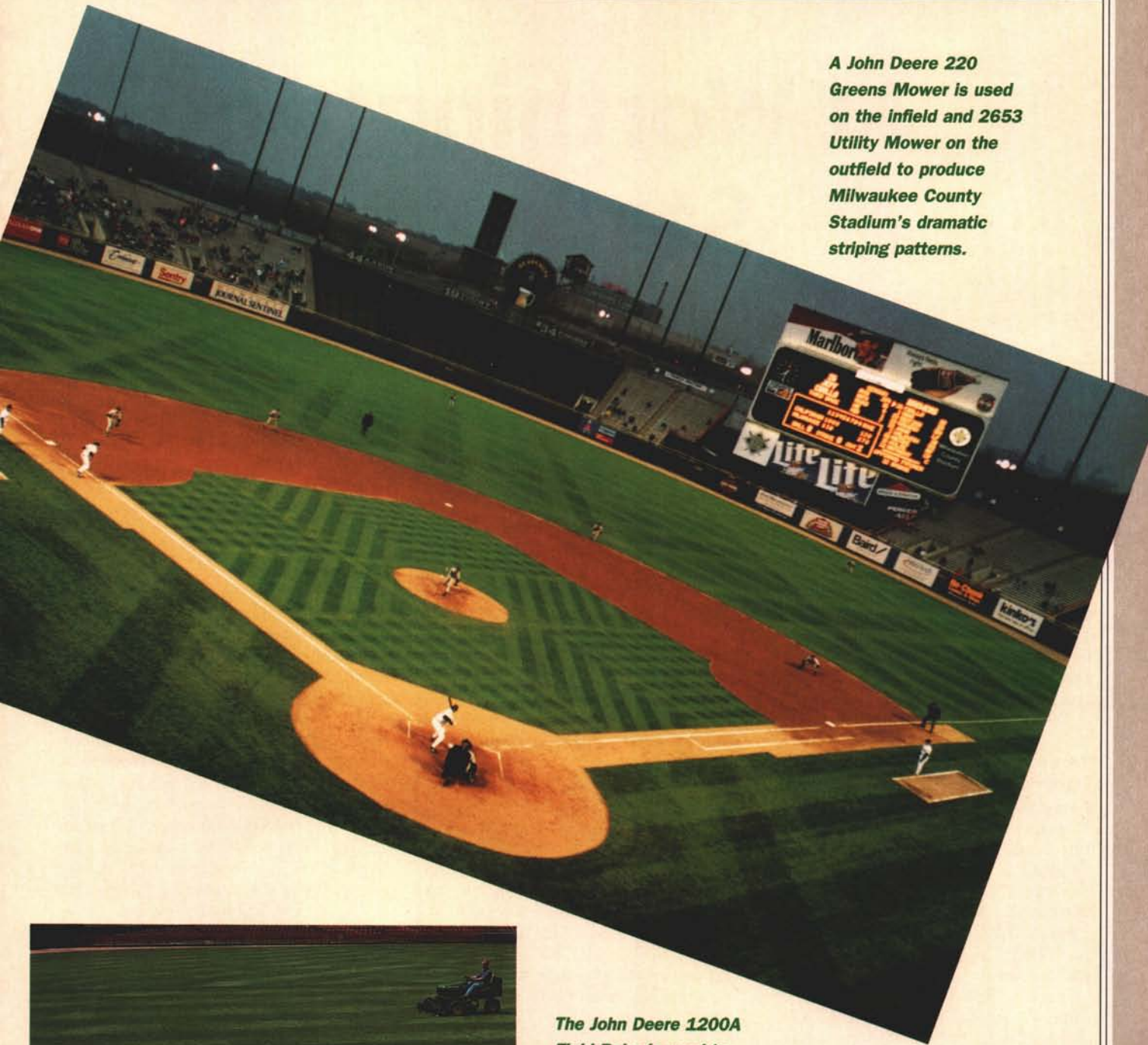


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A John Deere 220 Greens Mower is used on the infield and 2653 Utility Mower on the outfield to produce Milwaukee County Stadium's dramatic striping patterns.



The John Deere 1200A Field Rake is used to groom Milwaukee's infield and warning track. Hydraulic control of the rear field finisher allows an operator to adjust the down-pressure of the implement as needed.



Al Worthington Stadium

College Baseball Diamond of the Year

by Bob Tracinski

The field of Al Worthington Stadium on the campus of Liberty University, a private, Christian, liberal arts college in Lynchburg, Virginia, earned the STMA / sportsTURF / Beam Clay 1997 College Baseball Diamond of the Year Award.

The field was built in 1979, and in 1986 it was named for Worthington, a former major leaguer and long-time coach. The field's award winning status can be credited to the joint efforts of the athletic department administration, Grounds Manager Randy Johnson, Assistant Baseball Coach Dave Pastors, and a dedicated maintenance crew.

As grounds manager within the university's Facilities Department, Johnson is responsible for the entire campus outside of the buildings - from the parking lots to the athletic fields. Johnson says, "The baseball field had been built the year before I started at the university, so I didn't see the construction, but I have seen all the improvements. The field has a native-soil profile. They removed the existing top soil during construction and then incorporated it back into the soil mix that tops the field. There is no underlying drainage system, but internal drainage is adequate and the field has a one-percent slope that provides good surface drainage."

Liberty University has a broad sports program with multiple athletic venues. All of its facilities are used extensively. The university baseball team has a four- to six-week schedule of practices and intrasquad games starting in late August. The spring season begins in mid February and

runs through May, with practices and approximately 30 games played on the field. Local high schools use the field for an additional 20 games during the spring season.

In the summer, the local American Legion team holds its practices and home games there, and it's used for multiple summer camps. The field also hosts such events as Easter church services and the Independence Day fireworks celebration.

Assistant Baseball Coach Pastors came to Liberty University in 1987. He says, "Randy and his grounds crew were doing a good job with the field, only the 'player's touch' was missing. I started pointing out a few things, and they picked up on them right away. In 1991, we began rotating onto the daily maintenance crew players who had put in their four years of play, but were completing their degree program.

"During the 1992-1993 season, Brock Van Faussien, a student concentrating on sports turf management, joined the crew. As Brock gained experience, he became the head baseball groundskeeper, which alleviated my need to supervise daily maintenance. Brock earned his degree here. He's now in the graduate program at Clemson University and is working with the fields there. Mike Nicholas, who worked with Brock for three years, is now a senior and has stepped up to head the crew. We plan to continue that kind of progression."

Johnson's staff of six to seven full-time personnel expands to 20 during the growing season. About half of the crew is made up of students. Seven students work part-time on the baseball field, and as a group they average

between 100 and 120 hours per week. During the summer, crew size drops to two student employees.

Johnson says, "Designating this crew allowed us to raise the field level one more notch. They work closely with me and Coach Pastors. They do all the daily infield maintenance, and during the playing season they generally handle the mowing. My grounds-department staff tackles the more extensive cultural practices, and in the summer, more of the mowing."

Major maintenance projects and field repairs are scheduled October through December. From 30 to 60 tons of native river loam is added to the infield skin each year. The loam is tilled into the existing mix and leveled with a drag board, screen drag and hand rakes. Three to five tons of calcined clay is then spread over the top of the infield skin and worked in to provide the desired surface consistency.

The infield basepath is edged, and the field and bullpen pitcher's mounds are rebuilt, along with the batter's box area. Up to 60 tons of native arch marble, the base material for the warning track, is added each year. The material is worked in and the surface leveled. The grounds crew also tackles such tasks as sprinkler-head height adjustments, and they repair hoses and the batting tunnel and screen.

Johnson explains, "Initially, the field was sprigged with MidIron hybrid bermudagrass, a very cold-tolerant, very tough variety that stands up to the weather extremes at the upper edge of the transition zone. Because MidIron is not fast-growing and doesn't fill in quickly, we spread