

Rookies



HR-9016 Turbo delivers 16-ft. mowing width

With a mowing speed of 8.5 mph and a cutting width of 16 ft., Jacobsen's HR-9016 Turbo mows up to 16.5 acres per hour. The unit's 90-hp., turbo-charged diesel engine features an all-hydraulic drive with no pulleys, idlers, or belts. An out-front, multi-flex deck and two wing decks offer a cutting height range of 1.0 to 5.5 inches. Rear discharge evens clippings dispersal.

Jacobsen Division of Textron
Circle 200 on postage-free card

Small, but powerful

The VX-10 5-watt, 40-channel synthesized radio conforms to military specifications. No larger than a pack of



cigarettes, VX-10 is available in both VHF (134-174 MHz) and UHF (400-512 MHz). Units feature user-selected scan modes to lock out or avoid busy

channels. They come equipped with long-life battery, antenna, and spring-loaded belt clip. VX-10 handles digital and analog private lines, and has an automatic receive and transmit battery-save feature.

Global Wireless
Circle 201 on postage-free card

Battery-powered striping

The battery-powered EZ-100 field-striping machine operates on a 12-volt DC, rechargeable system that will paint 7+ football fields on a single



charge. Features include a 14-gal. tank with 5-in. screw cap, a garden hose attachment for clean up, a long wheel base, and a low center of gravity. A Shur-Flo pump provides 50-60 psi to the standard 12-ft. hose with spray wand.

J.C. Whitlam Mfg.
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High output, torque; Low noise, vibration

Kubota's TG riding mowers offer high output and torque, with low noise and vibration. The TG1860G comes equipped with Kubota's liquid-cooled, 18-hp., 35.7-cu.in. V-Twin gasoline engine. TG1860 uses Kubota's environmentally friendly, liquid-cooled, 18-hp. E-TVCS diesel engine. All TG models provide speed-sensitive, electronic rack-and-pinion power steering for



precise control without appreciable loss of horsepower in turns. Other features include Kubota's Cushion Ride suspension system, a clutchless hydrostatic transmission, and choice of 48- or 54-in. cutting decks.

Kubota Tractor Corp.
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Drag King features field-conditioning capabilities

The 3-section design of Newstripe's Drag King adds a field-conditioning component to the grooming capabilities of conventional hand-pulled mats.



The basic 2-section model, pulled by hand without weights, quickly grooms base lines and infields. Add the scarifier/ballast box section and weights, and attach to any standard lawn and garden tractor, and you can cut 1-in. into the soil to improve rough fields.

Newstripe, Inc.
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Flinn Memorial Stadium

Doubles Honors

by Bob Tracinski

Flinn Memorial Stadium, Quincy, IL, home of the Quincy High School Blue Devils, has become the first field to receive back to back STMA Field of the Year honors in two different categories. Named High School Football Field of the Year during the 1996-1997 season, Flinn repeats its award-winning performance as STMA's 1997-1998 High School Soccer Field of the Year.

The awards reflect the impressive achievements of Sports Turf Manager Kurt Knuf's maintenance program. When he came to the position in March 1985, Knuf found nothing but crabgrass growing on the field. Now, Flinn Memorial Stadium provides a source of pride for the city, and stands as the centerpiece of community activity.

Field use

Flinn's field easily earns the label "high-use." Boys' soccer plays 23 to 25 games on it in the fall, which have to be worked into an 11- to 13-game football schedule. The varsity and sophomore football teams also practice on it every Thursday night.

The marching band practices on the main field before the first home football game and before important competitions. They also perform for home varsity football games.

Girls soccer moves onto the field in the spring for 23 to 25 games. At the same time, the boys' and girls' track teams begin practices and meets.

Flinn hosted a Class A Sectional soccer game in November 1997. It brought in four teams for a two-game Thursday match-up and a Saturday playoff.

The following Tuesday, Flinn hosted its first Class A Super Sectional, the finals of the first round of the state soccer tournament. By that time, the field had already hosted 31 games and an 11-school marching band competition.

"We had two teams in the sectionals that hadn't played at Flinn before," Knuf explains. "As those players entered the stadium, they kept saying to each other: 'Look — they still have grass all over the field!'"

Special events

Flinn's field regularly hosts a variety of special events in addition to its packed sports schedule. Graduation ceremonies bring a stage, graduates, band members, dignitaries, and overflow crowd onto the field. Two thousand chairs filled the field in 1996, and the number increased to 3,000 in 1997.

In 1997, Quin hosted its first Relay for Life event to support the Cancer Society. Knuf says, "We had people at the field all night, with about 250 of them camping out. I set up an area outside the fence of the main field for the tents and painted 45 rectangles, each 20 feet by 30 feet, and numbered each one so everyone had a campsite they could identify. Then I painted outlines of a road between them to keep everything orderly."

Other regular events include the Special Olympics, a Catholic grade school's field day that involves about 1,000 people in the spring, and the Golden Games for seniors each fall. Knuf also gets requests each summer from people who want to run the track. He says, "I always tell them 'Sure — as long as I don't have to run with you.'"

Knuf goes on to say, "We're still hoping to bring the Illinois High School Class A Soccer Tournament Finals here. They're already booked for 1998 and 1999, so now we're shooting for 2000 and 2001. That would bring eight teams here. This is such a great facility, we'd like to share it with even more people."

Maintenance routine

Consistency is a major factor in the field's winning condition. Knuf has fine-tuned the maintenance program over the years. He monitors conditions constantly, but follows the philosophy: "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Knuf handles the operation himself most of the year, but generally brings in two assistants between the end of May and mid-August. They help with the mowing, general clean up, and selected procedures.

Even the part-time staff was curtailed this year. One assistant left in mid-June because of a family emergency; the other left for college the first week of August. That left five football and two soccer fields to measure and paint in six working days before fall



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TORO IRRIGATION

practices started. Of course, Mother Nature threw in some rain to make things interesting.

Knuf found a way to get it done. He says, "I did add an application of Par Ex 32-3-8 in mid-June to compensate for all the spring rains. That extra boost helped the field hold up through the four inches of rain that fell during the first 10 days of July.

"We really cut down on irrigation, and it's in heavy rains that this field's

construction really shines. One day we had 2.6 inches of rain between midnight and 10:30 am, but I could mow by noon."

Knuf acknowledges that there are challenges to maintaining his sand-based field. Fertilization and irrigation needs are greater, and so are disease invasions. Knuf uses a combination of cultural practices as the first line of defense. He maintains a standard IPM program, but chemical controls are used only as needed.

The field's turf is 60-percent bluegrass/40-percent perennial rye, and it contains several cultivars of each. Knuf mows the fields three times a week, hitting the soccer/football game field each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with a reel mower to etch a pattern.

Traditionally, the only visible wear occurs where the football players stand along the sidelines. Knuf overseeds that area weekly during the fall, and he closely monitors wear at the soccer goal mouths, the football goal line, and the area between the football hashmarks. Only the goal mouths need overseeding for girls' soccer play in the spring.

Knuf schedules the majority of field irrigation at night. The system kicks in around 2:00 am, when winds and evaporation rates are favorable.

The game field is very open, and constant, but ever-shifting winds alter the irrigation pattern. Knuf even notes wind velocity in his daily maintenance log. He controls isolated dry spots with two oscillating sprinklers and up to 400 feet of hose.

The practice field has no irrigation system. Knuf sets up Nelson rain trains as needed. This year, he didn't need the rain trains or the oscillators until mid-July.

He aerates the native-soil fields three times each summer with a combination of core and slice aeration. After core aeration, Knuf drags the cores into the turf with a section of chain-link fencing. The fencing collects excess debris for easy disposal. He uses a pull-behind sweeper attachment to pick up divots in the fall. He's never had to dethatch.

Fields are fertilized three times a year: when growth starts in the spring, when it begins to slow in early August, and then late in the season.

Understandably, Knuf is proud of his field. He says, "The satisfaction of providing top-level turf that players, coaches, officials, and spectators all rave about more than makes up for the hard work and long hours. I wish every high school athlete could play on fields like this one." □

Bob Tracinski is business communications manager for John Deere Worldwide Commercial & Consumer Equipment Division in Raleigh, NC. He is public relations co-chair for the national Sports Turf Managers Association.

YOU COULD BE HONORED BY THE PROS!

Why not enter your baseball field in the Beam Clay® Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards contest? You need not be a customer, member, or subscriber; and there is no entry fee. You could be featured in *sportsTURF* magazine and receive an official awards plaque.

The Awards are sponsored by Beam Clay®, *sportsTURF* magazine, and the Sports Turf Managers Assoc., in recognition of excellence and professionalism in maintaining outstanding, safe, professional quality baseball diamonds. Entries will be judged in three categories: professional diamonds; college diamonds; and school, municipal or park diamonds.

Send the information below to enter:

1. Age of baseball diamond (year of installation).
2. Geographic location (city and state).
3. Description of maintenance program.
4. Operating budget for baseball diamond.
5. Irrigation: None _____ Manual _____ Automatic _____
6. Total number of maintenance staff for field.
7. Does baseball field have lighting for night games?
8. Number of events on baseball diamond per year.
9. Types and number of events on diamond other than baseball?
10. How many months during the year is the field used?
11. Why you think this field is one of the best?
12. **IMPORTANT:** Send two sets of color slides or prints.

Deadline for entries: Entries must be postmarked no later than October 30. Selection of winners will be made by the Awards Committee of Four Major League Head Groundskeepers.

Mail entries to:
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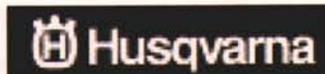
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New Chapter Holds First Workshop

President Joe Zelinko welcomed 34 members and guests to the Great Lakes Chapter's "A Day at the Ballpark" workshop July 10. Members of STMA's 12th chapter got acquainted over coffee and donuts at Canal Park in downtown Akron, OH. The beautiful new facility is in its second year as home field of the Akron Aeros, the AA affiliate of the Cleveland Indians.

Attendees embarked on a tour of the 9,279-seat, \$32-million stadium, which ranks seventh in attendance in Minor League Baseball. Its features include club-level suites, a state of the art press box, a full-service restaurant off right field, and a picnic/kids-fun area.

The indoor batting cages under the stands seemed to garner the most interest. They were designed to provide a place for team practice in inclement weather, but have proven to be very effective in cutting down on field wear. They are also heavily used by area high schools.

Director of Field Maintenance and

STMA Member Rick Izzo and his staff graciously took the group onto the field for hands-on demonstrations of game-day field preparation. He also provided details on the construction of the \$1-million field.

The turf features a 12-inch base with six varieties of bluegrass. The 12 irrigation zones have a total of 89 heads. The 100,000-sq.ft. outfield is mowed two to three times a day.

Currently, height of cut is set at 1-1/8 inches, but Izzo changes it three times a year. He starts the season at 1-1/4 inches and ends at 1-3/4 inches. He maintains the infield at 1-3/8 inches.

Izzo keeps his bullpen sod farm exactly the same as the playing field, but he mows it slightly higher. He aerates the field to a depth of six inches five times a year. He fertilizes every 10 to 20 days with Nature Safe and Roots 1, 2, 3 Pre-mix.

Izzo emphasized the importance of a strong organization that helps those in sports turf management get to know each



other. He has developed a core group of peers that maintain regular contact to discuss common problems and learn from each other. A strong national and local STMA will help expand his circle of contacts, and it will provide additional support to those starting out in the industry.

After lunch, STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty spoke to the group about STMA's past, present, and future. He answered questions and presented an STMA Chapter Gavel to Great Lakes Chapter President Joe Zelinko, recognizing the new chapter as an official affiliate of STMA.

Trusty discussed the many benefits of affiliation. He closed his comments by remarking, "It is really great to see a pro take time on a game day to share all that Rick Izzo shared with all of you today."

Aimcor's Sam Stimmel talked about various aspects of field preparation, and discussed how each enhances performance. Ron Martin, president of Mar-Co Clay Products, followed with a presentation on the use of various clay products.

David Frey, president of Field Specialties, past STMA president, and former director of field maintenance for Cleveland Stadium, addressed a variety of topics. He said that the quality of playing surfaces in today's sports is better than ever, but there is still a lot to be learned. He said that we all need to share ideas, and STMA is helping a lot.

Rick Weigand, turf specialist with Medalist America Turfgrass Seed, gave the final presentation of the meeting. He stressed the importance of informed seed selection, and provided tips on how to make the proper choice.

Most attendees stayed for the Akron Aeros game against the Harrisburg Senators. The sell-out crowd was treated to the team's annual Fireworks Extravaganza after the game.

Chapter news

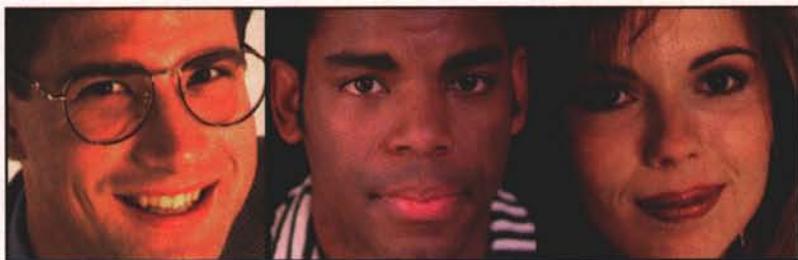
Iowa Chapter: ISTMA will participate in Iowa Turf Institute's benefit golf tournament September 14 at Glen Oaks Country Club in West Des Moines.

For information, contact Lori Westrum at The Turf Office: (515) 232-8222, or fax (515) 232-8228.

Minnesota Chapter: The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association is planning a fall workshop September 16 at St. Cloud.

For information, contact Connie Rudolph: (612) 646-1679.

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Colorado Chapter: CSTMA will hold its fall seminar September 17, at Westminster City Park in Westminster, CO.

For more information, call the 24-hour hotline/fax: (303) 438-9645.

Florida Chapter #1: September 16 - 19, the chapter will participate in the Florida Turfgrass Association Show in Tampa. Stop by the STMA booth for updates on the chapter and the national STMA.

A field construction and renovation seminar will be held October 20 at Palm Beach Gardens.

For information, contact John Mascaro: (954) 938-7477.

MAFMO Chapter: Plans are in the works for an October 1 fall field day at the Baltimore Stadiums.

For information, contact the hotline: (410) 290-5652.

Great Lakes Chapter: GLSTMA will hold an athletic field day from 9:00 am to 3:45 pm, September 24 at Sylvania Pacesetter Park in Sylvania, OH. Events will include equipment demonstrations by major suppliers, athletic field painting and art, irrigation troubleshooting and maintenance, and turf maintenance and care.

GLSTMA Executive board meetings are scheduled for September 29 and October 27. The annual dinner and awards banquet will be held at 6:30 pm, November 5 at Baldwin-Wallace College.

For information, contact Joe Zelinko: (800) 897-9714, or Boyd Montgomery: (419) 885-1982.

Michigan Chapter: For information, contact Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools: (616)395-2364.

Mid-South Chapter: Those within the Mid-South Chapter area with ideas for a regional meeting are asked to contact Chip or Robert at the numbers that follow.

For more information, contact Chip Houmes: (901) 377-5081, Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305, or Robert Bodi: (901) 383-2414.

KAFMO Chapter: The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization has tentatively set a fall field day for October 6 at Lehigh University.

For information, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469, ext. 212.

Midwest Chapter: For information, call the chapter hotline: (847) 622-3517.

Nor-Cal Chapter: For information about the Northern California Chapter,

contact Sal Genito, UC Davis: (530)752-1691.

Southern California Chapter: For information, contact the chapter hotline: (888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

Chapters on the grow

Great Plains Chapter: For information, contact Mark Schimming, City of Wichita: (316) 337-9123.

Arizona Chapter: For information, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 994-7954; or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 786-2728.

Indiana Chapter: Plans are moving forward on the formation of a new chapter in Indiana. For information on this developing chapter, contact Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer: (219) 356-8424, or Pat Hickner: (800) 672-4273.

Nevada Chapter: For information, contact Ibsen Dow: (702) 649-1551, or Alan Paulson, Clark County School District: (702) 799-8724.

Wisconsin Chapter: For information on the newly forming Wisconsin Chapter, contact Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc.: (715) 341-2633. □

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