SAFETY KIT FOR RENTERS

HSS RentX helps tool and equipment renters put safety first on the job with four essential protection products in one affordable kit. The company’s General Purpose Safety Kit costs just $6.49 with any rental at HSS RentX branches nationwide. It contains earplugs and safety goggles, both ANSI-compliant, as well as work gloves and a dust respirator. Unused kits may be returned at the end of the rental for a full refund.

HSS RentX/877-711-7368
For information, circle 185

POLE-MOUNTED LIGHTING

Quality Lighting has introduced Paradigm PDM-24 pole-mounted outdoor area lighting, which the company says is ideal for university-style grounds, public parks, primary and secondary roads, as well as sporting sites. The product’s Edge-Glo accent windows on three sides of the curved lighthouse are available in a range of lens colors to provide unique nighttime accent or identification methods.

A tapered mounting arm heightens the contemporary, geometric appearance of the units; mounting arms can be specified to accommodate a choice of single-, dual-, triple- or quad-luminaire heads to meet your requirements.

Quality Lighting/847-451-0040
For information, circle 178 or see www.0neRS.net/212sp-178

ANIMAL REPELLENTS

Deer-Off and Bulb-Guard animal repellents use both odor and taste to prevent deer and other foragers from eating what you don’t want them to eat. Here Woodstream president Harry Whaley displays the products, which are made from natural, biodegradable food products and are EPA approved. One application of Deer-Off lasts a normal season.

Woodstream Corp./516-868-6645
For information, circle 184, or see www.0neRS.net/212sp-184

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FLOOD LIGHTS

The Micro Flood-Standard (NSF series) features a compact, 14-in. square fixture that produces coverage comparable with that of a traditional-sized flood light, says Ruud Lighting. Available in two mountings, the fixture includes the lamp, with a choice of probe or pulse start metal halide and high-pressure sodium, in wattages up to 400. The precision optical system is for general-purpose floodlighting of facades or large, open areas. Easy to install, the low-profile fixture fits well into many applications, says the manufacturer.

Ruud Lighting/800-236-7000
For information, circle 179

SCOREBOARD

Sportable Scoreboards Model 2230 is 8 x 4-ft., with 15-in. orange and red superbright LED numerals that last more than 100,000 hours of continual use (roughly 20+ years of scoring). Save on power because LEDs consume 90 percent less power than indoor light bulb scoreboards. The 18-gauge galvanneal steel cabinet with powder coat finish provides durability. 1/10th of a second timing feature in last minute and time-out-timer standard. Scores go 0-199. Clock counts down from 99:59 maximum. Wireless remote control is an available option.

Sportable Scoreboards/800-323-7745
For information, circle 189

LITTER COLLECTION

VEHICLE

The mobile MADVAC 101-D now has a dual-side gutter broom with a 48-in. vacuum head for increased ground coverage. The brushes can be hydraulically raised/lowered with the vacuum head for on-the-fly engagement and for down pressure adjustment. This broom can be mounted on either side of the vacuum head to bring litter easily into the nozzle. Features 28-hp Kubota liquid-cooled diesel engine.

MADVAC/800-862-3822
For information, circle 182, or see www.OneRS.net/212sp-182

COLD WEATHER, WATERPROOF GLOVES

Polar-Gard insulated, waterproof work gloves designed specifically for working in cold, wet weather are now available from Compliance Safety. Gloves are built with three layers of protection that provide comfortable protection including a waterproof PVC inner liner and a Thinsulate lining that keeps you warm even in sub-zero weather, while wicking away perspiration.

Compliance Safety/800-340-3413
For information, circle 180 or see www.OneRS.net/212sp-182
INTEGRATED SPORTS LIGHTING

A total lighting solution from Hubbell’s Sportsliter Solutions Team means the best in engineered optics for standard installations as well as meeting the growing need for the control of light trespass to surrounding areas. Three optics, two ballasts, concrete or steel pole types as well as dedicated project managers that know local conditions and requirements make the specification of a complete, integrated system an easy and precise operation.

Hubbell Lighting/540-382-6111
For information, circle 176 or see www.OneRS.net/212sp-176

PRIVACY WINDSCREEN

Missouri Turf introduces SmartScreen, an alternative to conventional woven windscreen. The extruded PVC product won’t unravel and holds its color for years. According to Missouri Turf president Jon Graves, “The new material looks like spaghetti but provides cushioning and wind blockage, as well as privacy.”

When used for chain link outfield fences, the companion product SmartCap also can be used to enhance safety and appearance of your field.

Missouri Turf/800-426-0774
For information, circle 181

Call for information and samples of our full line of sports field products, including Rapid Dry® drying agent, Soilmaster® soil conditioner and other field supplies.

Contact:
Dan Wright
800-273-8608

http://www.sportsturfmanager.com • STMA
LONG RANGE TRANSMITTERS

Federal Signal Electrical has available a series of long range radio control transmitters and receivers for wireless remote control applications. Depending on your antenna, you can reach up to 10 miles, says the company.

Upon detection and verification of an encoded control signal, the receiver triggers a remote device via a dry contact.

Federal Signal/708-534-3400
For information, circle 188

EPOXY PROTECTION

Tigershield coating system has thick coating layers to withstand punishment. You level these formulas yourself, so just pour on and squeegee out smooth. Good for spalled and damaged concrete to create seamless floor.

Garon Products/800-631-5380
For information, circle 187 or see www.OneRS.net/212sp-187

VENDING MACHINE

EZ Vendor from Royal Vendors is a cost-efficient unit allowing you to buy and place more units and sell more product. Machines are easy to program, easy to load with six wide columns, and easy to convert from 12-oz. cans to 20-oz. bottles. The units are narrow and lightweight so you can move them easily as well.

Royal Vendors/800-321-8637
For information, circle 183, or see www.OneRS.net/212sp-183

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

GE Lighting Systems offers individualized lighting solutions for all types of outdoor activities. Systems include engineering, products, installation, and service. Site-specific engineering ensures you get the specified illumination you need, such as adequate vertical foot-candles for picking up high-flying balls and accurate color rendition.

GE says their systems produce more light from fewer fixtures than other systems, reducing your hardware needs. Local reps coordinate custom installations with local contractors.

GE Lighting Systems/877-806-8693
For information, circle 177 or see www.OneRS.net/212sp-177
For perfect diamonds as easy as 1,2,3!

1. **EDGE IT**

With its adjustable guide shoe, the Bannerman Diamond Edger is surprisingly easy-to-use. Its three-inch blade depth and reversible, 20-inch concave disc work together to quickly eliminate ridging. Debris is spiraled into the infield for fast and easy clean-up.

2. **GROOM IT**

The Diamond-Master® (pictured) and Ballpark-6® groomers will give your ball diamonds a surface just like the professional teams demand, and reduce the time, effort and labour required to do the job.

3. **LINE IT**

The Bannerman WetLiner is a simple, practical tool for line marking of turf surfaces. Other wet liners spray, while our WetLiner paints each blade of grass to the ground for solid, longer lasting lines. Paint saver roller is available as an option.

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THE HOME OF SPORTSTURF MAGIC
Mike Boekholder, Dennis Klein, Ryan Kaspitzke, and Rick Walker are the 2002 recipients of the Sports Turf Manager of the Year Awards for Minor League Baseball. The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) sponsors these Awards. The Awards will be presented by STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty at the Baseball Winter Meetings in Nashville December 13-16.

Each of the 16 leagues has selected a winner in recent years for recognition, presented by Major League and Minor League Baseball. The four classification Sports Turf Manager of the Year Award recipients were selected from 2002 league winners.

In 2001, STMA entered a 3-year agreement with Minor League Baseball to honor the Sports Turf Manager of the Year for each of the four classifications. In his letter to STMA on behalf of Boekholder in 2001, Randy A. Mobley, President of the International League, said, "Congratulations on the recently announced relationship between the Sports Turf Managers Association and Minor League Baseball. The increase in the level of sophistication within your industry that has taken place in the past decade is quite remarkable. The recognition to be given the best of these professionals working in Minor League Baseball as a result of this new relationship is certainly well deserved."

In order to qualify for Award consideration, individuals must have been named Sports Turf Manager of the Year for their respective league. (See the list below of individuals so honored.)

These individuals were asked to submit the following information for review by the STMA judging team: Photos documenting the events and staff on the field; a narrative outlining the staff, budget, number of events and/or games per season, cultural practices, brief history of the facility; a narrative on the game day routine outlining the type of equipment used, how it is used, and staff management details; a letter from the League President outlining why the individual was selected as Sports Turf Manager of the Year for that league; a letter from the team's General Manager outlining why the individual should be named the league's Sports Turf Manager of the Year; and an explanation, in 100 words or less, by the individual as to why he or she chose this as a career and the individual's goals for the sports turf industry.

**Class AAA**

The Class AAA Sports Turf Manager of the Year is Mike Boekholder of Victory Field, home of the Indianapolis Indians (affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers) of the International League. Boekholder has earned eight league awards in nine wars with Minor League teams. His talent, obviously, is transferable. He earned the honor twice with Yakima in the Northwest Leagues; moved to Durham where he won when the Bulls were in the Carolina League, and then when the franchise moved up to the International League. His last four awards were with Indianapolis.

The 15,500 plus seat Victory Field opened in July 1996. The playing surface features a state-of-the-art sand-based rootzone with a Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass turf mix. The 12-zone irrigation system is centrally controlled, allowing for remote and radio control of the system via computer modem and two-way radio, as well as amount-specific auto shutdown during rainfall. The automatically adjusted run time; using ET information from an off-site weather station, is augmented in-season with manually-adjusted run time based upon soil moisture readings taken on-field with a handheld moisture sensor.
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By David R. Mellar
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Boekholder's staff consists of a full-time assistant groundskeeper and two full-time seasonal employees. The game staff includes use of four additional seasonal employees, drawn from a pool of nine. Virtually all of the staff, game day and full-time are either college graduates or are currently working toward college degrees.

In 2002, Victory Field played host to 73 Indians games, 16 college, high school, and senior league games, including the eight-game, two-day Indiana State high school championship tournament. Additionally, two clinics/trout camps were held on the field for a total of 91 events. This all took place between April 4 and August 31.

To accomplish all of this, a complex, closely coordinated field maintenance program is vital and Boekholder has fine-tuned it to a precise melding of the science and art of sports turf management. Extreme environmental challenges in 2002 began with the wettest spring in Indiana in 107 years followed by sustained periods of record-breaking heat and humidity from mid-June through mid-August. Boekholder and his staff met the challenges with an aggressive proactive maintenance program and prevailed. The field performed at top levels.

International League President, Randy A. Mobley, noted Mike's string of being selected as Sports Turf Manager of the Year in his league since 1995 during his progression from different fields, and from Class A to Class Triple A. Mobley wrote, "...The bottom line here is that Mike has a flawless track record and simply continues to be the best at what he does."

Cal Burleson, General Manager for the Indianapolis Indians, wrote, "Last year at this time, I mentioned that one of my goals as General Manager of the Indianapolis Indians is for me to do my job as well as Mike Boekholder does his. I haven't got there yet. I think that I've improved but I also think I'm falling farther behind. The man sets quite a pace."

Class AA

The Class AA Sports Turf Manager of the Year is Dennis Klein, Sports Turf Manager for the Round Rock Express Baseball Club, Class AA affiliate of the Houston Astros. Klein started in baseball on the tarp crew of the Texas Rangers at age 15 and worked his way up to the assistant position. In 1999, he was selected for the head position with the Express and seized the opportunity to put everything he had learned with the Rangers to work on the new field. The Dell Diamond stadium opened in April 2000. The turf area soil profile is 80 percent sand and 20 percent peat, topped with Tifway 419 bermudagrass overseeded annually with perennial ryegrass. The infield dirt is 45 percent clay, 50 percent sand and 5 percent silt. Klein relished the challenge of selecting the right turf, adjusting to different climate conditions and establishing a year-round maintenance schedule to achieve top field performance. In 2001, the Dell Diamond earned STMA's Baseball Field of the Year honors in the professional category.

During the 2002 season, the field hosted 73 Round Rock Express games, 48 high school games and 18 college games. In addition, it hosted various tournaments, playoff games, the Texas State High School Championship Series for all 5 classes, and two college tournaments. And there's more; 40 days of baseball camps, concerts, corporate softball games, an early spring training for local professional baseball players and such special events as the Relay for Life. All this field action took place despite the added challenge of alternating periods of too much and too little rain.

Klein's staff consists of two full-time personnel and three seasonal part-time employees during the baseball season. He says, "These are the most reliable, detail-oriented people I have ever been associated with. Our common desire to protect the field from excessive damage throughout the season and our detailed approach to our daily tasks allow our facility to be used to its fullest potential."

Texas League President, Tom Kayser, wrote, "Day in and day out, the playing surface at the Dell Diamond looks and plays like a Major League surface. In the difficult climate of central Texas, Dennis has managed, through extreme diligence to detail and a profound dedication to this job, to present a field to players and fans alike that is always brilliantly green and seemingly without flaw."

Jay Miller, Vice-President and General Manager for the Round Rock Express Baseball Club, wrote, "The work performed by Dennis and his crew is a tremendous source of pride not only for our team and administrative staff, but our fans and sponsors as well. I have always personally believed that one of the strongest selling points of a ballclub is the facility itself. For us, that begins literally at the 'ground level.'... Dennis leads a group of very dedicated people, the first ones into work every day, and the last ones to leave at night. These are individuals who work as a team, and who take immense pride in their work, expending whatever time or effort is necessary to attain perfection."

Class A

The Class A Sports Turf Manager of the Year is Ryan Kaspitzke, Head Sports Turf Manager for the Dayton Dragons. During the 2002 season the Dayton Dragons played 70 regular season games and one playoff game at Fifth Third Field. All of the team's sponsors are permitted to use the facility for one day, adding another 30 possible on-field events. In addition, the Dragons' lease with the City of Dayton permits the city to host up to 20 events in the facility. Thus, it's possible for the field to play host to 127 events within a season of approximately 180 days.

Kaspitzke holds a BA degree from the University of Toledo along with a degree in Sports Turf Management from Michigan State University. During his previous experi-