

Teamwork spells success

The success of the joint community service project teaming the Tennessee Titans and the Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA) will be celebrated by cheering fans at the official dedication August 29. That's when the Whites Creek High School football team will kick off their season opener with Glencliff High School on the field professionally renovated by TVSTMA volunteers and topped with sod donated by the Titans.

The joint project was sparked last winter when Terry Porch, the Titan's head groundskeeper and TVSTMA member, first talked with the chapter about donating the Coliseum sod to a local high school. The idea grew as the chapter discussed the field preparation needs at the potential high school site and the process of stripping, transporting, and installing the donated sod. They determined they could pull it off with donated services by chapter member companies and the coordinated efforts of chapter volunteers.

Porch and his assistant Marty Kaufman presented the idea to the Titans, who not only embraced it wholeheartedly, but also marshaled the forces of their community relations department to coordinate media coverage to spread the news.

The Metropolitan Nashville School District selected the Whites Creek High School after consultation with the Titans and TVSTMA.

TVSTMA member companies volunteered goods and services. Precision Sports Field prepped and laser graded the Whites Creek field before installa-

tion. Saunders Landscape and Maintenance provided the trenching for the irrigation system and the irrigation system installation. Tieco/Rain Bird provided the irrigation system sprinklers, valves, and control system. Turfgrass America provided supervision and labor to harvest the Titans sod at the Coliseum and install the donated turf at Whites Creek. Clarkland provided

fertilization and topdressing of the new Whites Creek turf. Harrell's provided fertilizer and weed control products. Among the other contributing chapter member companies were Lesco and Southern Athletic Fields. Individual chapter members also contributed their time and expertise to complete the project.

The Titans featured the project on their website, www.titansonline.com. That coverage included the following:

"The members of the Sports Turf Managers Association are the professionals who combine scientific agronomic principles with technical expertise to develop and maintain safe and aesthetically pleasing playing surfaces."

"Our common goal is to provide the best sports surfaces for all levels of play," said Bob Elliott, president of TVSTMA. "We believe safe, playable fields are the right of any athlete, male or female, no matter how old or how young, or how well developed the level of their talents and skills. That's why we're combining our Chapter's volunteer efforts with those of the Tennessee Titans on this field renovation project."



STMA Chapter News

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: The Chapter's 2nd Annual Fall Field Day will be held at Paramus Catholic High School in Paramus August 5. Registration begins at 8:00 AM.

The Chapter will hold an Athletic Field Maintenance & Renovation Field Day October 2, co-sponsored by SFMANJ and Rutgers University, Snyder Research & Extension Farm, at the Farm. Registration begins at 11:00 AM.

For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call SFMANJ at 908-730-7770 or Eleanora Murfitt at 908-236-9118; or e-mail to HQ@sfmanj.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will again participate in the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day to be held August 12 at

the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Verona. The day's events include: the research tour and presentations, workshops, Ask-The-Experts discussion sessions with researchers, equipment demonstrations, and the Trade Show. Chapter members are encouraged to participate in the WTA Fundraiser Golf Outing on October 8 at the Jack Nicklaus-designed course, The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, in Sheboygan Falls.

For more information on the Chapter, or other pending events, contact Chris Brindley at 715-346-3622 or cbrindle@uwsp.edu.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Chapter's annual Tour on Wheels will be held August 13 and will again incorporate a St. Paul Saints game. Planning is underway for an October 16 Fall Workshop. Details will be

announced soon.

For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota at tel. 651-638-6075 or e-mail: j-hintz@bethel.edu.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will hold its second Annual Safeco Field Day August 19. Events begin with Registration/Continental Breakfast from 7:45 to 8:45 AM. At 8:45 Chuck Armstrong, President and Chief Operating Officer of the Seattle Mariners, will welcome attendees. Field Day Rotating Sessions run from 9:15 to noon and 1:00 to 2:45 PM. Sessions include: Pitchers Mound Maintenance and Construction - with Leo Liebert and Tim Wilson - Seattle Mariners; Athletic

Facility Turf and Thatch Control - with Dr. Gwen Stahnke - WSU Research Turfgrass Specialist; Line and Logo Painting - with Jay Warnick, CSFM - Seattle Seahawks and Michael Wagner, CSFM - University of Oregon; Field Design/Build - with Dave Anderson - D.A. Hogan & Associates; Topdressing and Overseeding - with Jeff Van Lierop - Country Green Turf Farm; Irrigation Troubleshooting - with Lynda Wightman - Hunter Industries. Lunch will be served from noon to 1:00 PM. SAFECO FIELD TOURS begin at 2:45 PM. Questions on the SAFECO Event? Contact: bchristo@seattlemariners.com. For information on the chapter or other events, contact: Jay Warnick - JayW@Seahawks.com or Mike Wagner - MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter has an August event planned at Hughes Stadium of Colorado State University in Fort Collins. The Chapter's September 23 event will be held at the Broomfield Soccer/Football Complex in Broomfield.

For information on the Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website—www.CSTMA.org—or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954, or contact Chapter President Phil McQuade at 303-237-7188 or pmcquade@jeffco.k12.co.us.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter's Annual Seminar on Wheels will be held in late August. Please email Emory Hunter at emhunter@usa.net if you have questions or suggestions about this program. For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

Florida Chapter # 1: The Chapter will participate in the Florida Turfgrass Association Show to be held in Tampa on September 8-10. A Sports Turf Tour is scheduled September 8 with a Free Trade Show Day September 10. For more details on the FTGA show, call FTGA at 800-882-6721 for a brochure. The Florida Chapter will meet October 21 at the City of Pinecrest. The educational focus for this event is: Overseeding Bermudagrass Athletic Fields. For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact John Mascaro at 954-341-3115 or STMA@Turf-Tec.com.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): The Chapter's Fall Field Day 2003 will be held on September 9 at the OSU Intramural Complex (Fred Beckman) in Columbus. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 888-824-9805 or 419-824-9805 or Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at www.ostma.org.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter's General Meeting, including the Nominations for 2004 Board members, will be held September 10 at 2:00 PM at Mt. San Antonio College. The speaker for this event will be announced soon. The Chapter will hold its General Meeting and Election for 2004 on October 22 at 3 PM at the Japanese Garden of Cal State University - Long Beach.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Steve Dugas, California State University - Fullerton, at 714-278-3929 or email sdugas@fullerton.edu.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: The

Chapter's Fall Field Day will focus on strategies for High Use, Low Budget Fields. It will be held September 10 at Kansas City, Kansas, Parks and Recreation. More details will be announced soon. The Chapter also will meet at the Kansas Speedway and Community America Ballpark from 8:00AM to 3:00 PM October 15. Registration begins at 7:30 AM. This will be a unique opportunity for a behind the scenes tour of the Kansas Speedway. Following lunch in the infield garage area, attendees will tour the new Community America Ballpark, home of the Kansas City T-Bones Baseball Club. Look for more details in August.

For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121 or JGill2@bv229.k12.ks.us.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: ISTMA will hold a September 17 Workshop at North Scott Community Schools.

For information on the Iowa Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.



Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, contact Chris Calcaterra at e-mail: chrise@peoriaaz.com or tel. 623-412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or tel. 480-312-7956.

Southern California Chapter: For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, call Michael Tarantino at 858-679-2526 or MTarantino@powayusd.com.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2328 or email krone@mobap.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Lori Turek at 770-509-3663 or gastma@earthlink.net.

Indiana Chapter: For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact Stan Moscrip, Indiana University, at 812-856-2256 or smoscrip@indiana.edu.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@batsbaseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): For information on the Chapter or

upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA): For information on the Chapter, or other pending activities, call the Hotline at 866-818-8873 or email Nick Gammill, CSFM, at ngammill@american.edu.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, University of Michigan, at fouty@umich.edu, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's website.

Midwest Chapter STMA: For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website-http:mcstma.org/—or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Loren Humphrey at: 402-461-2324 or email to lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Chapter President, Bob Elliott, Tieco, at 800-239-9547 or Glenn Lucas at 800-837-8062; email to Glenn@tvstma.org, or visit the chapter's website: www.tvstma.org.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, contact Kathy Cassmeyer at 972-603-2869 or Katherine.Cassmeyer@lmco.com, or visit the website at www.ntstma.org.

South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the South Texas Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Tim Loesch at 210-207-3734 or TLoesch@alamodome.com.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or other upcoming events, contact: Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority via e-mail: Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov or at 703/324-8590.

Chapters on the Grow

South Carolina: Efforts are currently underway in South Carolina to form a Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association. The contact is Dr. Trent Hale, a Research and Extension Turfgrass Specialist in the Department of Horticulture for Clemson University He is located at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence. On April 15th Dr. Hale hosted a meeting of athletic field managers, Clemson University professors, and turfgrass industry personnel interested in forming a Chapter. A steering committee is currently being formed and plans were made to hold the first meeting on September 30, 2003 in Myrtle Beach, SC. If you are interested in participating in this meeting please contact Dr. Hale at (843) 662-3526 or by email at thale@clemson.edu. Information will also be available on the web at: www.clemson.edu/turfornamental/.

New York: For information on the chapter forming in Central New York, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at tel. 607-432-2953.

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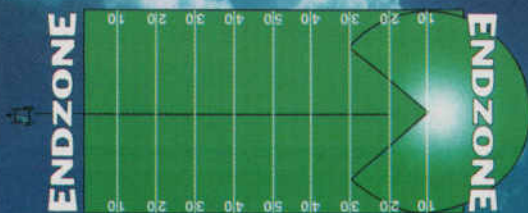
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Run a mile in their shoes

I coach my kids' U-6 and U-10 soccer teams in Georgia. Our league asked all teams to begin practicing using sneakers or indoor shoes instead of normal outdoor soccer cleats in an effort to reduce wear and tear on their fields. (Players will be allowed to use regular cleats during games.) In our first couple of practices, I've had two players slip and injure themselves while wearing sneakers (plant foot slipping and a collision because they could not stop). The grass is still dormant and has not been cut in a while. The fields have been pretty wet. As you can imagine, parents are not thrilled about buying regular cleats for games and indoor cleats for practices. I as a coach and parent, I don't want kids getting hurt by slipping on wet fields.

I think the simple solution would be to have all recreation teams begin using the indoor type shoes for both practice and games. Before I suggest this however, I was hoping to find documentation in regards to the impact on fields due to the types of cleats used by players using the fields (specifically soccer if possible). For all I know, regular cleats may not be all that damaging compared to indoor cleats or sneakers. Also can you explain how turf is damaged and the leading cause of dead grass on athletic fields?

I have several perspectives I will share with you. First, understand that traction itself is a little difficult to quantify. Traction is influenced by: soil conditions, soil hardness, soil moisture, surface moisture, surface roughness, turf density, turf growth habit, overseeding, shoe design, weight of athlete, and shoe-to-turf interface. Observations lead me and others to believe that the athlete has one of the single greatest impacts on traction. Someone once told me that the good athletes rarely ever slip unless the turf tears, suggesting that their balance and control was superior to other athletes. Combining the athletes, shoes, and surface conditions into one study makes for an almost impossible research project. At best studies can only simulate some of the parameters and try to predict what may happen from the results.

Studies were conducted at University of Florida to determine the effect of five cleat designs on turf damage and traction. Cleat designs evaluated included 6-stud replaceable, standard (12-cleat round) molded, 13-cleat non-round molded, 25-cleat hard-ground molded, and trainer cleat (indoor type). The 6-stud replaceable cleat, which is the most aggressive cleat design, has the best traction. The standard molded cleat and the 13 cleat non-round cleat had similar traction. The 25-cleat hard-ground shoe had less traction than the other molded cleats and the trainer cleat had the least traction. The ranking of traction values was not surprising, but the amount of damage caused by each shoe indicated that these shoes cause different types of turf damage.



Some shoes were more destructive to turf from a side impact (cutting); whereas, others were more destructive to turf from a forward impact (plant without directional change). Turf recovery was also dependent on the shoes and the shoe impact direction. The trainer shoe caused the least amount of damage and it healed the quickest (about 75 percent faster than the standard shoe). Hard-ground shoe damage healed quickly from a front impact but similar to others for a side impact.

In terms of damage, the trainer shoe produced 37 percent less damage than the standard shoe and 31 percent less damage than

the non-round molded shoe. The 6-stud replacement cleat was 34 percent more damaging than the standard shoe. The numbers are more relative than absolute, which is why they are presented as percentages. In terms of traction on Bermudagrass that had been overseeded with perennial ryegrass, the trainer shoe required 47 percent less force to break traction than the standard shoe and 53 percent less force than the non-round molded shoe.

To answer your second question, damage can be a number of things from abrasion damage (which Bermudagrass heals from pretty quickly) to turf tearing, to shearing of stolons and rhizomes (lateral stems above and below ground, respectively), to root disruption. Damage can be just to the plant or to the plant and the soil surface (including plant roots). All can result in turf loss, but Bermudagrass can recover from some more quickly than others. The leading cause of dead grass is over-use resulting in turf wear and soil compaction.

In summary, shoes with more smaller cleats or "indoor cleats," will cause less wear and compaction damage (more cleats displace weight better) than more traditional "outdoor cleats." But the biggest damaging factor (generally) is too many of those feet on the turf before it can recover. Keep in mind that a team can do more damage wearing indoor cleats on a rainy day than a team wearing regular cleats with the soil at field capacity soil moisture. So depending on the situation, shoes may only be a contributing factor to turf damage as well as the traction issue.

In discussing this issue with colleagues, Trey Rogers of Michigan State said, "I can't see why anyone under age 10 would not be allowed to wear any cleat they wanted." For the love of the game, I tend to agree. **ST**

Have Questions?

Send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email gmliller@mail.ifas.ufl.edu. Or, send them to Dave Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011, or email dminner@iastate.edu.



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backfill the trench with coarse sand, and jet the trench with water. That's it! Should be expensive right? Wrong. Typically a Multi-Flow system will be half the cost of a French drain, and will last many years longer. Do it right the first time, use Multi-Flow drainage systems.

MULTI-FLOW
drainage systems by Varicore

Contact Varicore Technologies, Inc. at 800.978.8007 or Fax 320.978.6607
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