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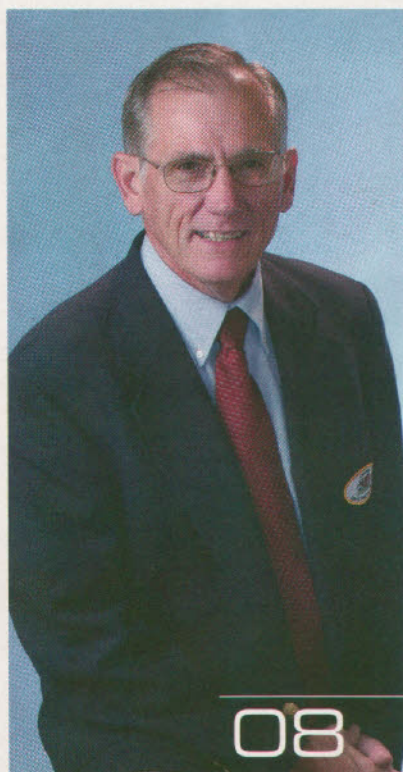
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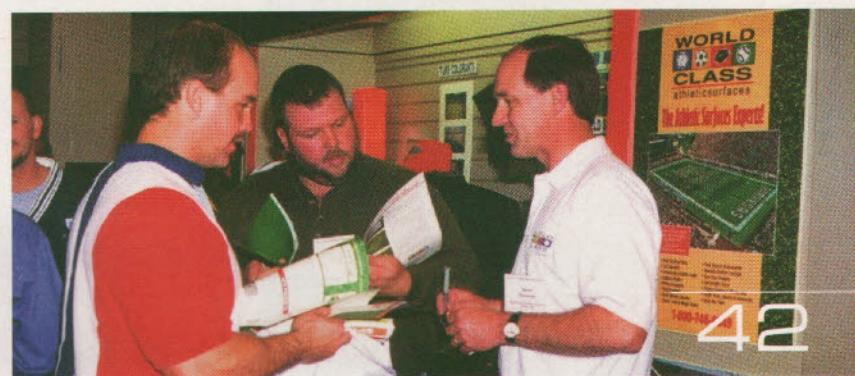
08



14



28



42

## COVER STORY

### 08 Meet the new STMA President

Bob Campbell, CSFM, a long-time Tennessee Volunteer, shares his vision and philosophies on turf management and what the association can do for you.

## Features

### 14 In & On the Ground

Dr. Peter Dernoeden discusses weather conditions for, diagnostic symptoms of, and cultural and chemical control measures for the "Top 5" cool-season turfgrass diseases.

### 28 Sportsturf Machines

George Toma, the "Marquis de Sod" according to ESPN, says mower buying decisions often don't come down to your preference but rather dealing with what your budget allows.

### 34 Around the Grounds

Hand-held power equipment today is truly a modern techno-marvel. There are enough features, items and brand names to give professionals plenty of choices.

## Departments

03 MVP's

06 Front Office

07 STMA President's Message

42 Chapters in Action

43 Chapter news

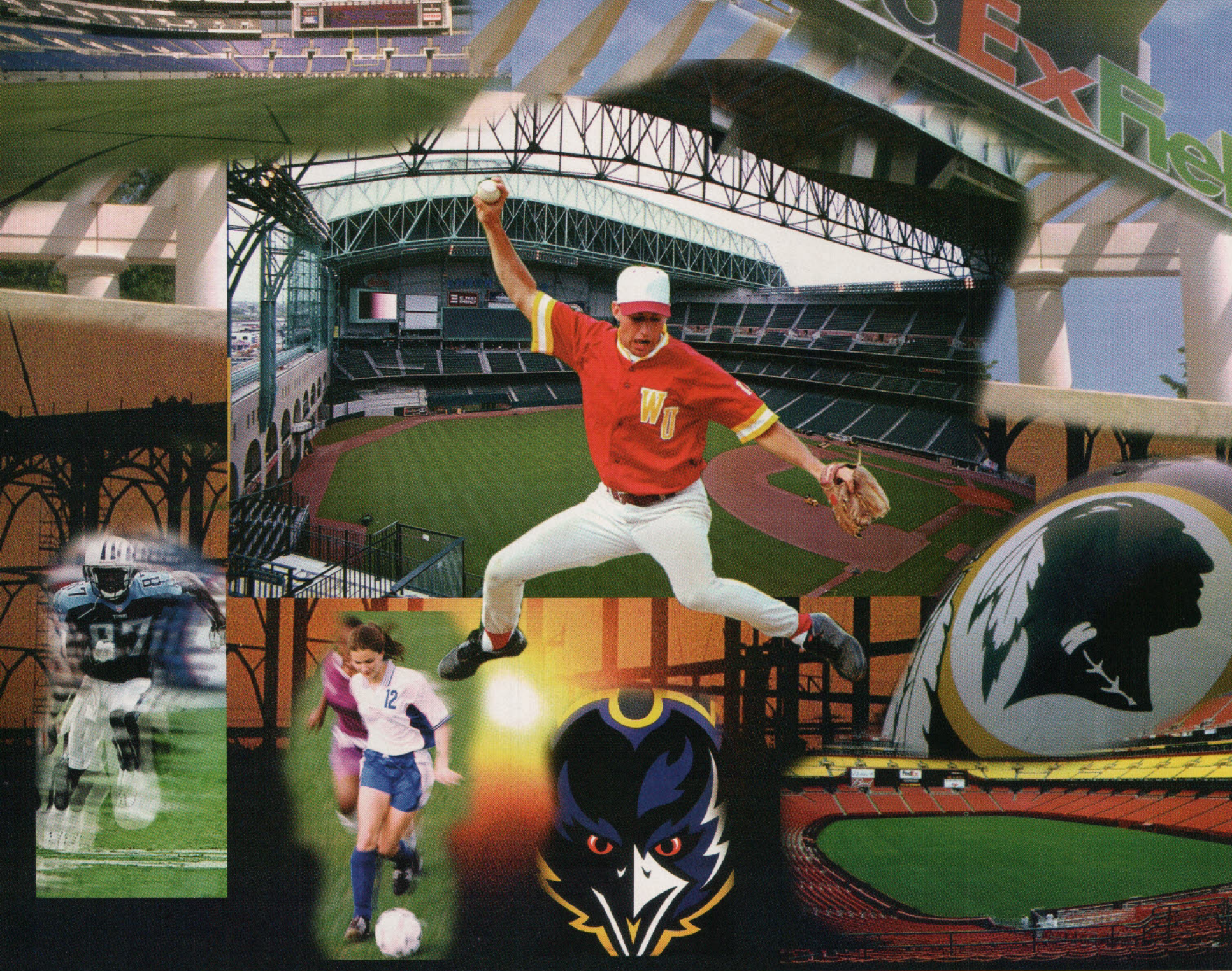
44 Marketplace

45 Classifieds

46 Q&A

**ON THE COVER:** New STMA president Bob Campbell of University of Tennessee.

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## Salmagundi\*

**B**aseball fans have always enjoyed their winter Hot Stove Leagues. Talking baseball in February might be bemoaning Tom Glavine's leaving the Atlanta Braves (for the Mets no less!) for just a few (million) dollars more. (If you had as much money as he does, wouldn't you just play with your friends?) Or speculating whether Dusty Baker will lead the Cubs out of their 50+ year hibernation back to the World Series. Or maybe just verbally expressing how much you look forward to those blue sky, bright sunshine, real green grass days of spring.

You read it here first Dept.: Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products is changing names to Jacobsen Turf, Commercial and Specialty Equipment. The new name not only recognizes the Jacobsen brand as a leading supplier of turf care equipment and services to the sports turf market worldwide but also matches what many of you having been saying for years—"Jake." The "orange" company has been leading up to this change for more than 2 years as they transform to better meet customer needs, says president Jon Carlson. Look soon for new logos on Bob-Cat, Brouwer, Bunton, Cushman, E-Z-GO, Jacobsen, Ryan, and Steiner brand products.

In response to our January column on the public's high expectations of field conditions, a reader with more than 50 years in the seed business writes: "Most of the problems on native-based field surfaces I have seen over the years has not been due to neglect . . . but rather overuse. You cannot maintain any athletic field for any period of time if you do not permit any rest and recuperation for the field.

"The problems lie with the administration, be it the athletic director, president of the school board, college president [etc.]. They know nothing about turf safety or playability but rather are concerned about the revenue the athletic department can generate . . . add insufficient funding for seed, fertilizer, aeration, dethatching equipment, and lack of manpower to make the problem even worse." Hear, hear.

We messed up Dept.: Some details were wrong in the December story on constructing Strongsville High's new football field. Jason Griffiths from Agricultural Design, Inc., Seville, OH, specified the turf, Medina Sod Farms produced it, and Griffiths was foreman for the crew that installed the turf (he laid the 48-inch rolls himself). We also said the sod was produced on typical western Pennsylvania clay-based soil, but actually it was grown on Fitchville silt loam, says Griffiths.

Also, we ran a product item in January for a Toro sprinkler line that is not for sale. My apologies to readers who responded via our Reader Service program and to our friends at Toro. We regret these errors.

\*sal-ma-gun-di. 1. a dish of chopped meat, eggs, etc. flavored with onions, anchovies, vinegar, and oil. 2. any mixture or medley.

Comments always welcome.  
Call Eric at 717-805-4197,  
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# president's message

## Greetings from STMA Headquarters

**A**s we are now into February, some of you are already seeing traffic on your fields. The rest of you are in the final stages of preparation for the spring traffic that will soon take place.

We've heard from so many of you that 2002 was your most challenging year ever. Much of the US was under attack by weather extremes ranging from record-breaking drought conditions to extensive flooding. Long range forecasts indicate that many parts of the country will face continuing weather challenges throughout 2003. It doesn't take a long-range forecast to predict that your challenges in other areas also will continue.

Media scrutiny also intensified during 2002. Media personnel arbitrarily judged many high-profile fields deficient on television and radio and in print. In many of these situations, the commentators had made little or no effort to research the background leading to less than ideal field situations. Few seemed to consider seeking information from the sports turf manager a necessity, or even something to be considered, before publicly expressing their opinions about the fields. We've heard from some sports turf managers that similar situations occurred regionally and locally, with arbitrary judgments made about high school, sports complex, and parks and recreation fields.

STMA Headquarters greatly appreciates your reports on media coverage—the good, the bad, and the ugly. Please do send us emails, mail us clippings, and give us a call to keep us in the loop on coverage.

While we all understand the role of media commentators is to comment, it's unfortunate when viewers and readers aren't offered all the facts contributing to a specific situation. We all greatly appreciate the time and effort media personnel do put into addressing field issues, especially those related to natural turf fields, with those who have the knowledge and experience to provide the facts—you, the sports turf managers.

We, as an association, want and need to help spread the word that you often deal with issues over which you have no control, such as variable and unpredictable weather conditions and multiple on-field events, often scheduled back to back. We want to make it known that you deal with precisely defined field layouts which means goal posts, goal mouths, and bases can't be shifted to spread the wear as easily as the cup placement on a golf green. And, as everyone must, sports turf managers deal with limited resources and budgets.

We, as an association, want and need to spread the word to the media and the public that no one is more aware of field conditions, and more displeased with less than ideal results, than sports turf managers. They need to know that you see problems coming and pull out all the science, technology, and tricks of the trade to prevent them. They

need to know that when all your efforts can't make great conditions happen, you acknowledge it, work to make the best of the conditions you do have, and immediately begin developing a strategy to make it better next time.

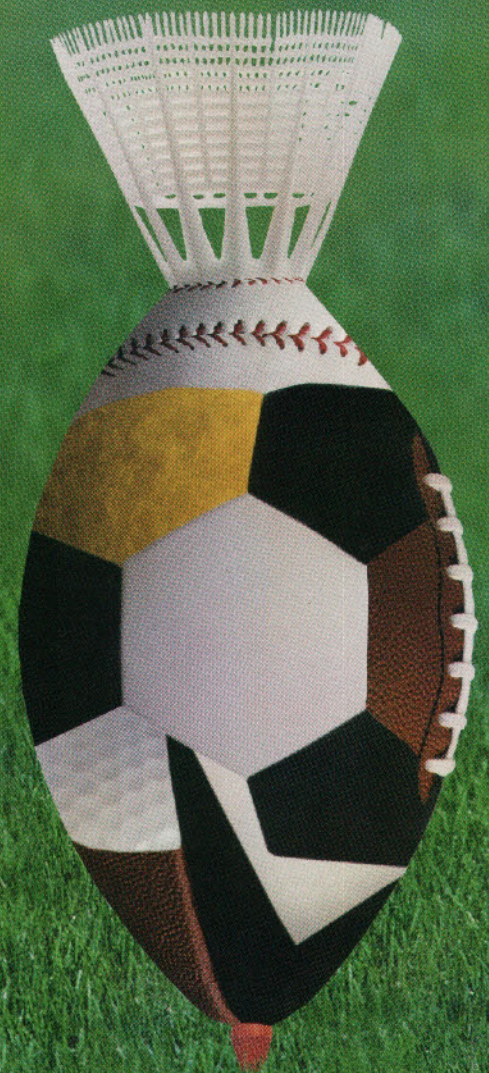
We, as an association, need to let them know that the goals of sports turf managers at all facilities are safety first, playability second, and aesthetics third. We need to offer the resources of this association and of our members to help provide information at any time.

Steve Trusty, STMA Executive Director



STEVE TRUSTY,  
STMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# Bob Campbell, CSFM, moves to STMA helm

BY SUZ TRUSTY

**B**ob Campbell, CSFM, Director of Grounds and Maintenance for the University of Tennessee, is President of the Sports Turf Managers Association for 2003. He was installed during the association's annual meeting last month, in conjunction with the 14th Annual Conference & Exhibition in San Antonio. Campbell had previously served one year as president-elect, two one-year terms as treasurer and a two-year term representing sports turf managers of College and University facilities.

"Serving as President of STMA is a responsibility I take very seriously," Campbell said. "I strongly feel it's important not only to give back to new members and young people starting off in this industry, but also to support the positive image of the sports turf manager as a professional in an important and worthwhile profession. I understand the unique challenges and the rewards involved in this profession, having been privileged to manage high school athletic fields and minor league baseball fields, prior to accepting the university position.

"The STMA is a member-driven association," Campbell continued. "The members do have control. Each sports turf manager has an equal say—no matter what his or her facility or position. I believe communication is an important part of the President's role. I want anyone to feel free to contact me at any time. Even if I don't agree I will listen and take their opinions into consideration. I pledge to all members that I will have the good of the profession and STMA at heart in any decision I make."

Campbell credits his family, and especially his wife, Toni, as his own personal support system. The UT connection also is a family matter. Toni is a math instructor at UT; son Peter graduated in 1999 in Electrical Engineering, and daughter Tracy is a senior majoring in geology.

## Campbell's background

Though turf management was not Campbell's original goal, it's been part of his background since early childhood. He says, "For as long as I can remember I have been involved in sports. I enjoyed playing any game, but baseball was probably my best sport and the one as a kid I was the most interested in. As both a player and fan, I was always interested in what the fields looked like and how they were prepared for games. My first experience in sports turf management was working a Little League field for \$5 a day while attending Martin Junior College in Pulaski, Tennessee."

Campbell graduated from Tennessee in 1973 during which time he also served as graduate assistant baseball coach. He holds a BS degree in accounting and an MS in history. He taught high school and coached base-



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ball and football from 1973 until 1985. Like most high school coaches he was responsible for maintaining the fields. He not only accepted the challenge of improving the baseball field but the football field as well at Doyle High School in Knoxville. In 1985 he gave up his coaching position to accept the position of sports turf manager for the Knoxville Blue Jays, at that time the AA franchise of the Toronto Blue Jays. For the next 5 years he juggled two careers, high school math teacher and baseball groundskeeper.

In 1990 he accepted a full-time position at the University of Tennessee working for Bob Davis, Associate Athletic Director for Facilities. Campbell's primary responsibility was the care of all athletic fields. Campbell says, "I feel very fortunate. This was the job I always wanted. I grew up as a Tennessee fan and this is my school. I believe this is one of the premier sports turf positions. The expectations are high, but you have the support and resources to get the job done. Working at a high profile facility doesn't necessarily make me a better sports turf manager. I've been fortunate to be in the right place at the right time to reach this position."



Campbell's responsibilities include the football and baseball fields, a track, golf practice range, and women's softball and soccer fields. "To be successful you must have good people working with you," he says.

In 1990, UT had an artificial turf football game field and natural turf football practice fields, a baseball field, track, and a golf practice range. In 1993, Campbell coordinated the design and construction of the sand-based football field when the university converted the artificial turf field to grass. Since then UT has added women's soccer and softball. Campbell's responsibilities now include all the fields, related landscape, and other facility responsibilities.

As facilities and expectations have increased the staff also has grown. The original staff of three full-time employees has grown to a full-time staff of six, including a mechanic, and approximately six part-time student employees, many of whom are turf student interns.

"In order to be successful you must have good people working with you. My assistant, Kevin Zurcher, started working for me as a high school student while I was coaching baseball and moved with me to the Blue Jays during his college years," Campbell said. "He stayed with the Jays a couple of years after I left, and then came here. Jimmy Andes also worked for me at the Blue Jays while he was a high school student. Thomas Garner is the most recent addition to our staff. Supervisor Myron Roach and mechanic Lowell Richey were working for the athletic department when I arrived. Both have been around here for about 30 years. Myron has strong ties to Tennessee; both his father and grandfather were head groundskeepers for Tennessee. I wouldn't trade anyone on this team. They take pride in what they do and understand the high expectations placed on them by all that support the University of Tennessee. My role is to provide them with the tools they need to succeed. They are the ones who make me look good.

"I feel fortunate that most of my staff were athletes for I believe that playing the game at some level is more important than a formal turf education. If you have played the game, you have a better understanding of what the finished product should be. If you know what you are striving for, it is much easier to learn how to get there. You also have a better understanding of the players and coaches who will use the fields, thus making communication much easier."

That's the system that worked so well for Campbell. It was during his stint with the Blue Jays that he first sought technical turf advice from Dr. Tom Samples, extension turf specialist for UT. "Tom has served as my own personal professor and mentor," Campbell said. "He's never run out of patience with all my questions and, as a true teacher, walked me through the learning process from the basics through managing a sand-based field. Dr. Coleman Ward was another mentor as well as Dr. Gil Landry and Dr. A. J. Powell, who were always willing to lend a hand. I was taught by the best without being in a classroom with them. And the advice and support from the network of sports turf managers has been so extensive I can't even begin that list."

## Challenges facing STMA

STMA was founded in 1981. It is a relatively young association, but one that is experiencing rapid growth. Campbell notes the primary challenges at this stage of development are to raise the level of professionalism throughout the sports turf management profession and to establish an accurate and positive image of the profession.

"One goal is to make others aware of what we do, and that extends to our employers, those using our facilities, other facets of the green industry, and the general public. Development and maintenance of athletic fields is complex, but we, as a profession, haven't done a very good job of spreading that message," Campbell said.

"The vast majority of sports turf managers came to the profession because they love sports, love the game, and love to grow grass. How the game is played is the most important thing. We want our fields to be in such great condition that they enhance, rather than detract from, the game. We're content to stay in the background if the game is a

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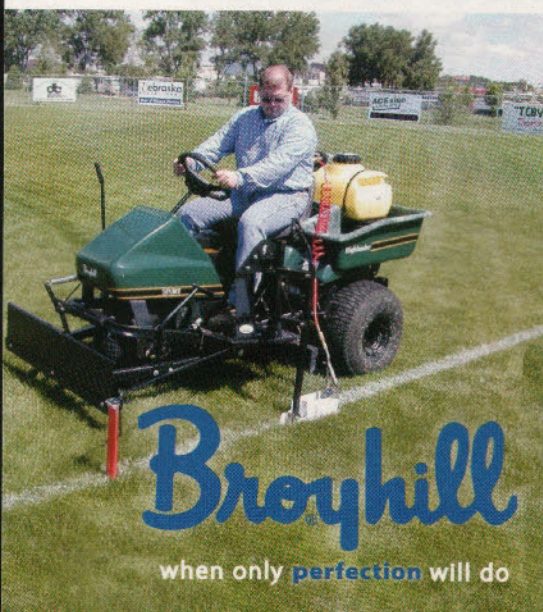
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