

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.



DIAMOND EDGER: MODEL NO. B-DE-20

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.



DIAMOND MASTER: MODEL NO. B-DM-6

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.



WET LINER: MODEL NO. B-WLM-234



www.sportsturfmagic.com

CANADA 1-800-325-4871

USA 1-800-665-2696

41 Kelfield Street, Rexdale, Ontario, Canada M9W 5A3

Bannerman

THE HOME OF SPORTSTURF MAGIC



WE'VE RAISED THE BAR AMONG SPORTSTURF PERFORMERS.

With partial to 360° coverage in one rotor, superior spray pattern, ease of adjustment, vandal resistant clutch and triple port nozzle, the **ProSport™** is setting a higher standard in sportsturf irrigation.



If you've never tried a **K-Rain** rotor before you'll be impressed at the simplicity, versatility and dependability built into every **K-Rain** product.

Packed with superior technology that only **K-Rain** can deliver, the **ProSport™** provides everything you need in a long-range rotor for stadiums, sports complexes, diamonds, parks and commercial areas.

K-Rain ProSport™... The Next Generation of Professional Rotors.

Call **1-800-735-7246** for more information, free demo and to find the **K-Rain Distributor** nearest you.



▼ K-RAIN ProSport™



08



14



32



38

COVER STORY

08 High School/Parks Baseball Field of the Year

Andrew Gossel, head of athletic field maintenance at Eagle Park of Arlington Baptist School, Baltimore, MD, is rewarded for resurrecting a field built on rock.

Features

14 In & On the Ground

Managing fields using crumb rubber & varietal selection

Using crumb rubber as a topdressing and turfgrass selection are two methods that have demonstrated improved turfgrass functionality.

Field painting photo gallery

Explanations on how and why some experts do what they do when painting fields.

Seahawks Stadium a natural for soccer

An international exhibition match forced Jay Warnick, director of fields, to discover how to best lay natural turf over synthetic turf.

26 Sportsturf Machines

Time to shop for a new walk-behind mower?

Here are lots of walk-behind mowers and some things to think about before buying one.

32 Around the Grounds

Talkin' Turf with . . .

We visit with Doug Gallant, head groundskeeper at Cincinnati's new Great American Ball Park.

Departments

06 From the Sidelines

07 STMA President's Message

37 Message from SAFE Foundation

38 STMA in Action

39 Chapter News

40 Marketplace

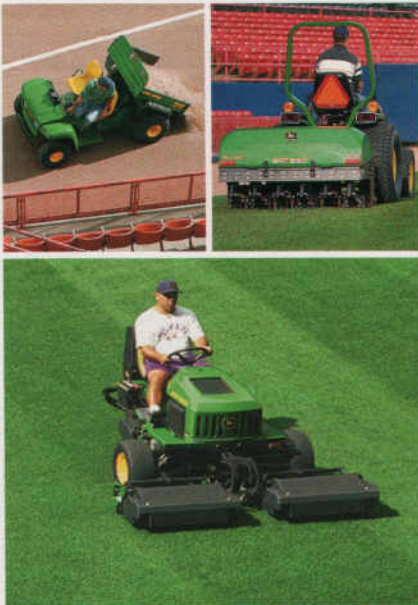
41 Classifieds

42 Q&A

ON THE COVER: A crewmember lines FOY winner Eagle Park, Baltimore, MD. Striper by Beacon Ballfields.



**WHEN YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING THE STAGE FOR EVERY GAME,
YOU NEED A PARTNER YOU CAN COUNT ON.**



For every job on your field, there's a John Deere made especially for it. A full-line of quality equipment, born out of the suggestions and critiques of sports turf managers and their crews. From quality mowers and tractors to aerators and utility vehicles. But it doesn't end there. We follow it up with the industry's best operator manuals, tech literature, and support hotline. We deliver quality parts 365 days a year, with a 99.5% fill-rate overnight. And we offer the JDC™ MasterLease, the most cost-effective way to acquire turf equipment. For more on how John Deere can make a difference on your field, call your local John Deere distributor or 1-800-537-8233.



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE®



Circle 103 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2079-103

from the sidelines

Weather permitting

I remember trying to keep ready to move quickly as a teenaged centerfielder during wet chilly spring practices and games. Such conditions also prompted my using a Nellie Fox model (wood of course, back in the day) bat with the thick, tapered handle to take some sting out of making contact. But yucky spring weather is a fact of life. Here's what two turf managers experienced:

From Virginia:

"I could write a book" about how his spring has gone, says George Mason University's Mike Sullenberger, who moved 24 inches of snow off his baseball field one week in February so the team could play that Friday. "Move water. Move water. It's been the toughest spring but also the most gratifying," he says.

Sullenberger enlisted the help of sod farm crew to lay down piecemeal 100 x 150-ft. old tarps, black side up, to help melt the snow, and then systematically pushed the moisture off. He even put plywood strips on his reel mower to help the effort.

More recently the area took 3 inches of rain in a week. "I'm spending a lot of money on drying agent but we haven't cancelled too many games," Sullenberger says. "My bluegrass baseball field looks good."

From Iowa:

"We had no moisture from November 1 to mid-January then had a couple snows, ending with a 10 inches on Valentine's Day. Of course March came in warm and our teams wanted the fields (worn out from fall) to work out on. The temps were 40-70 degrees but the fields were so dry. They played fine because they weren't sloppy wet, but with dormancy they sustained lots of wear damage from traffic that normally would have happened inside," says Mike Andresen, CSFM, at Iowa State.

"We were rushed to get irrigation fired up for the fields during mid-late March because the temps were such (up to 89 degrees!) that grass would grow but there just wasn't sufficient moisture to 'kick it in'. Over the first weekend of April an arctic front hit us with temps in the teens and 7 inches of snow.

"Now temps are back in the 60's, the snow has melted, the moisture has really turned our fields green, and they're growing! In Iowa we have 'billion-dollar rains' in July for our corn crops. This moisture, even though it was snow, may prove to be a 'field saver' by forcing the growth they need to survive the traffic. A 'billion-dollar snow' in Iowa, imagine that."

I trust most readers will have figured out a way around their weather issues by the time you read this in early May. And I wonder, do aluminum bats sting?



Comments always welcome.
Call Eric at 717-805-4197,
email eschroder@aip.com, or write
PO Box 280, Dauphin, PA 17018.

SPORTSTURF®

250 S. Wacker Dr. #1150, Chicago, IL 60606
Ph: (312) 977-0999 Fax: (312) 980-3135 Web: <http://www.greenmediaonline.com>

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT BOB CAMPBELL, CSFM
PAST PRESIDENT MURRAY COOK
PRESIDENT ELECT MIKE TRIGG, CSFM
COMMERCIAL V.P. MONTY MONTAGUE
SECRETARY MIKE ANDRESEN, CSFM
TREASURER TIM MOORE, CSFM
STMA BOARD MEMBERS ERIC ADKINS, CSFM, DR. TONY KOSKI,
BOYD MONTGOMERY, CSFM, ABBY
MCNEAL, CSFM, GEORGE TRIVETT,
CSFM, VICKIE WALLACE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVE TRUSTY

STMA OFFICE

1027 SOUTH 3RD ST., COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503
PHONE: (800) 323-3875
E-MAIL: STMAHQ@st.omhcoxmail.com
WEB SITE: www.sportsturfmanager.com

INTEGRATED CONTENT TEAM

VICE PRESIDENT/
GROUP PUBLISHER STEVE BRACKETT
EDITOR ERIC SCHRODER
SENIOR EDITOR JOHN KMITTA
TECHNICAL EDITOR DR. JEFF KRANS

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR OF DESIGN & PRODUCTION ANTHONY FICKE
ART DIRECTOR MAGGIE CIVIK
PRODUCTION MANAGER GABRIELLE MOUIZERH

ADAMS BUSINESS MEDIA

CEO MARK ADAMS
PRESIDENT, COO J. PETER HUESTIS
SR. V.P. H.R. & ADMINISTRATION MARGIE DAVIS
DIRECTOR OF INTERNET OPERATIONS AARON NOEL
IT DIRECTOR TONYA PRZYBYLSKI
V.P., MARKETING SVCS. GROUP LIZ SANTELLI
V.P., DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION JACQUELINE M. SERRA

DIRECT MAIL LIST SALES

LIZ DASCH
(800) 548-5918

REPRINT SERVICE

JORGIE STROSSNER
(847) 885-3429

READER SERVICE SERVICES

JOANNE JUDA-PRAINITO
READERSERVICE@AIP.COM
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION AND
DIRECTOR OF READER SERVICE

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

PHONE: (847) 647-7399 **FAX:** (847) 647-7340

Publisher's Notice: We assume no responsibility for the validity of claims in connection with items appearing in *Sportsturf*. Reader Service Numbers are given to facilitate further inquiry. Commercial product names are used for the convenience of the reader. Mention of a commercial product does not imply endorsement by *Sportsturf* or Adams Business Media, or preference over similar products not mentioned.

Adams
BUSINESS MEDIA

Sports
Turf
Managers Association

AMERICAN
ABP
BUSINESS PRESS

president's message

Perceptions can be changed

Who are you? What do you do? Why does it matter? In all too many cases "you" are seen as the guy (or gal) that mows the grass. To the general public, to the news media, to your administrators, mowing the grass may be perceived as your primary role—or even your only role—in athletic field management.

While mowing is important, it's one small segment of sports turf management. To earn the recognition and respect of our employers, our facility owners and administrators, the media, and the public, we need to communicate the true story of who we are, what we do, and why it matters. Only then can we expect to change the current perceptions and take our rightful place on the management team.

Working together, we can make this happen. The STMA Board approved in April some of the most ambitious and important initiatives this organization has undertaken.

Under the direction of Vickie Wallace and Mike Andresen, CSFM, the Marketing Committee presented a comprehensive marketing plan based in part on our own strategic plan and the recommendations of Ackermann Public Relations, Knoxville, which recently completed a Marketing Audit of STMA.

We now have a detailed plan to 1) build awareness of our profession; 2) improve the image of our profession and battle current perceptions or misperceptions; and 3) provide value to membership.

To start, we are:

- Looking at redesigning our logo and tagline for a cohesive, clean look that will represent the image we wish to portray.
- Upgrading our trade show booth to portray that image.
 - Defining trade shows and conferences in which our presence will benefit members, with guidance provided as to who should represent STMA at these and other functions.
 - Improving the website in order to get information more quickly to members.

Re the final point, Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, has generously volunteered to develop ways to accomplish this. We will follow the example of websites such as Ohio State's for which STMA member Pam Sherratt does such a great job. For this to work, however, headquarters needs your correct e-mail address. If we don't have it, please forward via fax at (800-366-0391) or email Rich King at rich@st.omhcoxmail.com. Don't miss out on up-to-date communications!

The Board also approved a proposal that gives structure to Chapter visit requests and also permits Chapters to better influence how Chapter Development money is spent. Abby McNeal, CSFM, and Dave Rulli have had an opportunity to

share the details with all the Chapters by this time and the plan is being implemented.

These are important issues, ones that should be a concern to each of us. We will keep you informed as these projects progress. Once again, I would like to remind you that this is your Association and, if you have any suggestions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact any board member or me. I look forward to hearing from you. You can reach me at bcampbell@utk.edu.



BOB CAMPBELL, CSFM

Bob

Whatever your game,



have a ball on our turf.

From the savage thrashing of rugby, to the deep divots of a weekend golfer, one of our 36 varieties will be the right turfgrass for your application.

Call us today
888-NEW-GRASS
6 3 9 4 7 2 7

Turfgrass America

"Making a positive impact on your environment."

Circle 102 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2079-102



Eagle Park

Arlington Baptist School wins FOY

BY SUZ TRUSTY

Eagle Park of Arlington Baptist School, Baltimore, MD, earned the 2002 Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Baseball Field of the Year Award in the High School/Parks division. The field quality and conditions that earned this award are the result of the quest for excellence spearheaded by Andrew Gossel, head of athletic field maintenance, boys' athletic director, and physical education teacher for the school.

Gossel arrived at the school in August of 1997 to teach at both the high school and middle school levels and to coach. During his interview for this position the previous May, he had viewed the school's fields only from a distance. He was aware they needed quite a bit of attention, but the extent of that "attention" was beyond anything he had imagined.

Part of the Arlington Baptist School facility is located in an area of underlying rock. Gossel says, "From what I have been told, the original construction design for the high school building placed it where the fields are now, but there was so much rock at that site they were unable to get the foundation of the building in the ground. Eagle Park now sits on that site, a raised rock ledge in relationship to the building. The rock underneath the field results in widely varying root zone levels throughout the field area.

"Because of the location of the underlying rock, the natural grade of the field uses sheet grading (pitching from one side of the field to the other), rather than crowning for surface drainage. The baseball infield is on the low side of the grade. The wooded residential properties that border the school on the field side are higher than the fields. These factors, combined with other logistical

issues, caused a large amount of water to run toward and across the infield. In addition, the fields are all composed of a native soil that is very high in clay content with a very low percolation rate. During my first spring here, we had 12 straight days of rain. Three days after the rains stopped, we could still hear water trickling across the fields."

As is the case in many high schools across the country, the baseball and softball fields are adjoining so they can do double duty, with the majority of both outfields forming the school's soccer field. The soccer field runs from the edge of the baseball field to the edge of the softball field, ending about 3 feet from the infields.

Gossel says, "When I first set foot on our soccer field, for our first day of practice, I had to ask our players whether it was really the soccer field! Though I'd had no previous experience in sports turf management, I had worked in my older brother's landscaping business so I had a basic soil and plant background. I also had played on my high school's teams and had a pretty good understanding of what field conditions should be. Here, most of the center of the soccer field (the outfield of the baseball field) was dirt and rocks. The baseball infield had a 10-12

inch deep erosion gully across the middle of the skinned portion. The pitcher's mound was 2 feet closer to first base than to third base. It was obvious that the infield was not even square, let alone having the infield edges and lips cared for properly."

Gossel says, "In 1998, as my first spring baseball season approached, I organized the forces of some enthusiastic baseball players to take on the athletic field as a project. Our first session was a daylong effort to edge the field and get



the skinned area in as good a playing condition as possible. Safety was our primary focus, with playability close behind. We continued working on improving basic maintenance practices throughout the season."

After seeing the results of those initial field improvements, the school administrators began to consider some field renovations. Gossel's father, Harold, and younger brother, Doug, who are in the excavation/grading industry in Buffalo, NY, volunteered three to four days of help with renovations if materials and equipment would be available.

"Once the arrangements were in place, we made full use of those four days," notes Gossel. "We shaped a berm/swale along the high (residential neighborhood) side and also the right (parking lot) side of our athletic fields in order to keep a large majority of the runoff water off the fields. We also were able to regrade approximately 75 percent of the field, bringing rocks to the surface and removing them; leveling high and low spots; and developing a consistent slope. We were able to get moving in the right direction, in part due to the donation of time and some materials by athletic field specialist, Tim Anderson, a long-time MAFMO STMA Chapter member."

The existing turf was predominantly turf-type tall fescues. Gossel opted to retain that and gradually improve density through overseeding with Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass, starting with a "cleat seed" program that fall. The current ration is 80 percent tall fescue, 10 percent blue, and 10 percent rye.

Gossel says, "The lower maintenance turf is extremely important since our fields have no in-ground irrigation system and initially had no irrigation system at all. We've been able to irrigate by developing a system of 800 feet of 1-3/4-inch fire hose and seven sprinklers with pop-up heads. Once we worked out the operating procedures, the set up takes approximately 30 minutes, while a short area move requires about 20 minutes. Due to this labor-intensive time factor, irrigating the entire field area takes 2 to 3 days."

Gossel notes the field improvement program has been a gradual process with some learning curves included. During the initial regrading of the infield, the soil added during the process proved to be a poor match for field needs. In the summer of 2000, Gossel connected with Patrick Drimmie of Scotland Yard, Inc., a KAFMO STMA Chapter member, to pull out that soil and replace it with a more workable mix. They also installed a series of three French drain lines around the low side of the baseball infield. The first is 10 feet off the back infield line, with the other two extending out from it. These run parallel to each other, spaced 10 feet apart on center, circling around the back of the infield. This has helped to eliminate even more water from traveling across the infield skin. Gossel and Drimmie have developed a cooperative working arrangement, trading equipment and work hours to continue the improvement process.

Gossel says, "Learning skinned area management has been the biggest learning curve for me. The networking process has been incredible. Al Capitos with the Baltimore Orioles has been a great resource. Don Fowler, now retired as Penn State extension turfgrass specialist, the KAFMO chapter team, and the Little League field managers allowed me to work with them on the grounds crew for the 2000 Little League World Series, which gave me hands-on experience and great training with mound building and batters box and base path preparation.

"Taking that experience back to my field has helped me develop water management and surface preparation techniques to achieve the best playability levels for our athletes. It's not just that every field responds differently, but also that the same field responds differently dependent on conditions. Making the adjustments is a trial and error process on every field. Understanding the interactions has enabled me to fine tune the process, so that I now can determine water



application amounts and timing based on the temperatures, humidity levels, winds, and other weather conditions.

"When I first arrived, there was only a backstop and a small amount of fence in front of each bench for player protection. The winter following the summer of renovations, we fenced off about 60 percent of the field to prevent vandalism. Due to the shape of the field (285 in right, 350 in center), we had to erect a large wall in right field. We also use the berm as part of that fence. There's a slope in front of the wall with the fence at the top to give it a unique look.

"Long-term plans seek to establish an 'old-time' feel to Eagle Park. The plans include adding more fencing, both permanent and temporary, which will completely enclose both the baseball and softball fields. When the fence is completed, there will be a 'Death Valley' in left center (410 between the gap and center). Other plans include brick dugouts, a concession stand with a picnic area in between the baseball and softball fields, more trees, a warning track, lights and a 40-foot manually operated scoreboard built into the right field wall."

The Eagle Park baseball field currently is used from 8-1/2 to 9 months a year with well over 100 on-field events each year. The high school varsity and the middle school teams play baseball from March through May. From the start of April until August 1st, the field is leased for practices and games by a 14-and-

Pro Golf Course Quality,
Little League Price

the Stadium 80[®] By Broyhill

Check out our
Web Specials



80-GALLON POLY TANK
 10 FOOT BOOM
 HAND GUN KIT W/ 25 FOOT HOSE
 LIQUID PRESSURE GAUGE

All the quality features of a professional golf course sprayer at a price that is making many pro greenskeepers blush with embarrassment after paying too much for another sprayer. All this and safe low profile design makes the Stadium-80 one of the safest sprayers of its size. Who would have thought a little league park could afford equipment that outshines that of many professional golf courses and stadiums.

Call today and know you are making the right decision.

Call Broyhill when only perfection will do.

1.800.228.1003 ext.34

www.broyhill.com



when only perfection will do

Circle 104 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2079-104

Field of the Year

under team, as well as two men's league teams. The school's soccer program takes over the outfield for practices and games from mid-August through November.

Infield renovations and major maintenance can be undertaken once the season is completed. But, because of the overlapping field use, any major renovation within the soccer area must take place at the end of the soccer season in the late fall or during the 2-week window in early August between the end of summer baseball and the start of fall soccer. Gradual improvements in maintenance practices, such as aeration, topdressing, overseeding, and cleat seeding, are incorporated year-round.

Weather has been a special challenge in 2002 and early 2003. The worst summer drought on record combined with the uneven depths of the soil profile created multiple hot spot situations. Gossel was constantly adjusting strategies to reduce the impact of the hot spots without overwatering adjacent areas. Irrigation restrictions also came into play. A 10 percent cutback was mandated

toward the end of July. A 50 percent cutback was mandated by the middle of August along with restricted irrigation hours of between 8 PM and 8 AM. That was followed in late winter and early spring, first by the heaviest snows on record and then by heavy and extended rains. This late, heavy precipitation has delayed spring field preparation by nearly a month.

"It's always a game of strategy, working to get your field to the best possible level of safety and playability within the conditions, resources and circumstances you have. I can't say enough about the impact of the help from others within the industry. It's an incredible resource. I also credit the help and support of the Arlington Baptist School administration, and especially that of senior administrator, Tom Rider, for their commitment to continual field and facility improvement."

ST

Suz Trusty is director of communications for STMA. She can be reached at 800-323-3875.

Eagle Park Maintenance program

December - February:

Regrade infield skin
Finish any remaining edging; removing lips
Rebuild all mounds, batters/catchers boxes

March - April:

Aerate monthly, alternate hollow core and solid tine depending on field use schedules and weather conditions; when core aerating, drag cores in

Apply 1/4-in. vitrified clay as topdressing on infield skin
Apply granular crabgrass pre-emergent combined with 4-5-4 fertilizer

Mow 2 - 3 times per week at 2.25-in. height of cut, gradually moving to 2-in. (dependent on conditions); double cut on game days

Cut and paint foul lines/logos weekly

Drag infield skin daily

Chalk foul lines/batters boxes on infield skin for all games

May:

Aerate monthly, alternate hollow core and solid tine depending on field use schedules and weather conditions; when core aerating, drag cores in

Mow 2-3 times per week at 2-in. height of cut; double cut on game days

Edge infields

Cut and paint foul lines/logos weekly

Chalk foul lines/batters boxes on infield skin for all games

Drag infield skin daily

Fertilize in early May with 16-4-8 (approximately 1 lb. of N/1,000 sq. ft.)

Plant annual flowers in all beds around backstop and bullpen

June - August:

Aerate monthly, alternate hollow core and solid tine depend-

ing on field use schedules and weather conditions; when core aerating, drag cores in

Mow 1-2 times per week at 2.25-in. height of cut

Topdress/overseed all worn areas

Apply general fungicide to eliminate diseases as necessary following standard IPM practices

Paint and chalk lines/boxes on infield skin for all games

Drag infield as needed

Apply selective herbicide in early August to eliminate any clover, crabgrass or other invasive weeds as necessary following standard IPM practices

Apply granular broadleaf weed control in mid- to late August, combined with 21-3-7 fertilizer (approximately 1 lb. of N/1,000 sq. ft.)

Work on facility improvements as needed (bleacher areas, paint foul poles, etc)

September:

Cleat seed the soccer field area bi-weekly (80% turf type tall fescue, 10% Kentucky bluegrass, 10% perennial ryegrass) at 2.5 lbs/1,000 sq. ft. Aerate/overseed one week instead of

only cleat seeding

Mow 2 times per week at 2-in. height of cut; double cut on game days

Cut and paint foul lines/logos weekly

October - November:

Cleat seed the soccer field area bi-weekly (80% turf type tall fescue, 10% Kentucky bluegrass, 10% perennial ryegrass) at 2.5 lbs/1,000 sq. ft.

Aerate/overseed

Cut and paint foul lines/logos weekly

Edge and remove lips from infields

Topdress any worn areas

Plant pansies and bulbs in flower beds

