



Sports turf in Spain

BY **MIKE TARANTINO**

I had the opportunity to travel to Spain with the Nomads girls under-18 and girls under-16 (my daughter Kelli's team) when they participated in the 10th Costa Blanca Cup played in the city of Benidorm.

While I was busy trying to come up with ways to make this an educational trip for Kelli, e.g., speaking Spanish, etc., I realized I could make it educational for myself as well.

We began in Barcelona where the teams trained at El Montanya resort, which has a full soccer training facility on the grounds. Using an interpreter, I spoke with members of the grounds staff about their maintenance practices. Their turf is a mix

of Bermudagrass, Kikuyu, and ryegrass, which they affectionately refer to as a "Heinz 57" and say it's the best they can do.

El Montanya goes through extreme temperature changes, teens in the winter and 90+ degrees in the summer. I learned that this facility is used for training only so that's why the maintenance is minimal. Weekly reel mowing, fertilization every 6 weeks dictated by weather conditions, and irrigation (through aboveground impact heads) as needed was about it.

We bussed to our game sites, built with Spanish federal government funds, and then turned over to local governments to operate and maintain.

Our first game was at a beautiful venue in Benidorm that featured mostly well groomed Bermuda. They mowed this field three times a **(continued on page 35)**

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GreenTech's patented modular system is an innovative technology that provides solutions to problems associated with the design, construction and maintenance of horticulture and turfgrass projects. Here we illustrate the GreenTech Modular System used as a soccer goalmouth.

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Latest weather technology for turf managers

BY CHRIS WHITTINGHILL

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The next generation of weather technology is here and with it comes convenience and simplicity for turf managers. Weather service information helps handle rain delays and event management while protecting patron, player, and employee safety.

Accurate weather information means a smoother running operation and more control over budget. Weather forecasts are easy to interpret, readily available via the Internet, and can be set up to go anywhere the user goes via cell phones, pagers, and e-mail. The result is precise, real-time weather information that provides both advance warning and adequate preparation times for severe weather events that could impact users' location(s) of interest.

For sports turf managers weather technology offers up-to-the-minute weather information including the ability to accurately gauge rainfall and severe weather, monitor lightning, check wind speed, and keep tabs on the heat index. Localized forecasts provide accurate outlooks at hourly intervals as far as 10 days out. Rainfall details on how much rain will fall and how much is already on the ground helps managers determine irrigation schedules.

Lightning protection

Because safety is a top priority, weather systems afford turf managers the chance to set up custom advisories and receive weather information that is only pertinent to their exact location. For example, to offer protection against lightning, today's weather systems sound an alarm or issue an audible warning when a lightning strike occurs within a stadium's designated coverage area.

State-of-the-art weather systems should also be able to provide precise precipitation monitoring tools to automatically monitor radar data for exact start and stop times for rain and other precipitation events affecting that location. Alarms can be set for notice of light, moderate or heavy precipitation, which prepares you to give advance warning of anticipated conditions and plans for proactive action. By using alarms and alerts, you know when severe storms are approaching as well as exact arrival times so that ground crews can be advised and work schedules adjusted. **ST**

Chris Whittinghill is with Meteorlogix,
www.meteorlogix.com.

"FACILITY SAVERS" CATALOG

New Pig Corp. has a new "Facility Savers" catalog with more than 130 products to enhance and protect facilities. New products include PIG protective floor covering; absorbent ground tarp system to prevent oil leak damage; and leak diverter systems for controlling leaky pipes.

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For information, circle 059 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2913-059>



PORTABLE GOALS

Future Pro offers a complete line of portable aluminum soccer goals with three sizes of goals with white powder coated 4 x

4-in. aluminum crossbar and corner posts, and five sizes of goals with 2 x 4-in. crossbar and posts. All these units feature QwikTrack net attachment tracks that eliminate Velcro, wire clips, welded-on or screwed-on net attachment systems. Wheel kits are standard on 4 x 4 goals.

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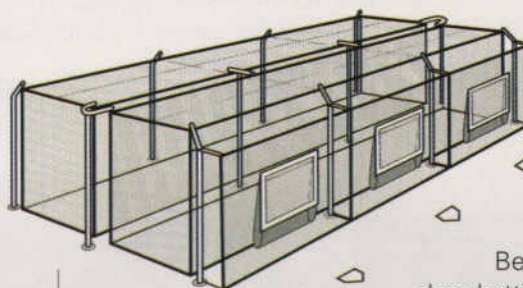
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Bison ShootOut line of soccer goals is available as aluminum or steel. Aluminum portables are with white powder coated 4-in. square posts and uprights are available in three sizes and include wheel kits. Unpainted aluminum 2 x 4-in. goals come in five sizes. Tubing on all Bison soccer goals has soft edge radius for player safety. Steel goals can be permanently mounted in concrete footings or semi-permanently mounted in an optional ground sleeve.

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Beacon's new doublewide outdoor batting cage uses standard batting cage nets and the same materials as its single outdoor cages. Available in 55 and 70-ft. lengths or can be crafted to your desired length, width, or height. Add the unique optional multistation sock net stations along the side for tee and soft toss work. Beacon will supply all specifications.

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Bison introduces DuraSkin player safety padding for soccer goals. This padding is specially molded to have minimal impact on the ball rebound off the goal posts. DuraSkin slips on with no fasteners, straps or buckles. Each corner post is covered to a height of 72 in.

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SAFE Wants to Hear from YOU!

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) was created by the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) to provide research, educational programs and scholarships geared to sports fields. The SAFE Foundation Board of Trustees continues to move forward on following the parameters set to help SAFE meet its the goals established during their spring Board Meeting in Chicago.

The Board recognizes the fact that SAFE has much work to complete before it can supply the sports turf industry with the desired level of programs. Additional funding is needed to fulfill all three arms of our mission: the scholarship program, research and education. SAFE's major thrust for 2004 is seeking greater funding for sports specific research, finalizing the research criteria, and beginning assessment of research projects for funding. The Board continues to make positive steps in all of these areas. Progress has already been made on the research criteria and development continues on the forms for research grant applications.

SAFE encourages sports turf managers to provide their input on specific areas of sports turf related research needs by contacting SAFE by phone at 800-323-3875 or via email: SAFE@st.omhcoxmail.com.

These research suggestions will augment the information gathered in

an earlier call for research recommendations. It is the intent of the SAFE Board and the SAFE Research Committee to identify key areas of research needs and then solicit these needs to the researchers. Thus it is important that this information on key areas of research needs come from STMA members, STMA Chapters and other sports turf managers. SAFE will focus on research that is applicable and repeatable; practical research that meets the needs of sports turf managers.

Next, significant scholarship funding is available thanks to the funds raised through the combination of the Jacobsen-sponsored SAFE Golf Tournament, and the Raffle, Silent and Live Auctions held in conjunction with the STMA Conference held in San Diego last January. The SAFE Board has authorized the allocation of up to \$18,000 in direct Scholarship dollars and funds toward travel and lodging expenses to allow the recipients to attend the STMA 2005 Conference in Phoenix. Scholarship application information and application forms are sent directly to STMA Student and Educator members as well as to 2- and 4-year Colleges and Universities offering turf programs. These materials also are posted in the SAFE section of the STMA website.

(continued from page 31) week with a reel mower and have an aggressive fertilization program, including applying a high nitrogen product during the peak growing months. The program includes winter and spring applications of high phosphorus and potassium, supplemented with iron and sulfur. A combination of core and slice aerations are done bi-monthly, based on use.



Topdressing material is applied after each core aeration with seeding of an annual rye during winter. The irrigation system is conventional, controller, remote control valves and gear-driven rotors. The system is adjusted daily according to weather conditions and scheduled events. The site is used for club and semi-pro soccer, as well as track and field events.

The same landscape management company that maintains this facility also

handled the field at our next venue, Alfaz Annexo.

We then went to Alfaz Estadio, which had two soccer fields that needed care. Local volunteers maintain this field and so there is no maintenance program or resources available, other than donations. The volunteers filled low spots with topsoil, and most areas had good stands of the Heinz 57 played fine.

Our final stop was Calpe, which was another impressive facility, with one turf field and one synthetic. Our game was at night and so there were no grounds personnel around to talk to, but the turf was Bermuda mowed tight, and it was a deep shade of green indicating some fertilization and irrigation was being used.

Whether it is wear spots, lack of resources, or a lack of trained professionals, the one constant with turf management in the US is we all have similar problems. **ST**

Mike Tarantino is grounds and operations superintendent for the Poway Unified School District, Poway, CA. He can be reached at mtarantino@powayusd.com.

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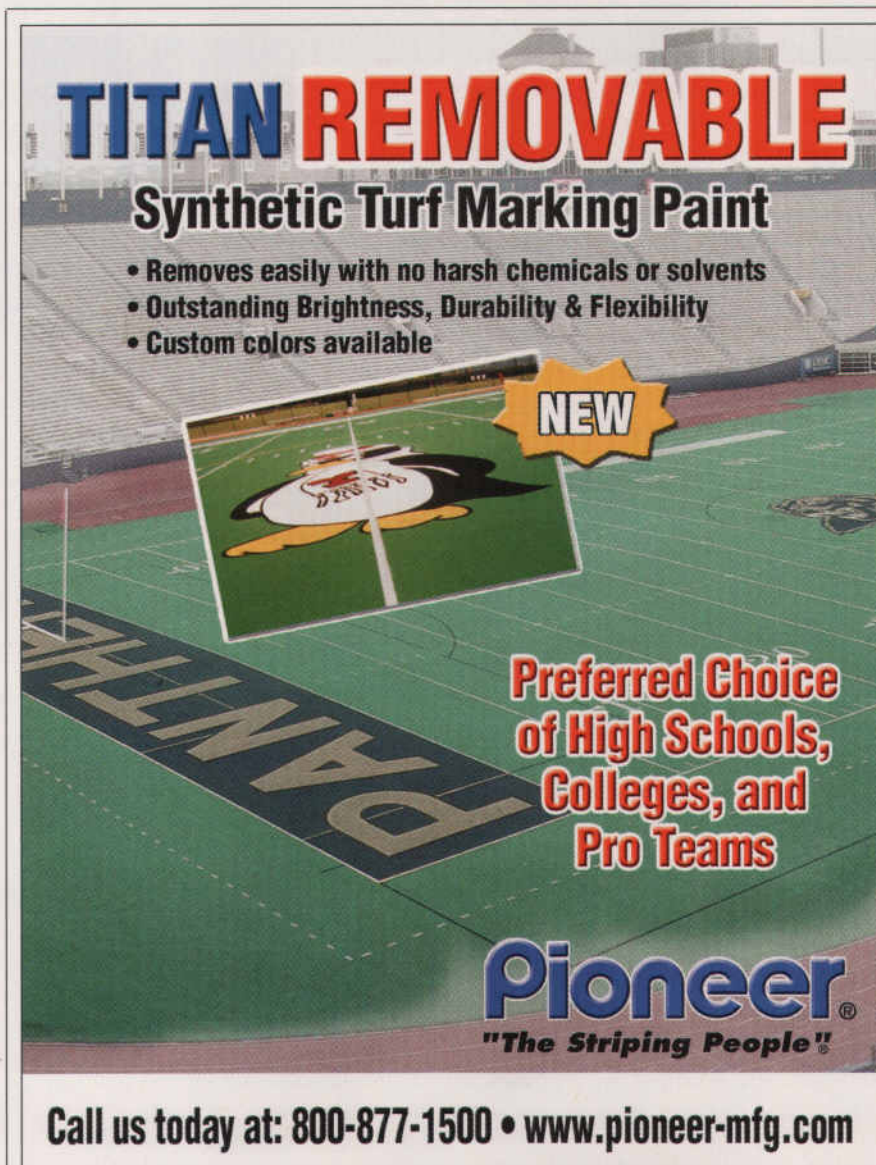
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OSTMA gets zoned in at Paul Brown Stadium

BY **BOYD MONTGOMERY, CSFM**

The Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association held a 2-day irrigation workshop June 17-18 at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati. Attendees had a great opportunity to learn about irrigation inside and out.

Dr. Ed McCoy from Ohio State kicked off the event with a detail explanation on how soils effect and interact with moisture. He demonstrated his new software that allows him to time lapse the infiltration and saturation of different soil mediums.

Lynda Wightman from Hunter Industries then explained the basic principals in irrigation and system workings. Mike Myers, also with Hunter, spoke on efficiencies and the more detailed aspects of operating a system.

The day concluded with Bengals' head sports turf manager Darian Daily giving the participants a tour of the stadium and explaining the process of the new FieldTurf system that is being installed at the facility. When we walked out onto the field, we saw temperature readings shoot from 101 degrees to 137 degrees within minutes once the sun popped out. This is even before they had the infill material in the carpet.

The second day began with Jeff Emgbroff of Hunter Industries speaking on the design aspects of irrigation systems. The group was then split up into three groups that rotated around to three different stations. The three topics we covered were Irrigation head troubleshooting, controller troubleshooting, and valve troubleshooting.

Boyd "Rob" Montgomery, CSFM, is director of facilities and maintenance for Sylvania Recreation Corp., Sylvania, OH, and is treasurer of the Sports Turf Managers Association. He can be reached at turfman@thewavez.com.

STMA seeking Board nominees

The Sports Turf Managers Association's Nominations Committee is seeking individuals who are interested in serving on the STMA board in the following categories: Sports Turf Managers of facilities used by professional teams; Sports Turf Managers of the facilities of schools other than colleges and universities (elementary, middle schools, high schools or junior colleges); and STMA Commercial members.

The STMA board meets four times a year and board members are asked to chair or serve on one or more committees.

Direct nominations and questions to STMAHQ@st.omhcoxmail.com, 800/323-3875.

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has the right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere"

Teddy Roosevelt



One big tent

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey invites the green industry to attend our outdoor fall field day / trade show and equipment demonstration day, Tuesday, August 17, at Plainsboro Township Community Park, Plainsboro, NJ.

As the green industry becomes more specialized and small organizations become established to provide education for their membership, it becomes more and more difficult for supporters of the industry to remain effective. Like pieces of a pie, each organization establishes its part. As the number of organizations grows, the pieces of the pie grow smaller.

It is only through communication and the cooperation of the entire industry that these individual organizations can benefit their membership without being a drain on an industry that otherwise continues to splinter.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is an organization that was established four years ago based on the need for specialized education in the athletic field maintenance area of the green industry. SFMANJ continues to foster cooperation and communication with other organizations dedicated to similar missions. We are committed to establishing and maintaining lines of communication with these organizations to maximize the benefits of their specialized knowledge and expertise, while at the same time minimizing unhealthy competition that only serves to dilute the potential synergistic development of the green industry.

There will be time allotted for spectators to spend time with the equipment dealers and operate any of the equipment being demonstrated. Come show your support to the industry. Registration information can be downloaded from SFMANJ.org on the web or contact us at (908) 730-7770.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:

CSTMA will meet August 6 at the Western Eagle County Metropolitan Recreation District to focus on Topdressing and Overseeding. The Chapter will hold a Painting Workshop at the University of Colorado September 16. For info see www.CSTMA.org or call the Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954, or contact Chapter President Ryan Jensen at 303/464-5687 or rjensen@ci.broomfield.co.us.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:

The Third Annual SFMANJ Outdoor Trade Show and Equipment Demonstration Day will be held August 17 at the Plainsboro Township Community Park. This event has been planned with the support of the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association, The Irrigation Association of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association and will be the largest of its kind in the state. For info call SFMANJ at 908-730-7770 or Eleanora Murfitt-Hermann at 908-236-9118; or e-mail to HQ@sfmanj.org or visit: www.sfmanj.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):

The Chapter will participate in the OSU/OTF Turfgrass Research Field Day to be held at the OTF Research & Education Center at Ohio State August 18. The OSTMA Fall Field Day and Vendor Showcase will be held September 7 at the OSU Intramural Complex Fred Bechman Park. The Chapter also will participate in the OTF Annual Golf Tournament October 5 at the Golf Club of Dublin. For info call 888-824-9805 or 419-824-9805 or Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, at 419-885-1982; or visit www.ostma.org.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA:

The Chapter will participate in the 2004 South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association Conference to be held at the Charleston Convention Center with sports turf focused programs scheduled August 30-31. For a complete schedule of events, including offsite sessions at Collins Park and Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park, home of the Charleston Riverdogs, visit the Chapter website. The Chapter also will participate in Clemson University's Annual Turfgrass Field Day at the University's Madren Center Pavilion September 14. Participants may choose between two optional events that afternoon: playing in the fundraising Golf Tournament at the Walker Course on campus or visiting the University's sports field facilities. For more info, contact Dr. Hale at 843-662-3526 extension 206 or by email at thale@clemson.edu or on the chapter's website www.scstma.org.

Florida Chapter # 1:

Make plans now to attend the Florida Turfgrass Association 52nd Annual Conference & Show to be held September 12-15 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Tampa. The Florida Chapter will lead a tour September 13 beginning at noon. Sites include a local golf course, Raymond James Stadium, and Legends Field. For information on this event, visit the website: www.ftga.org. For info contact John Mascaro at 954-341-3115 or STMA@Turf-Tec.com.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports

Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will hold a general meeting September 15 at UCI. For info, call Eric Johnson, University of Southern California, at

213-821-5654 or email ejohnson@busaff.usc.edu.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):

MiSTMA is planning a half-day hands-on workshop September 21 in the Kalamazoo area. More details will be announced soon. For info contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, Michigan State University, at fouty@ath.msu.edu, or see www.mistma.org.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Chapter will hold a Workshop September 22 at



Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, NE. Event host will be Jesse Cuevas. For info, contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Chapter will participate in the Iowa Chapter's Workshop September 22 at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha. Event host will be Jesse Cuevas. For info, call Loren Humphrey at: 402-461-2324 or email to lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Kentucky Chapter will participate in the Kentucky Turfgrass Council Conference and Trade Show to be held November 9-11. A special Sports Turf Track will take place on November 10. For info see www.kystma.org or contact Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@bats-baseball.com or Donnie Mefford at dbmeff00@email.uky.edu or call him at 859-257-1451.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:

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

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf

Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

Southern California Chapter:

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

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly called 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.

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 Skip Kirby at 770-928-1580 or email skip@sportsturfmanagement.com

Indiana Chapter:

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

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.

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.

Minnesota Chapter STMA:

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 or check out the Chapter website: www.mstma.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:

For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mike Green at 913-888-8055 or mikegreen@3and2baseball.com.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers

Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact: Bob Christofferson at bchristo@mariners.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 www.tvstma.org.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:

The former North Texas Chapter and the former South Texas Chapter have merged to become the Texas Sports Turf Managers Association. The mailing address for the Texas Chapter is: PO Box 1078; Keller, TX 76244; phone is 866-897-8621. Web is www.ntstma.org. The alternate contact is: T. J. Thompson, Treasurer, phone: 972-670-2138 or email: TXturfmanager@prodigy.net

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.



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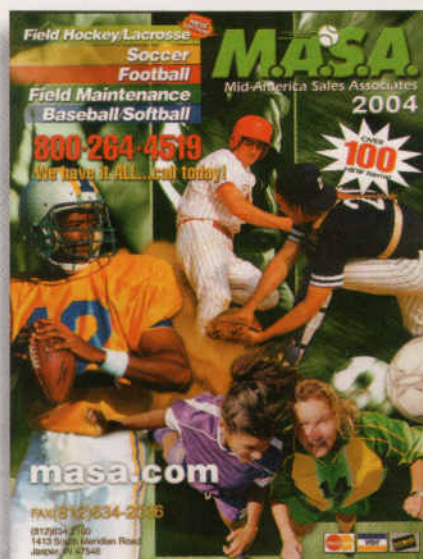
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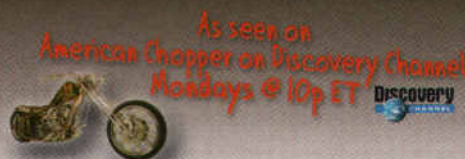
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