Unlike most other field blankets, their Evergreen blanket is made of a permeable material. It is a uniquely woven, translucent polyethylene with a patented lace coating. It is UV treated, rot and mildew resistant, and does not show significant wear or degradation by sunlight even after years of regular use, he adds. Blankets, in general, reduce the risk of water kill, minimize loss of chemicals due to evaporation, and delay dormancy of grass in the fall.

“It’s especially effective on golf courses to prevent wind-caused desiccation in the winter,” Curry says. At the Buffalo Bison’s Dunn Tire stadium, they found that the retained heat encouraged good root development in the early spring when a late fall planting would normally not get off to such a quick start.

A blanket would be great at BYU-Idaho, but budgets interfere. A big challenge at BYU-Idaho is the wind and relatively open, but included with each cover. On baseball fields, sizes range from infield covers to full-field. Similarly, soccer, football and other field sizes can be accommodated.

At RFK Stadium in Washington, DC, when the Redskins played there, they put a blanket on the field every night in the fall and removed it the next day. That tricked the bermudagrass into not going dormant and saved them from having to paint the field. However, as a general rule, a good time to apply a winter turf blanket is about the time bermuda would start to go dormant.

“If you’ve overseeded or sodded, come spring be careful not to get the cover off too early,” Curry says. That can result in cold shock on the new grass.

Many turf managers worry about the growth they see popping through the cover early in the spring. “A good idea is to remove the cover, mow, and then replace it, until temperatures warm up,” Curry says.

**THE BIGGEST THING TO DO FOR WINTER IS TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AN ADEQUATE NUTRIENT RESERVE DOWN FOR THE FIELD.” - WARNICK**

very cold, winter. That makes overseeding in the fall impractical. “I’ve overseeded at other places. But our winter and spring are so harsh that we don’t overseed here. We’re better served by doing it in the spring after the ground starts to thaw,” Warnick says.

“I’d like to use a blanket,” Warnick says, “but we can’t afford it here. I would like to have one at the soccer goal mouths and for other early-spring sports, like the baseball infields and along the foul area near the dugouts.”

Around soccer goal mouths and similar high-use areas, a blanket will give an overseeding a couple of days head start on recovery.

In the spring, there is payback, too, as it takes less time to prepare fields for play. There are always those spots where the turf is simply worn down more than others are. Turf under a blanket comes back better, allowing quick repair on those heavy wear areas.

Handling is easy, Curry says. Simply lay the blanket down and anchor it with the pegs the cover, mow, and then replace it, until temperatures warm up,” Curry says.

**Baseball fields**

Many small colleges start baseball and softball practice as early as mid-February. Minner notes that the practices that work on football and soccer fields are generally applicable to baseball fields.

But some areas, like skin areas, are special cases and often are neglected. “Skin areas are often left to fend for themselves during the winter,” he says. Strong winds will blow infielldirt into the adjacent grassy areas and can cause large lips to build up during the winter.

Boards or slit fences can reduce blowing dirt, Minner says. “Another simple method is to lay down 2x4 boards along the dirt infield and adjacent to grass where the lip usually starts to form. Lay the boards flat and stake them if needed,” he continues. “Dirt piles up on the boards and is easily removed in the spring.”

Minner recommends against using non-selective soil sterilant herbicides on skin areas to prevent weed growth. “It is likely that these materials will find their way into the surrounding turf areas and cause injury,” he notes.

**Other tips**

Traffic control is a key factor in successfully managing any field. “Managing a football field requires coordination among the administrator, coach, band director, and grounds manager,” Minner notes.

“Administrators should keep in mind that proper traffic control costs nothing in terms of dollars and at the same time offers the most effective means of reducing dangerously worn areas on game and practice fields,” he continues.

This is one job where communications skills, not agronomic skills, come to the forefront.

Minner also notes that pre-emergent herbicides, like pendimethalin, can be applied in late fall, following the playing season, to prevent early germinating knotweed that is especially troublesome in high traffic areas.

“Fall-applied, pre-emergent herbicides should not be used in areas of the field where turfgrass seed is used in the fall or spring,” Minner warns.

Lastly, he notes that sod is often a better solution to fixing small wear areas. It is more expensive than seed, but gives an instant solution for worn goal boxes and spots between hash marks.

“Even if the sod doesn’t thoroughly root down in the fall it will give you a jump on the spring season and finish rooting in the spring,” Minner says.

Chris Harrison is a veteran writer who covers turf stories coast to coast.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
This session kicks off with concurrent sessions in 6 areas from 8:00 - 11:15AM.

Concurrent Sessions
8:00 - 11:15AM

TRAFFIC
Moderator: John Stier, Ph.D.,
University of Wisconsin

8:00 - 8:45AM
Investing in Safe High Use Community Fields
Joann Gruttadaurio, Cornell University
Learn ways to communicate effectively the importance of safe sports fields and the benefits and costs of implementing best management practices. Also learn strategies to use when working with and involving community leaders and groups to secure support and resources for managing these high-use sports fields.

8:45 - 9:30AM
Variety Selection and Management of Kentucky Blue Grass
Brad Park, Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey
This presentation will report on the results of a study that examined the effects of seasonal wear applications and individual traffic components on Kentucky bluegrass varieties. It will provide practical information that can aid sports field managers in the selection of Kentucky bluegrass varieties for sports fields.

9:30 - Break

9:45 - 10:30AM
Keeping High Trafficked Athletic Fields Safe and Playable: Going Beyond Traditional Sound Agronomic Practices
Jason Henderson, Ph.D., University of Connecticut
This presentation will cover the latest techniques to solve the perennial challenge of maintaining turfgrass cover on areas of athletic fields that receive the most intense traffic. In addition, this seminar will offer nontraditional methods that will help alleviate this problem.

10:30 - 11:15AM
Management Strategies for Intense Traffic
Mike Goatley, Ph.D., Virginia Tech
This presentation will consider how factors such as turfgrass varietal selection, chemical, cultural, and use management programs can be applied to optimize turf density and playing quality under heavy traffic conditions.

FIELD CONSTRUCTION
Moderator: James McAfee, Ph.D., Texas Cooperative Extension

8:00 - 8:45AM
One Percent is Not Enough
Norman Hummel, Ph.D., Hummel & Co. Inc.
This presentation will discuss some principles of field designs as they relate to surface drainage, a discussion on field surface drainage options, including proper pitch/slope, bypass systems, soil modification, and sand based systems.

8:45 - 9:30AM
Jeffrey L. Bruce, Jeffrey L. Bruce & Co. LLC
This session will demystify writing clear specifications by providing an understanding of the basic organization and structure of specifications. Developing a good solid understanding of specifications systems is critical for the success of anyone that manages construction projects. Learn about the products, services and industry resources available to you as well as common pitfalls of writing construction specifications.

9:30 - Break

9:45 - 10:30AM
Tubby Raymond Field at the University of Delaware
Sam Jones, University of Delaware
Tom Taylor, University of Delaware
Presentation will show the progression of construction and maintenance of this field from "grass and dirt" through a modified Cambridge System to a 100% sand based system. Included will be the team approach to restoring a field with reps from Athletics, Grounds Services and Facilities Planning and Construction. After a disastrous 2005 game in heavy rain the relocation of the next home game to the opponent's field due to poor field conditions, the University of Delaware made a commitment to make emergency repairs to finish the 2005 season and to build a new field ready for play in September 2006.

10:30 - 11:15AM
Do I Have to Rebuild my Field?
John Mascaro, TurfTec International
We will look at a series of over 100 photographs showing how to know when it is time to re-build your field. From visual testing to testing with ASTM Standards, you can determine how good or bad your field is and whether it is time for reconstruction. If reconstruction is necessary, we will look at the new ASTM Standards for doing it with some old school knowledge. If the field doesn't need reconstruction, we will look at how to bring it back to life.

ECO-BALANCED ATHLETIC FIELDS
Moderator: Grady Miller, Ph.D., North Carolina State University

8:00 - 8:45AM
Minimizing Pesticides - Innovative Solutions for Intensely Trafficked Fields
Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D., Cornell University
Learn how to manage high traffic sports turf with limited inputs and especially no pesticides. It stresses identifying your high traffic areas and focusing your inputs where you need them most.

8:45 - 9:30AM
Competitive Turf: Overseeding for Weed Management
Eric M. Lyons, University of Guelph
In sports field management, overseeding is primarily used to facilitate quick recovery from

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9:30 - Break

9:45 - 10:30AM
Bringing Synthetic Turf to Life
Jay Warnick, CSFM, BYU-Idaho
A discussion about the impacts of synthetic turf on our industry, and the facilities we work at. Some tips on how to enter into the planning phase and making sure your voice is heard.

10:30 - 11:15AM
What You Need to Know About Synthetic Surfaces
Mark Nicholls, Sportexe
This presentation will provide detailed discussions regarding the key items to consider before purchasing a synthetic surface and how to maintain synthetic surfaces professionally.

BASEBALL INFIELD MIXES
Moderator: Craig Potts, Texas A&M University
8:00 - 8:45AM
Infield Management for all Levels of Participation
Mike Schiller, CSFM, Lake Forest Academy
This session will cover infield management at all levels of competition. You will be shown pictures and techniques that have been seen or used over the last 36 years. Various types of materials available for infield maintenance will be discussed.

8:45 - 9:30AM
Maintaining Skin Area in the NCAA Environment
Kris Harris, Georgia Tech.
Theories on infield skin maintenance and why they may not work for you. A normal day of infield skin maintenance, and why it all starts in December.

9:30 - Break

9:45 - 10:30AM
Evaluating Skinned Infield Maintenance Procedures
James Brozman, Penn State University
This presentation will review the results of a study of skinned infield maintenance procedures conducted at Penn State in 2006. The affects of various levels of sub-base compaction, soil texture, calcined clay application rates, dragging practices, and irrigation regimes on ball bounce (pace), surface hardness, and traction will be discussed. Pennbounce, a unique piece of research equipment designed to measure the pace of skinned infield, will be discussed as well.

10:30 - 11:15AM
East and West Coast Infield Variations
Bill Deacon, New York Mets
This presentation will focus on differences and similarities in managing infield at the professional level on the East and West Coasts. It will also include what changes we have made at Shea Stadium this past year.

SYNTHETIC FIELDS
Moderator: Darian Daily, Cincinnati Bengals
8:00 - 8:45AM
The New Synthetics: Where We Are 7 Years Later
Webb Cook, A-Turf, Inc.
Join this open format where you can discuss the management of the new synthetics, the different issues we are now seeing on fields that are five years and older, and focus on specific experiences that a number of different turf managers have seen with these types of fields.

8:45 - 9:30AM
The Replacement Process of a Synthetic Field
Debra Kneeshaw, City of Portland Parks and Recreation
Continued on page 18
Synthetic Turf Groomer with GreensSlicer® Spring Tine Rake.

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Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Green lines on grass in winter
Turfgrass Area: Grass tennis courts
Location: Northern Central U.S.
Grass Variety: Bentgrass

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 38
John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International
SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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To register call: 1-800-323-3875
or www.sportsturfmanager.org
This session will talk about ways to involve volunteers in our field maintenance calendar.

9:30 - Break

9:45 - 10:30AM
Communicating with Coaches
Eric Fasbender, University of Oregon
Believe it or not, coaches can play a key role in how our fields look and perform. This session will explain how to communicate effectively with your coaches to eliminate their headaches as well as yours.

10:30 - 11:15AM
Behind the Scenes at Beaver Stadium-A View from the Crew
Paul Curtis, Penn State University
The talk provides an insight into what our crew does at Penn State, ideas and inventions we have come up with and questions will be answered from anyone who wants to see how a “guy on the crew” would react to ideas they have.

GENERAL SESSION
1:00 - 4:00PM

1:00PM
General Session 1 - International Development in Sports Turf Management

Introductory Remarks - STMA President Michael Trigg, CSFM
Superintendent of Parks, Waukegan Park District

Program Highlights - David Minner, Ph.D.
Iowa State University

Turfgrass Research - Trey Rogers, Ph.D.
Michigan State University

Safety Research - John Orchard, Ph.D.
University of New South Wales, Australia

Innovative Practices - Martyn Jones
National Turfgrass Foundation, Manchester UK

2:45 - 3:00PM Break

3:00PM
General Session 2
Keynote Address by Roy Firestone
Critically acclaimed for his work in broadcast journalism, Firestone has won seven Emmy Awards and seven Cable ACE Awards. He has interviewed more than 5,000 people, including nearly every major sports figure. An accomplished singer, impressionist, and humorist, Firestone will deliver a thought provoking message in a vibrant multimedia show.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
8:00 - 10:00AM
STMA Student Challenge presented in partnership with the SAFE Foundation
Moderator: Jeff Salmond

Concurrent Sessions
8:00AM - 10:00AM

SCHOOLS K-12
Moderator: Lance Tibbetts, CSFM

8:00 - 8:30AM
Understanding Mathematics for Pesticide/Fertilizer Applications
Mark Hall, Texas A&M University
This presentation will provide an explanation and examples of concepts such as rate/analysis, equalities and cancellation of units in calculations commonly encountered in turf grass management.

8:30 - 9:00AM
Avoiding Pitfalls in Sports Field Construction
James McAfee, Ph.D., Texas Cooperative Extension and Tommy Burnside, Burnside Services, Inc.
Improper construction/renovation of sports fields in Texas is a common problem. This presentation will cover the basic steps to make sure proper specifications are developed for the job and show how to monitor the actual construction/renovation project.

9:00 - 9:30AM
Aerification Program for Sports Fields for Maximum Results
Larry Rider, Turfgrass Professionals/Texas
Learn how to assess your aerification program, how to maximize the benefits of aerification, and how to schedule aerification programs.

9:30 - 10:00AM
Developing A Weed Control Program for Your Sports Field
Hemen Cummings, Ph.D., Tarleton State University
What has worked in the past and what will work in the future to control weeds in sports turf is presented for managers with varying equipment, budgets, time, and expectations. Weed control programs do not solely rely on herbicides for weed management. Find out what you can adapt to your program.

PARKS & REC
Moderator: Chris Calcaterra, CSFM

8:00 - 8:30AM
Designing Irrigation Systems for Large Sports Field Complexes
Brad Waters, Rain Bird

8:30 - 9:00AM
Controlling Fire Ants and Other Insects on Sports Fields
Jim Reinert, Texas A&M University
This presentation will cover all turf insects/mites and fire ants as they impact sports fields. Their behavior, biology and management (cultural, and chemical/biological) will be outlined.

9:00 - 9:30AM
Managing Large Sport Field Complexes
Miles Studhalter, FC Dallas/Pizza Hut Park
This presentation will give an overview of Pizza Hut Park, talk about daily maintenance, talk about events, number and type of events, and construction challenges.

9:30 - 10:00AM
Understanding Mathematics for Pesticide/Fertilizer Applications
Mark Hall, Texas A&M University
See 8:00am-8:30am program for description.
**PROFESSIONAL FIELDS**

*Improving Your Value and Resume Building*

Ross Kurcab, CSFM, Denver Broncos

Being a successful sports turf manager involves so much more than skills in the field. Today's sports turf managers can become a most integral part of the organizational plan, and in turn, they can elevate their position and professionalism. Whether you are a new rookie, or a wily veteran, you need to “Brand” yourself and your operation as a professional.

*Nutrient Management Strategies for Sand Based Sports Fields*

Richard H. White, Ph.D., Texas A&M University

This workshop will provide participants with the knowledge to develop a nutrient management plan for sand based sports fields that enhances turfgrass performance and that is environmentally sound.

*Building and Managing Infield Dirt in a 2-Sport Venue*

Larry DiVito, Washington Nationals

RFK Stadium in Washington, DC is the only venue in the country that hosts 2 major professional sports simultaneously from April to October and maintenance of the field requires creative thinking and flexible planning.

*New Field - Heavy Event Schedule, Manage to Survive*

Abby McNeal, CSFM, AEG/Toyota Park

Toyota Park opened up in June, almost halfway thru the MLS season and still has hosted 16 home games. The talk will be about how the staff handled the heavy loaded event schedule, including two concerts to home game turnouts, with a young field.

**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY**

*Benefits of Silicon in Turf*

Lawrence Datnoff, Ph.D., University of Florida

This presentation will cover the benefits of silicon in the life and performance of turfgrass. General information will be given about silicon in soil, plants, and its affects on abiotic (i.e., heat stress, drought stress, mineral toxicities and wear tolerance) and biotic (plant disease and insects) stress.
Program 2007

8:30 - 9:00AM
Using New Heat Tolerant Kentucky Bluegrass Varieties in Sports Fields
Travis Thuton, University of Missouri-Columbia
This presentation will include fertility, mowing height, and herbicide tolerances of the new heat tolerant Kentucky bluegrass varieties.

9:00 - 9:30AM
Understanding Surface Related Injuries
James Brosnan, Penn State University
This presentation will review the different types of surface related injuries that can occur in athletics, and will explain how excessively hard playing surfaces can cause injury.

9:30 - 10:00AM
Don't Paint Yourself into a Corner: Know What's in Your Paint!
Richard H. White, Ph.D., Texas A&M University
This presentation will outline the reasons and preventions for acute and chronic injury to natural grass fields by field marking paints and colorants.

PLAY IT AGAIN - POPULAR PROGRAMS REPEATED
Moderator: Jay Warnick, CSFM

8:00 - 8:30AM
Variety Selection and Management of Kentucky Bluegrass
Brad Park, Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey
This presentation will report on the results of traffic tolerance trials conducted at Rutgers University on National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) Kentucky bluegrass tests as well as research about seasonal wear applications and individual traffic components on Kentucky bluegrass varieties. This research provides information that can aid sports field managers in the selection of Kentucky bluegrass varieties for sports fields.

8:30 - 9:00AM
One Percent is Not Enough
Norman Hummel, Ph.D., Hummel & Co., Inc.
This presentation will discuss some principles of field design as they relate to surface drainage, a discussion on field surface drainage options, including proper pitch/slopes, bypass systems, soil modification, and sand based systems.

9:00 - 9:30AM
Bringing Synthetic Turf to Life
Jay Warnick, CFSM, BYU-Idaho
A discussion about the impacts of synthetic turf on our industry, and the facilities we work at. Some tips on how to enter into the planning phase and making sure your voice is heard.

9:30 - 10:00AM
Evaluating Skinned Infield Maintenance Procedures
James Brosnan, Penn State University
This presentation will review the results of a study of skinned infield maintenance procedures conducted at Penn State in 2006. The affects of various levels of sub-base compaction, soil texture, calcined clay application rates, dragging practices, and irrigation regimes on ball bounce (pace), surface hardness, and traction will be discussed. Pumbounce, a unique piece of research equipment designed to measure the pace of skinned infields, will be discussed as well.

Friday PM Workshops:
3:00 - 5:15 PM

Workshop #1 Maximizing Limited Budgets - Rational Decisions About Products and Field Management
Robert Carrow, Ph.D., University of Georgia/Griffin Campus
This presentation focuses on how to make rational and economic decisions for selecting new products and technologies by: a) determining how to identify primary, secondary, and perceived but non-existent problems, so that products/technologies can be targeted to real/basic problems; b) clarifying areas of confusion such as soil amendments, biostimulants, soil microbial additives, foliar applied materials, etc., and c) providing common-sense guidelines to determine when to use a new product or technology.

Workshop #2

The Ten Commandments of Environmental Turf Craft
Kevin Trotta, North Rockland Central School District
This presentation will address the art and science of sports turf management and environmental stewardship.

Workshop #3 A Panel Discussion on Rubber Infill Systems
Leader: Darian Daily, Cincinnati Bengals
Debra Kneeshaw, City of Portland Parks & Recreation
Jay Warnick, BYU-Idaho
Mark Nicholls, Sportexe
An interactive discussion about the issues impacting rubber infill systems, including manufacturing and sales, construction and maintenance.

Workshop #4 Student Workshop
Work or Graduate School, What I Need to Know
Leader: Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries
This workshop is designed to help you determine which path is right for you: graduate school or entering the workforce.

Putting My Education to Work
David Bicknell, Texas Rangers
How Your Education Can Benefit My Facility
Rachel Volkening, CSFM, Milwaukee Brewers
Transitioning Your Bachelors Degree to an Advanced Degree
John Sorohan, Ph.D., University of Tennessee
A Graduate Student's Perspective on Graduate School
Graduate Student Scholarship Winner

Workshop #5
Van Cline, Ph.D., The Toro Company
Several technologies are emerging that will help...

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