

Minner reported the field did not need re-sodding but instead efforts were made to re-grow the turf in the gouged out areas of the field.

About 6 weeks after the tornado, Coach Thomas said the town's mood was positive. "We are moving forward all the time. We are on target to be ready for the home opener September 5, but without the help of Joe Wagner, Dave Minner and all those Iowa sports turf managers, we wouldn't have had a chance to be playing football," said Thomas.

Each of the four NFL players has been back to Parkersburg several times since the tornado. Casey Wiegmann, 13 years in the league as a center, was an undrafted free agent. Jared DeVries of the Detroit Lions has been in the league 10 years, Green Bay's Aaron Kampman seven years, and Jacksonville center Brad Meester nine years. A fundraiser held in late June netted more than \$250,000 to help rebuild the school's athletic programs, including funds from the NFL, the coach said.

List of volunteer contributors

The following people and companies donated to the Parkersburg High fields' reconstruction:

- **Redline/Gary Larson**, 50 tons of topdressing and trucking
- **Musco Lighting/Todd Stych**, field lighting and installation
- **Pace Supply/Denny St. Germain**, two pallets of clay bricks/ mound clay/bases for two fields/trucking fees
- **Mike Andresen/Iowa State**, 250 lbs bluegrass blend
- **Floratine/Brent Smith**, Germanx/ Calflex/soil test
- **Commercial Turf/Bryan Wood**, two seeders/tractor and operator
- **Tri State Turf/Steve Cuthforth & Toro/Dale Getz**, CSFM, two mowers/reel & rotary/utility vehicle
- **Joe Wagner**, 250 lbs bluegrass blend
- **Randall Transit**, 17 tons of dirt/trucking fees
- **Hunter Industries/Lynda Wightman**, irrigation controllers
- **Chris Schlosser & Iowa Cubs staff**, rebuilt baseball field ■

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5 extra minutes

By Kerry Page

In my 22 years as a sports turf manager, I have shared advice with a lot of managers, supervisors, and employees of parks, fields, and sports facilities. But the most important advice ever given to me came from my grandfather. I can still hear him saying, "The difference in being first class or second class is 5 minutes."

He made this statement one day while watching me work on a flower bed. I was hot and tired and ready to get through. Granddaddy was a very simple, plain spoken man. He looked at my flower bed, said his piece, and walked away. I looked at him as he walked off, looked back at my work and thought, "What is he talking about?"



Kerry Page at work.

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— Mark Moran,
pro-turf manager
Atlee High School, VA



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The difference in being first class or second class is 5 minutes.

But as I got older and started working on sports fields, I realized exactly what he was saying to me. Something can look good, but spending 5 more minutes working would make it look great. I began to apply that statement to everything I worked on.

My fields always looked great and I received a lot of praise from the people who use them. But I wanted to be even better so I elected to apply this motto to my entire life. I began to improve my relationship with God, and with my family. I developed an idea about what character really is and I started to practice my beliefs. I began to give God 5 minutes more to work in my life. And I gave my family that extra 5 minutes.

Soon this spilled over to the way I treated people. I gave everyone those 5 extra minutes to explain, teach, or learn. I strive to make them feel

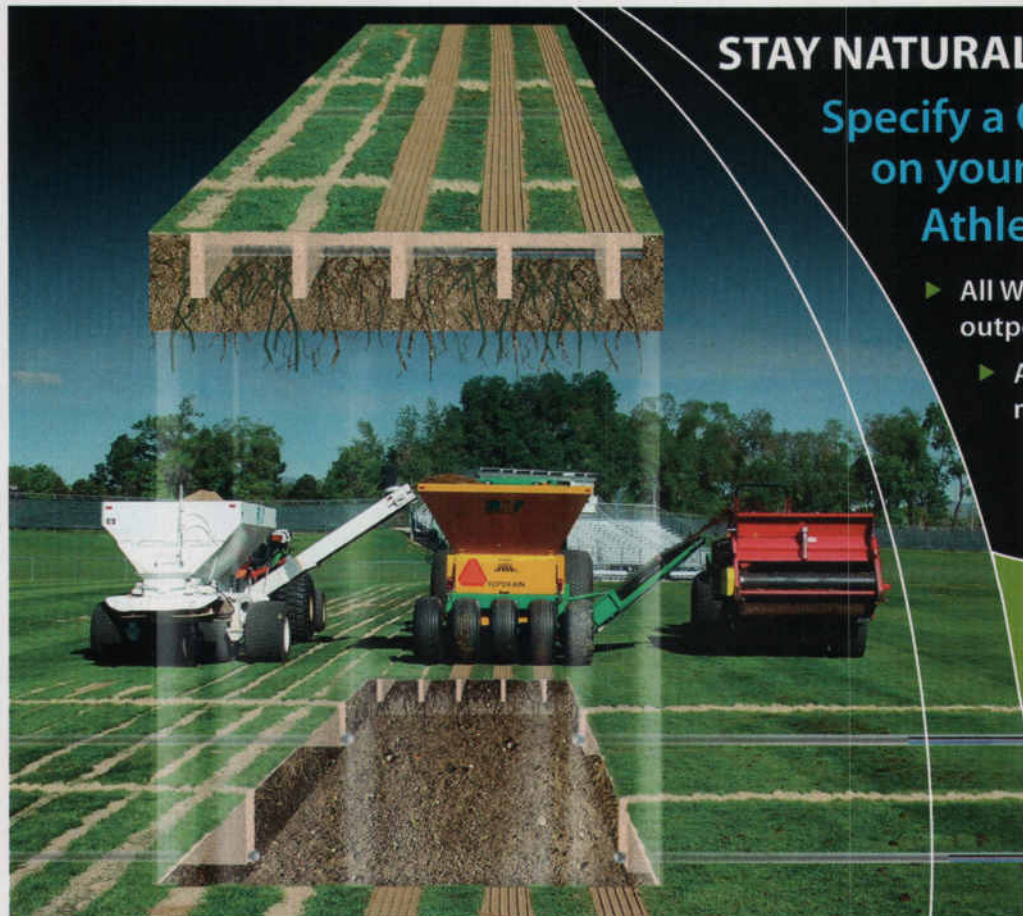


Kerry with sons Nathan and Jonathan.

first class. The return reward is that lots of people improve their own life and I have a part in that improvement.

Yes, my grandfather was right about those 5 minutes. And he was right too, when he said that when we die, they will put that turf on top of your grave, so, "Grow the best grass you can grow." ■

Kerry Page is Athletic Fields Supervisor, Itawamba Community College, Fulton, MS.



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The FieldTurf surface at Ohio State's "Horseshoe."

Maintenance guidelines from the STC, Part II

As synthetic turf's popularity increases, it's important to know the value of proper synthetic turf maintenance. Putting time into your field, even for a couple of hours each week, will keep it looking well-maintained, and more importantly maintain its safety characteristics, and add to the field's longevity. The following is an edited version of the Synthetic Turf Council's (STC) Maintenance Manual, published in 2007. The first half appeared in the July issue, page 26.

Frequency

A change in the use patterns and the intensity of play can influence the frequency of maintenance. The manufacturer should be consulted to recommend an initial maintenance schedule. It may take up to 6 months for the infill to finally settle into the pile of the synthetic turf.

Environmental/climatic and use conditions may affect the final settling. Testing of the synthetic surface should occur as noted in the "Suggested Guidelines for the Essential Elements of Synthetic Turf Systems," available at www.syntheticurfCouncil.org.

Special conditions. A synthetic turf system would normally be supplied with permanently inlaid play lines. The number of sports to be included and whether the lines are to be inlaid or painted on the surface should be decided prior to construction. If additional lines are required for special events or changes in the sports being played, these can be painted onto the surface using proprietary or recommended paints. Some of these are more effective than others and consultation with the manufacturer is essential. Permanent, semi-permanent, or temporary effects can be determined ahead of time. Marking

compounds for natural grass should not be used.

Permanent lines require no special attention other than checking how secure they are affixed. Such a check, as a minimum, should also be made at every grooming session of the seams in the synthetic turf field. Any breakdown of the seams at lines or in the main covering should be immediately remedied in order to avoid ongoing deterioration and to help prevent tripping hazards.

Most stains can be removed easily with a solution of hot (not boiling) water and a manufacturer's approved household detergent. Removal of chewing gum can be simplified by making the gum brittle with a proprietary aerosol freezing material. Any other contamination requires the turf manufacturer's individual consultation and determination of what course of action is to be taken.

Snow and ice are not harmful and can be permitted to melt. If it is urgent to remove the

snow in order to allow play, brushes may be used. If the area to be cleared is a full field size, logistics of transporting and disposing of snow may prove prohibitive. It is not advisable to use mechanical snow removal equipment other than the equipment recommended by the manufacturer of the field.

Footwear and general care. Suitable footwear should always be used. Most shoe manufacturers make footwear specifically designed for the sport played. Most long pile systems are designed to take a normal soccer stud but, if any doubt exists, the manufacturer of the field should be consulted.

External contaminants. It is strongly recommended that smoking and the use of chewing gum be prohibited on the field. These activities can cause permanent damage and affect the maintenance process. Whenever possible, use patterns should be evenly distributed over the entire field; i.e., alternating usage patterns should be employed. The way a field is used can have a significant long-term effect on the quality of the surface and its playing characteristics.

When activities are concentrated in one location or a more frequently used pattern, the surface will have a tendency to harden and infill displacement can take place. This could have a negative effect or bypass the performance characteristic criteria. Such areas need a higher concentration of maintenance than areas where the surface is not used to the same extent. Even when the surface is not used, it still requires maintenance to deter deterioration. The intensity of such maintenance should be discussed with the manufacturer and/or qualified maintenance contractor. Maintenance input is dependent upon the extent to which a field is used and the effectiveness of the maintenance operations. End-users and owners of the field are to maintain a log of all maintenance operations so it can be analyzed.

Excessive brushing can cause fiber damage (splitting) which, at first, has a tendency to make the surface feel softer but in the long run destroys its performance characteristics. Insufficient maintenance contributes to contamination and compacting.

Use of the field, the quality of the system, and the geographical location will determine the type and frequency of maintenance appropriate to the fiber. This should be discussed with the designer and manufacturer when selecting a system and at the time of the completion and acceptance of the field. Any effects upon the maintenance schedule due to a change of use or condition of the field should be discussed at the completion of the installation as a contingency.

Tools and equipment. Experience has demonstrated that the longevity of the field and the effectiveness of the maintenance are very much dependent upon the use of proper tools and equipment and the skills of the operator. The criteria and specification of the tools and equipment to be used should be understood at the time the field is accepted by the owner/user.

The type and quality of the equipment should be suited to the use and construction of the field. Proper selection is an essential element to the successful application of the maintenance procedures. The desired performance of the equipment





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A synthetic turf system would normally be supplied with permanently inlaid play lines.

must be able to restore the characteristics of the surface without damage. It is essential that a discussion take place between the provider, the maintenance equipment manufacturer, and the owner prior to acceptance of the field. Pre-testing of the equipment on location may assist in the selection process.

Proper watering. When a field is to be watered, distribution should be evenly applied over the entire area. The surface should be dampened and not soaked or saturated. Clean water should be used at all times for this purpose.

Use of vehicles. Turning should be done in a wide radius to avoid sharp turns. The vehicle should turn its wheels only when in motion. All vehicles should circulate at

slow speeds and abrupt and sudden braking

should be avoided as well as sudden acceleration or spinning of the wheels, especially on wet surfaces. Load limits to be determined by the designer/manufacture. All vehicles must be checked before use to determine oil or gas leaks. If such are found, they should be repaired before entry onto the field.

A log of all maintenance operations carried out after acceptance of the field should be maintained by the field/grounds manager in order to facilitate the analysis of any irregularities.

It is important that each and every maintenance operation, no matter how minor, be recorded in the log.

Maintenance agreement. An agreement should be reached as to who shall have the responsibility of conducting the maintenance

and who shall have the responsibility of the attendant cost of that maintenance for the synthetic field. Several options are available. Normally the responsibility is accepted by the owner, who may perform the maintenance with their own equipment and personnel.

Maintenance can also be subcontracted to a qualified maintenance contractor or the responsibility for maintenance can be contracted as an additional service with the provider/manufacture of the synthetic turf system. Such understanding should be reached no later than at the completion of the facility.

NOTE: It should be understood that every system is unique in its design and purpose to suit the needs (requirements) of the activities applied to the surface. This document provides guidelines for the essential elements of the maintenance process. Other considerations may present themselves outside the scope of the STC maintenance manual. Such considerations should not be ignored or minimized and can usually be addressed by industry specialists, consultants, or experienced designers/engineers.

Issues requiring attention may be: event preparation, watering of the surface, break-in period, settling of the infill, training of maintenance personnel, specifics of unusual contaminants, assignment of field security personnel, covering (or not) of the surface due to inclement weather, extreme temperature conditions, attributes of cleaning products, cleaning of footwear, frequency of field compliance reviews, etc. ■

This information provided by the Synthetic Turf Council, www.syntheticurf.org.



Courtesy of Redexim Charterhouse

Normal Maintenance

- **Daily:** Check the field after each day's use for distribution and condition of the heavily played areas.
- **Weekly:** Brush the surface of the field with a static (non-rotary) double brush including simultaneous vacuum devices to redistribute the infill, maintain vertical fibers, and a level playing "use" field.
- **Monthly:** Check infill levels, seams, inlaid lines, etc., and report failures (if any) to the manufacturer. Also check for over compaction and de-compact as may be necessary. It is essential that the appropriate equipment is used in order to achieve the specified performance criteria.
- **Periodically:** At least once a year a full grooming session should take place brushing (rotating unit), vacuuming, de-compacting, and grooming (static brush). Topdress with new infill may be required. Contact the manufacturer if any aspect of the maintenance process is causing a significant concern.

NOTE: These are minimum recommendations. Common sense and careful observation should prevail. If any serious doubt exists about the effectiveness of the maintenance regime or the condition of the field, contact with the manufacturer.

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Champion teams, Champion turf crew

Carroll College, Helena, MT, and sports turf manager Gerald Landby won the 2007 STMA College/University Soccer Field of the Year. Here's an interview with Landby:

SportsTurf: What's the most important piece of equipment or product in your program?

Landby: The most important is the many people who helped Carroll

College achieve this recognition. My crew, Justin Pearson and Dave Sorensen, is the core of the grounds department, and my supervisor, Tom McCarvel, are key but there are many others, too many to mention here. The Carroll College community: students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff, administration and Board of Trustees, we all know our community is our family. And last but not least, the athletes and coaches of the sports pro-



(L to R): Dave Sorensen, Gerald Landby, and Justin Pearson, crew for Carroll College turf. They pose with the college's 2007 NAIA Region 1 Soccer Championship and 2007 NAIA Football National Championship trophies, as well as their Field of the Year award.

John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

**Answer:
from page 18**



After being awoken from an earthquake that rattled Louisville in April 2008, the sports turf crew arrived at Louisville Slugger Field only to find this odd undulation in Center Field. As it turns out, the site of this stadium built in 1998 was located on a former industrial site that was home to a warehouse built in 1889. This warehouse also was used as a train station warehouse for the city. When the stadium was built, all sorts of things were found buried on the site like train boxcars, trucks as well as two massive concrete holding tanks. Some of the large debris was removed and others too large to move were simply

left behind and covered over with five feet of soil before construction began. It is the sports turf crew's best guess that during the magnitude 5.2 earthquake, one of the concrete holding tanks left behind during construction must have shifted and caused the playing surface to heave, leaving behind this uneven area. No significant damage was done to the turf, only a few man hours to level out the area that was damaged around an irrigation head.

Photo submitted by Eric Harshman, assistant groundskeeper for the Louisville Bats Baseball Club in Louisville, KY. Tom Nielsen is the head groundskeeper.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of *SportsTurf* magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.

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Verti-Top

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Verti-Groom

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Verti-Air

The Verti-Air utilizes a rotary brush and turbine compressed air to lift all material out of the turf, dry and filter the material, sift out the debris and return the clean, dry and decompact infill back into the turf.



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FIELD OF THE YEAR



Carroll College's Nelson Stadium, STMA 2007 Field of the Year

grams. Thank you for your accomplishments! Thank you for believing! I share this honor with each of you.

I don't see any product or piece of equipment as a stand alone for Nelson Stadium. Everything works as part of the overall plan, which can be a challenge as I have limited funds, staff, and equipment. If I was to promote one thing besides the people; it would be aeration! But obviously our Toro 3500D Sidewinder is very valuable.

ST: What are your biggest challenges and how do you approach them?

Landby: Our women's soccer team and foot-

ball team use Nelson Stadium and both have been playing and practicing deep into the playoffs, often into mid-December; in the past four seasons, we've hosted nine post-season games here.

The biggest challenge is also the biggest reward! I believe every sports turf manager wants to see the athletes succeed every season. I have been very fortunate to witness continued success of our soccer and football athletes on the 8 acres of athletic fields we maintain. This success brings more demands and expectations; often without budget dollars and funding.

I am seeing use begin in March and lasting

until mid-December but the grass only grows from end of April to early November.

The summer of 2007 was one when all my worst concerns came together. I was not able to hire summer labor due to limited budget. I was very limited in what I could do on campus. Since I am responsible for the grounds of a 65-acre campus, my responsibilities go beyond sports turf. Using funds in the Grounds budget, I was able to outsource campus mowing except for the athletic fields. Working with Athletics, I was able to order materials for the athletic fields. I outsourced deep tine aeration.