

From the Sidelines



Eric Schroder
Editorial Director

eschroder@m2media360.com

717-805-4197

Love for turf management starts early

PERHAPS TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT'S ANSWER TO MIKE TROUT AND BRYCE HARPER, a young phenom has emerged who not only manages his field but also plays on it and owns it (well, sort of). I received an email over the summer from a 14-year-old youngster touting the wiffleball field he had built in his backyard. The email was signed "Eddie Zajdel, Head Grounds Keeper and player, Plymouth Brewers, Plymouth MI."

It read: "It all started 2009 when I constructed a little mound on the grass without my dad's permission. He was a little mad but soon saw all the [fun] I was getting out of it, so then he let me carve out a keyhole and batters box for the rest of that season, he said but then I finally convinced him to build the rest of the field, which took about 3 days.



"Since then I have been making it better. [My goals] are to 'sods up' all along the lip edges and create a gate for anyone who wants to enter and indeed to protect it from the family dog. Currently we have 5 flood lights up and working and plan to install another 2 before the World Series. We also are having a home run derby and All Star Game on the 11th and 12th of July after a donation of red infield conditioner from Diamond Pro. Then the Brewers play by play radio announcer, Joe Block,

is planning to come and announce a game during our World Series. Later this year I am going to meet the Tigers' head groundskeeper, Heather Nabozny, for the second time.

I emailed Eddie and asked if he wanted to be a groundskeeper when he grew up. "Yes I do. I find passion in grass and dirt and I also enjoy getting my name out there. I like the feeling I get when I work on [the field]; it is a feeling that's very hard to explain but I know it's good because I always want to learn more and work harder."

Did he build a hitter's park or a pitcher's? "I would pretty much call it a hitter's park because the distances are short and the field is kind of enclosed which makes or ideal for homerun hitters," Eddie replied. He said he hadn't won his own World Series yet because he always loses to his cousin, who plays for the Westland Tigers.

"One thing that I wish to accomplish in the future is not only becoming a groundskeeper but creating something like a public wiffleball field and starting up a league but the problem is the money," he concluded.

Sounds like Eddie is already well-seasoned in many a turf manager's lament! ■

SportsTurf

1030 W. Higgins Road
Suite 230
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Phone 847-720-5600
Fax 847-720-5601

The Official Publication Of The Sports Turf
Managers Association

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

President: James Michael Goatley, Jr., Ph.D.
Immediate Past President: Troy Smith, CSFM
President-Elect: Martin K. Kaufman, CSFM
Secretary/Treasurer: David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP
Vice-President Commercial: Rene Asprion
Professional Facilities: Allen Johnson, CSFM
Academic: Jeffrey Fowler
Parks & Recreation: Debra Kneeshaw
Higher Education: Jeffrey Salmond, CSFM
K-12: Michael Tarantino, CSFM
Commercial: James Graff
At Large: Jay Warnick, CSFM
At Large: Ron Hostick, CSFM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Kim Heck

STMA Office
805 New Hampshire Suite E
Lawrence, Ks 66044
Phone 800-323-3875 Fax 800-366-0391
Email STMAinfo@STMA.org
www.STMA.org

Editorial
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Charles Forman
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Eric Schroder
TECHNICAL EDITOR Dr. James Brosnan
ART DIRECTOR Brian Snook
PRODUCTION MANAGER Karen Kalinyak

STMA Editorial Communications Committee
Jim Cornelius, CSFM, Jason Henderson, PhD, Paul Hollis, Clayton Hubbs, Joshua McPherson, CSFM, Brad Park, David Schlotthauer, & Grant Spear



SportsTurf (ISSN 1061-687X) (USPS 000-292) (Reg. U.S. Pat. & T.M. Off.) is published monthly by m2media360, a Bev-Al Communications company at 1030 W. Higgins Road, Suite 230, Park Ridge, IL 60068. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sportsturf, PO Box 4290, Port Jervis, NY 12771.** For subscription information and requests, call Subscription Services at (845) 856-2229. Subscription rates: 1 year, \$40 US & Poss.; 2 years, \$65 US & Poss.; 1 year, \$65 Canada/Foreign Surface, 1 year, \$130 Airmail. All subscriptions are payable in advance in US funds. Send payments to Sportsturf, PO Box 4290, Port Jervis, NY 12771. Phone: (845) 856-2229. Fax: (845) 856-5822. Single copies or back issues, \$8 each US/Canada; \$12 Foreign. Periodicals postage paid at Park Ridge, IL and additional mailing offices. COPYRIGHT 2012, SportsTurf. Material may not be reproduced or photocopied in any form without the written permission of the publisher.