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Seven times a winner.

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Turf wizard George Toma first chose Ph.D.® the turf-type ryegrass overseeding blend, when preparing the turf for Super Bowl XIV in 1981.

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Team™ — (bifenox+trifluralin, Elanco)
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TeamTM on fertilizer.

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VOLUME SIX, NUMBER THREE

MARCH 1990

MAIN EVENTS

12 **LEGION FIELD: CENTERPIECE OF TOWN'S 150-YEAR BASEBALL TRADITION**

In 1839, the small farming community of Marshall, MN, located 180 miles southwest of Minneapolis, cleared a patch of ground on the outskirts of the city for a novelty called baseball. The sport caught on quickly and brought the residents together. Although Legion Field was moved in 1911 to make room for the growing city, it has always served as a centerpiece for Marshall's historic baseball tradition. The fact that Legion Field was voted the best municipal baseball facility in the Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards is a tribute to the city's long-lived fondness for the game. The team that makes Legion Field sparkle consists of the park department, the school district, the Marshall Baseball Association, and consultant Mark Altman. By paying special attention to the field's soil conditions and detailed maintenance, the team produced a diamond which rivals those in the Major League.

22 **DRAINAGE PROJECT HELPS REVITALIZE COUNTRY CLUB**

Valley Country Club in Aurora, CO, is a family-oriented club situated on the banks of Cherry Creek southwest of Denver. Since it was built in 1955, the club has survived floods, droughts, a poor economy, and competition from newer courses. But each left its mark and forced the club to reevaluate its condition after 25 years. Today, after a series of major improvements, Valley Country Club is a shining example of what a private club can do to revitalize its condition and membership. The first improvement, and the one that has made a huge difference to the course's quality, is a new drainage system. In addition, the club now boasts a new clubhouse, a computerized irrigation system using effluent water, and a near-full golf membership.

LINE-UP

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COVER: Legion Field has served amateur baseball in Marshall, MN, since 1911. Baseball has been played in the city since 1839. Photo Courtesy: Mark Altman.

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They're ready on the beaches for the 1991 U.S. Open assault

Narrow fairways, long rough, strategic bunkers and lightning-fast greens. Welcome to the U.S. Open—the toughest major test in golf.

Preparing a course for this kind of battle is no easier than playing it. It takes years of hard work. Fortunately, Certified Golf Course Superintendent Chris Hague and Minnesota's Hazeltine National—site of the 1991 U.S. Open—have been there before.

"I've been here since 1982," says Hague, "and the club has prepared for two U.S. Women's Opens, the PGA Grand Slam and the U.S. Seniors Open since hosting its first U.S. Open in 1970.

"Our John Deere equipment has been a big help this time around. I've got 15 John Deere machines that we've used in everything from course reconstruction to daily maintenance.

"The new 1200 Bunker and Field Rake has been a very pleasant surprise. We've found that it does a better job and is physically easier to operate than other machines we've tried. The style of the rake fits with our plan to keep firm, smooth bunkers. In fact, it's done such a good job that it was the only machine we allowed in our bunkers all last year."

For the name of your nearest distributor, or free literature on all John Deere Golf and Turf Equipment, call 1-800-544-2122 toll free or write John Deere, Dept. 956, Moline, IL 61265. We know, like Chris Hague, you're going to like what you see.

Superintendent Chris Hague depends on a John Deere 1200 Bunker and Field Rake to help groom one of Hazeltine National's more than 100 bunkers for the 1991 U.S. Open.



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Like a Deere®**



THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

NEGLIGENCE LETS LAWYERS TURN PAIN INTO GAIN



Like millions of others who live and work in big cities, I spend hours each week commuting. To help weave my way around traffic jams at rush hour, I listen to the traffic reports on the radio much like an airplane pilot gets directions from the tower.

The traffic report I like best recently got a new sponsor -- a law firm specializing in liability and injury cases. The company's sales pitch cites examples of work-related back pain, slips and falls, and just about any type of personal injury you can pin on an employer. The commercial makes litigation sound easy, free, and

practically profitable. You pay nothing. The firm takes its fee out of any damages awarded to you by the courts.

The mere fact that this law firm can build a successful practice by promoting law suits to the public makes me more concerned than ever about the potential for wasteful and unnecessary insurance claims against sports complexes. I can see it now, an advertisement on cable sports channels for Sports Torts Specialists during local high school and college games. "If your son or daughter strains a muscle, twists a knee, or is injured by a ball after a bad bounce, call STS and turn pain into gain."

"Facilities offering sport programs, by their very nature, run a very high risk of litigation," warned Attorneys at Law Elyzabeth Joy Holford and L. Leon Geyer during last year's Virginia Turf Conference. "There is a probability that injuries to sporting participants will occur. As a result, administrators in the field must maintain an interest not only in the general health and safety of participants, but also in the resulting legal ramifications of offering any type of sport program on the premises."

They add, "It is not the responsibility of sports complexes to provide a completely risk-free environment, but they have a duty to meet certain standards of conduct that protect others against unreasonable risks. Failure to do so can be construed as negligence, a civil crime remedied by financial damages.

When a judge has to decide if those responsible for a sports facility are negligent, he or she depends upon statements by experts as to what constitutes reasonable conduct when it comes to field use and care. That includes standards for design, layout, choice of materials, and maintenance, the attorneys warn.

We all realize that the potential for litigation exists, but do we seek out experts *ahead-of-time* to make sure that we are meeting reasonable standards? Do administrators of sports facilities fully appreciate the value of hiring well-trained sports turf managers? Furthermore, do they support continuing education programs for their staff? Too often the answer is no.

Standards that held up in court ten years ago may not be good enough to disprove negligence today. It's obvious that the industry has been uncovering new techniques each year that make turf more durable, more reliable from an athlete's standpoint, and safer.

Every year there are thousands more lawyers trying to build up their case loads. Sooner or later they will discover the potential of the sports industry and start advertising. Your best defense is to get involved now and make sure your facility meets current standards.

Bruce F. Shank

EVENTS

CALENDAR

MARCH

14-16 Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference, Springfield Civic Center, Springfield, MA. Contact: Dr. Joe Troll, Box 489, Hadley, MA 01035, (413) 549-5295.

20 West Coast Sports Turf Institute, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA. Contact: STMA, 400 N. Mountain Ave., Upland, CA 91786, (714) 981-9199.

25-29 American Society of Golf Course Architects Annual Meeting, Inn at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach, CA. Contact: Paul Fullmer, ASGCA, 221 North La Salle St., Chicago, IL 60601, (312) 372-7090.

27-30 Missouri Park and Recreation Association Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, MO. Contact: David Osterlund, MPRA, 1203 Missouri Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65109, (314) 636-3828.

MAY

16 North Carolina Turf and Landscape Field Day, North Carolina State University Turf Field Center, Raleigh, NC. Contact: Dr. Joe DiPaola, Crop Science Dept., NCSU, Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695, (919) 737-2657.

JUNE

19 Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Exposition, Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA. Contact: Richard Mauck, Public Works, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050-3792, (408) 984-3151.

JULY

29-31 International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo, Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Contact: Expo 90, P.O. Box 70465, Louisville, KY 40270, (800) 558-8767.