



Left: Florida Chapter demonstration taught by the Orange Bowl's Dale Sandin (R).

Below: Staff in front of preventive maintenance headquarters.



and Ken Schatz, owners of Columbia Maintenance. "One day I came home exhausted and told my wife, 'Why don't we sell the house and move to Florida?' To my surprise, she gave me an enthusiastic yes. That night we walked to a nearby real estate office and listed our home. In 10 days, the house was sold and in 30 days, we were in Boynton Beach, Florida, without jobs."

Years of being constantly busy rubbed off on Birch and left him restless in his new state. He found a job in the newspaper as an irrigation foreman for a landscape contractor. After three years

of installing irrigation systems, he noticed an ad in the paper for a maintenance supervisor with the Broward County School District.

"When I arrived for the interview, they told me they were creating a department just to take care of athletic fields," Birch says. "They were having a lot of problems with fields that were maintained by a mixture of coaches, parents and janitors. They said my new job was to hire people, buy equipment and put a program together for 24 high school fields, all middle school fields and all elementary physical education fields."

"I'll never forget the way I felt in the beginning," he remarks. "I started calling equipment distributors. Phil Gardner [head of Lesco in Florida] spent hours with me and let me try out mowers and other equipment for up to a week. Ken Stirez with Asgro and Ed Kajahiro with Mantek helped me with the fertilizer and chemicals. They all mentioned Ed Miller, head groundskeeper for the Yankees' spring training center. So, I called Ed up and we've remained friends for years. I also got in touch with Dale Sandin at the Orange Bowl, who connected me with Tom and John Mascaro with Turf-Tec International, who were consulting Joe Robbie Stadium."

Florida Chapter Number One

A network of resources started to build. "In Maryland, I had been active in the Professional Grounds Management Society and knew how much help a local chapter could be," remarks Birch. "Dale happened to be one of the original members of the Sports Turf Managers Association. Tom suggested, that with all the sports turf in South Florida, a local chapter of STMA made a lot of sense. The problem was STMA didn't have chapters at the time and didn't have bylaws regarding chapters.

On Nov. 21, 1988, the small group held its first exploratory meeting with Birch serving as chairman. Drs. John Cisar and Monica Juhnke at the University of Florida, Fort Lauderdale Research Center offered their complete support and use of the university's facility for chapter meetings. Tom Mascaro was elected president and contacted STMA national headquarters for its approval of chapters. The STMA executive board voted to approve the chapter during its first annual conference at Dodgertown in Vero Beach.

"Being the first chapter meant a great deal to us," says Birch. "We started meeting every two months. It wasn't long before we had 50 or more people at our meetings. People from local schools, parks and maintenance firms had access to sports turf information for the first time. We all shared what we knew and John and Monica gave us

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Man of the Year

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the agronomic facts. Lesco and Jacobsen gave regular demonstrations. We got to see the Orange Bowl and Joe Robbie Stadium like the pros get to see them. We have all been inspired by chapter events."

STMA now has nine chapters with interest expressed from at least four more regions. "Chapters have become an important part of STMA," states Greg Petry, national president. "They are the front line of our efforts to help sports turf managers to become professionals and to gain the respect they deserve for their contributions to the safety of athletes and the business of sports. Now, major league baseball and NFL groundskeepers are sharing their knowledge with those of us who manage the sports turf at our local schools and parks. I think coaches and athletes have noticed that their fields are getting better as they show their support to sports turf programs."

Leaving a Legacy

The crew at Broward County Schools is undoubtedly sorry to lose Birch, as were the Schatz brothers in Maryland. His preventive maintenance program stands as solid proof that the district made the right decision when it created a separate division for care of athletic facilities.

During his tenure, Birch supervised renovation of all football and soccer fields and baseball infields, including irrigation, planting appropriate turfgrasses, regular pest and weed control, aeration, fertilization and weekly mowing. "My crew deserves the credit for our safety record," Birch affirms. "They've worked extremely hard and take great pride in what they do."

All work is centralized. No school has its own on-site groundskeeper. All operations are supervised and scheduled from one central location, and the crews and equipment move from site to site.

Birch worked closely with athletic directors and coaches at each school on field safety, conditions and small daily tasks that students and volunteers can do to help out. He gave regu-


lar "in-service" clinics to lawn maintenance and custodial personnel who maintain the part of the school grounds that isn't used for sports. "It should be a team effort all around," says Birch. "The whole team suffers if one member gets injured."

Birch is on the road again. He and Hazel sold their home in December and loaded their motorhome to visit their three children and five grandchildren.

Rumor has it that Ed plans to put down roots in northern Florida and see if he can't get a chapter started there. He recently bought new software for his PC, the same computer that has the Florida chapter's roster on its hard drive.

"You can count on seeing Ed around sports turf for some time yet," says John Mascaró. "He has a lot to offer our industry."

One thing is for certain: He'll be at the STMA Annual Conference at Pirate City in Bradenton next month. If you have any big assignments requiring a fearless organizer, let him know. He has a great track record. □



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Greg Petry.



As my term as president of STMA reaches a midpoint, I recall something my predecessor, Gil Landry, wrote a few years ago. It has stuck with me over the years and is worth repeating.

He wrote, "Developing professionalism is one of our biggest challenges and toughest obstacles. If you want to be considered a professional, you have to

act, dress and speak accordingly. Professionals may not always have all the answers, so they rely on other professionals, such as colleagues, suppliers, consultants, reference books or associations for assistance."

Webster's Dictionary defines a professional as "of, engaged in or worthy of the high standards of a profession." A profession is "a vocation or occupation requiring advanced education and training and involving intellectual skills."

Being perceived as a professional takes dedication and effort, Gill said. We

need to make the effort to gain knowledge as well as to share what we know with others. That's what STMA is all about, at both the national and chapter levels.

I urge all members to make the effort to attend our annual conference in Bradenton, FL, on Feb. 4-8. By participating in this event, you not only exhibit professionalism, you share it with others.

If we focus on professionalism every day, our stature as a group will rise more quickly. I hope to see you in Bradenton.



STMA CHAPTER NEWS

FLORIDA CHAPTER # 1 - At its Dec. 6th annual meeting, The South Florida Chapter elected the following "new" officers: President - Tom Curran, City of Pompano Beach; Vice President - Mike Bell, Florida Atlantic University; Secretary - Lanny Dixon, Broward County Schools; Treasurer - John Mascaro, Turf-Tec International. New board members are: Education and Meetings - Kathy Connor, City of Ft. Lauderdale; Membership - Scott Brown, O.M. Scott and Bruce Bates, Florida Silica Sand Co.; and Immediate Past President - Ed Birch, Broward County Schools. Contact: John Mascaro at (305) 938-7477 or Tom Curran at (305) 786-4001.

IOWA SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION - *Special Reminder*, The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association is one of the green industry participants in the 61st Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, which will be held at the Des Moines Convention Center on Jan. 23 - 25, 1995. The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association annual meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Jan. 25. Contact: Gary Peterson at (515) 791-0765.

MIDWEST CHAPTER - Plans are being finalized for the 1995 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on March 2 at the Schaumburg Golf Club, Schaumburg, IL. Educational sessions will cover athletic facility risk management, safety and standards. Midwest Chapter board meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month. Members are invited. Contact: (708) 439-4727.

THE NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER - The Massachusetts Turf Conference will be held March 6 - 8 in Springfield, MA. Highlights already on the schedule for March 8 include presentations by STMA President Greg Petry; Dr. Norm Hummel from Cornell University, Dr. Eric Nelson of Medalist America, and Pierre Landry of the New England Patriots. For more information on the conference, contact the Massachusetts Turf and Lawngrass Association at (413) 549-5295.

The annual NESTMA Breakfast will be held the morning of March 8th. The breakfast is open to all NESTMA members. Please RSVP to Mary Owen at (508) 892-0382. Contact: Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System at (508) 892-0382.

MINNESOTA SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION - The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association elected the following slate of officers at its December meeting. They are: President - Mike McDonald, University of Minnesota; President-Elect - Sam Munson, Minnesota Vikings; Secretary-Treasurer - Brian Deyak, St. Cloud Sports Center; and Director-at-Large - Mark Sullivan, Trugreen-Chemlawn. Tom Rudberg of the University of St. Thomas was elected representative for the Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation. The next meeting of MSTMA is scheduled for March 14. Contact: Mike McDonald, Bierman Athletic Complex, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, phone: (612) 625-6097.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER - The Southern California Chapter is planning to hold a Landscape and Lawn Seminar on April 27 at Sea World. Demonstrations are planned for the morning sessions covering such topics as: big roll sod, pruning, bedding plants, aeration, and mowing comparisons. Contact: Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER - Events in the planning stages for 1995 include a Spring Irrigation Seminar; a Fall Football Seminar, and short, informal, bimonthly meetings at various sites throughout Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Chapter board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. Members are invited to attend. Contact: (410) 290-5652.

THE HEARTLAND CHAPTER - Momentum continues to build for The Heartland Chapter. Those interested in being involved in this growing organization, or wanting to find out more about the Heartland Chapter, are urged to contact: Matt Hoops at (816) 436-2200.

COLORADO CHAPTER - For more information on the chapter or future activities contact: Ross Kurcab at (303) 649-9000 or Mark Leasure at (719) 597-1449.

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Details Make the Difference

A Professional's Guide to Striping and Lining Soccer Fields

By Kevin Vos

Bright, crisp, markings accentuate the color and density of the turfed sports field. A good job of marking adds to the visual appeal of the facility. Sloppy field markings stand out like an out-of-step member of the marching band. But field striping and lining is more than an aesthetic touch. A fraction of an inch can measure the difference between a win or a loss in sports competition.

Sports turf managers "owe" their players, officials and spectators a properly marked field.

The first step is to determine the proper field size for the group or groups that will be using it. In a high school setting, only one field size may be needed. For our soccer complex, three field sizes are necessary to accommodate the YMCA, high school, college and several levels of soccer club players. The sport's national association – in our case, the U.S. Soccer Federation – will have published official field sizes. The Iowa High School Athletic Association also provides field dimensions within its official rule book.

Next, we prepare a scale drawing of the field, showing the precise dimensions of all areas to be marked. Write the exact measurements for each of the dimensions beside the appropriate features. If crews will mark several fields, prepare several scale drawings, clearly denoting the fields on which they will be used. These scale drawings can be laminated on one card to serve as an on-site reference when laying out a field.



Kevin Vos and Joe Wagner demonstrate lining during an Iowa STMA Chapter meeting.

Build In Cushion

To reduce wear and stress on the heavily played portions of the field, consider marking out two practice fields, running perpendicular to the game field, but using the same turf. If the game field runs north and south, the practice fields would run east and west. It may be necessary to reduce the practice field dimensions, making them slightly

smaller than regulation size, for best use of available space. Discuss this option with the user groups. Most will be receptive to the idea and enthusiastic about the creation of more practice space.

You'll use one color paint for the game field, a different color paint for the practice fields and additional colors if

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Field Painting

continued from page 14

a second or third set of game field dimensions are needed. We use "dotted" lines for the practice fields, as well as a different color.

Two-person crews are the most efficient, for both field marking and for the actual painting.

Determine the basic size for a particular field. Then locate all four corners and square them up. If possible, use the services of an engineering firm or department to have the precise dimensions "shot" with a laser. If that isn't possible, use the 3-foot, by 4-foot, by 5-foot triangle method to ensure "perfectly" square corners. (If one side of a triangle is 3 feet long and a precise 90-degree angle is formed with a 4-foot-long second side of the triangle, the line needed to complete the triangle will be exactly 5 feet long.) This can be multiplied by 10, to 30-foot, or 20, to 60-foot, if desired.

Sink a 6-inch section of 1- to 1-1/4-inch PVC pipe into the ground at each corner. Position the pipe with the top flush with the ground. These serve as your identification points to reactivate the field when it has been out-of-play, and as checkpoints for each marking. Keep these pipe locations marked by applying a touch of the appropriate color aerosol paint at least once a month during the non-playing periods. You'll want to find them easily and be able to avoid them during aeration and other field maintenance procedures.

For marking soccer field dimensions, you'll need a 300-foot tape measure; 4 spools of string – one 1,500-foot spool for the perimeter, two 700-foot spools for the goal boxes and penalty areas and one 500-foot spool for the halfway lines; stakes or spikes 8 inches long; a can of aerosol paint in the appropriate color; and the marked, laminated, reference card for the field.

Measure precisely and place a spike at each corner of the field. Square up each corner to check accuracy. Using the longest spool, run string tightly from spike to spike along the outside dimension of the field perimeter. The narrow ends of the field are the goal lines; the long sidelines are the touchlines. On a regulation high school soccer field, the width is 210 feet; the length 330 feet. In soccer, the lines are part of the field and are "in play."

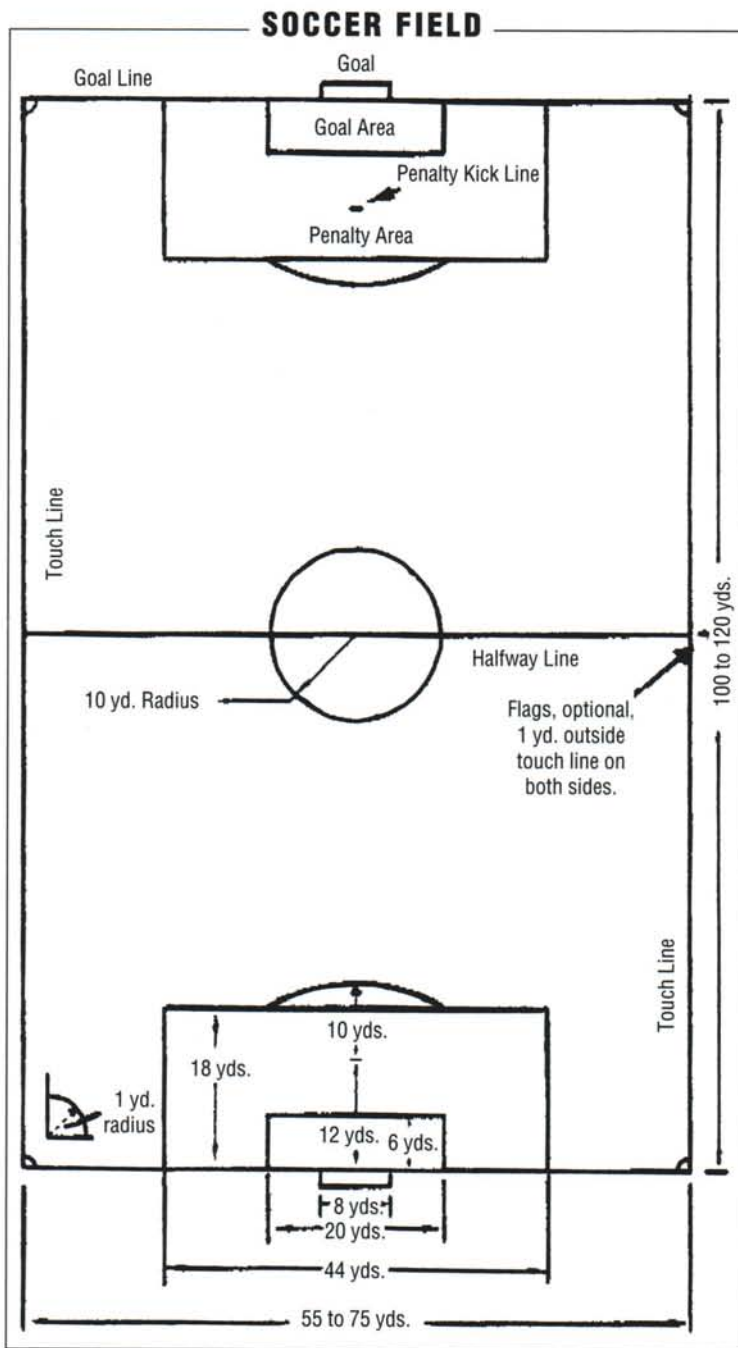
Measure out from the corner back to the center, along the touchlines on both sides of the field. Place a stake at this point and, using the 500-foot spool, run the string tightly from stake to stake, across the center of the field. Measure from both

goal lines to this halfway line. It should be exactly in the center of the field. Check for perfect right angles, using the 3-4-5 method. Measuring from each touchline, locate the precise center of the field. Mark the center point with an X of aerosol paint. From the center of this X measure for the center circle. On a regulation soccer field, this circle will have a 10-yard radius. Use the tape measure and measure out 30 feet, keeping the tape tight and placed precisely on the center of the X. Move the far end of the tape in an arc, dotting the perimeter of the circle with aerosol paint.

Then go to one end of the field. Measure out from the corner for the corner kick line, one yard on a regulation field. Hold the

tape in the corner, keep it tight and use the aerosol paint to dot along the arc within the field perimeter. Repeat this procedure for every corner kick line.

Next measure from the corner where the goal line and touchline meet to the halfway point on the goal line. Mark this point with an X or T with aerosol paint. Put the tape on this mark and measure along the goal line, to the left of the mark, for the dimensions of the goal and penalty area boxes. The goal box on a regulation field is 60 feet wide, so from the center, you'll measure out 30 feet. The penalty box is 132 feet wide, so you'll measure out 66 feet. Paint an L for one, a T for the other, on the stringed goal line along the left side of the goal line. Then flip-flop the tape, and



measure on the right side of the goal line for both the goal and penalty box areas and make the appropriate aerosol paint markings.

Working from the corner stake, use the tape to measure along the touchline for the proper distance for the goal box, the penalty line and the penalty kick line. Use the aerosol paint to mark a "reference point" at these spots along the stringed touchline. Do this on each side of the field. On a regulation soccer field, the goal box is 18 feet deep, the penalty spot 36 feet out and the penalty box 54 feet deep. So the reference points along the touchline will be at 18 feet, 36 feet and 54 feet from the corner of the touchline.

Put the tape on the marked goal line point for the goal box and measure out 18 feet into the field. At that point, run the tape to the 18-foot reference point on the touchline. The tape should read 93 feet at this reference point. (This number - 93 feet - will work when measuring the penalty boxes, too.) This should form a right angle at the 18-foot point in the field. The corner point of the right angle is the corner point for one side of the penalty box. Mark the point with an aerosol paint L to show where the stake will go to line out the goal box. Use the same procedure to mark the other side of the goal box and both sides of the penalty box, using the appropriate measurements. Use a 700-foot spool of string to string the goal and penalty boxes.

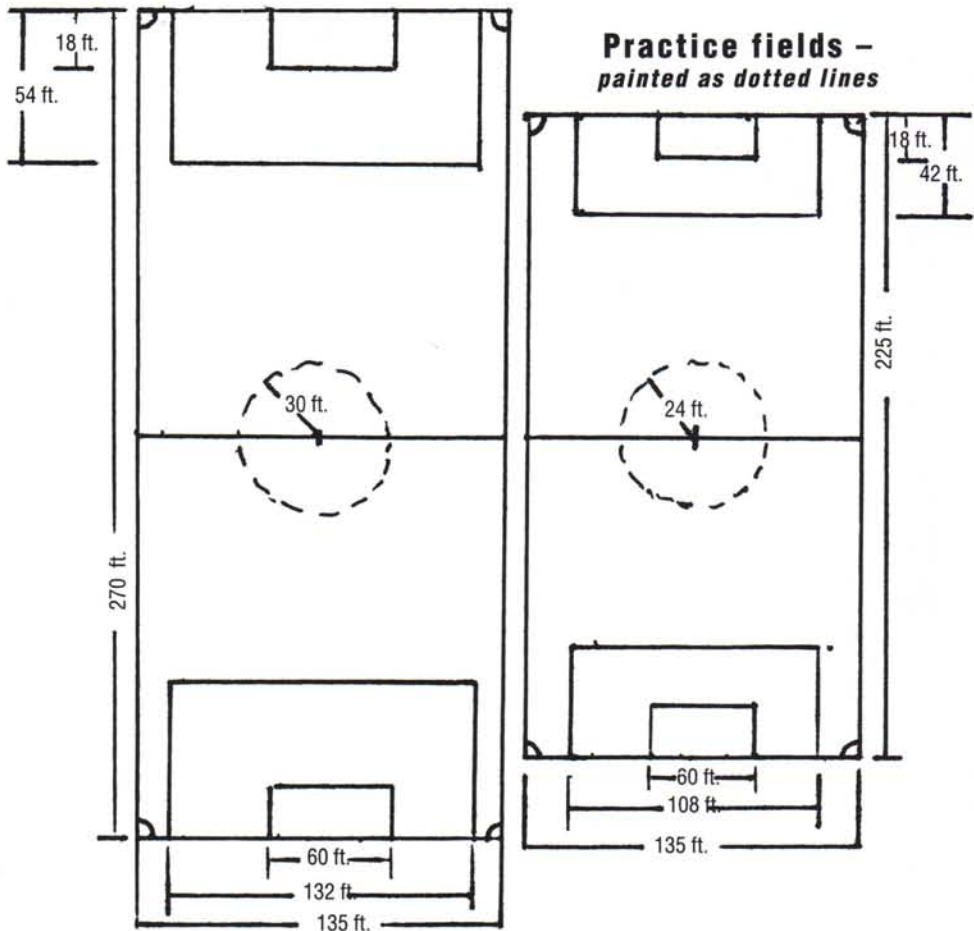
Now measure from the center point on the goal line out to the penalty spot - 36 feet toward the center of the field. Use the reference point along the touchline to "square up" and confirm the accuracy of the measurement. Mark the spot with aerosol paint. Put the tape at the penalty spot and extend the tape 30 feet toward the center of the field. Keep the tape tight and use the aerosol paint to mark the arc where the tape extends beyond the perimeter of the penalty box.

Use the same procedures to measure and string the goal and penalty areas at the other end of the field.

After the field is painted, the string from one of the goal-penalty areas or from the center line can be used to line out the coaching/team and official areas. We've found it most efficient to place both teams on one side of the field, but at opposite ends. Team areas can then be switched to the other side of the field periodically to spread the wear.

Place the tape where the touchline and center line meet, and measure 10 feet out from the field. The outer side of these areas will run perpendicular to

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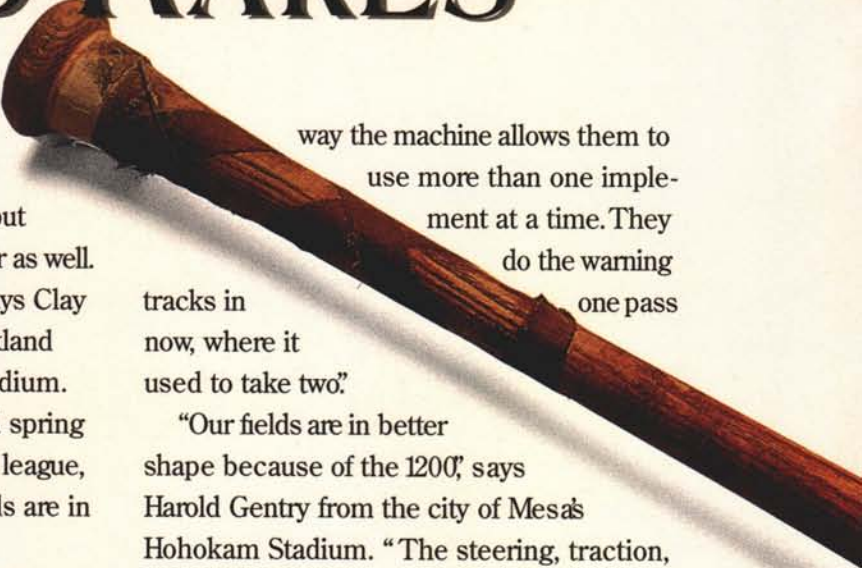
Baseball is big in Arizona. Not only during spring training, but during the rest of the year as well.

"It's like a 340-day homestand," says Clay Wood, grounds manager for the Oakland Athletics at Phoenix Municipal Stadium. "Between spring training, extended spring training, instructional league, rookie league, mini-camps, and local play our fields are in constant use."

The John Deere 1200 Bunker and Field Rake helps all these Arizona managers stay on top of this grueling 12-month schedule.

"It's versatile and has tremendous power," says Wood. "We use it for scarifying, blading, dragging, and pulling a heavy 2-board leveling attachment. It's the only machine we've had that has the power to handle it all."

"The 1200 does a great job and saves us time," adds Sal Leyvas of Tempe Diablo Stadium. "The guys love the blade, and also the



way the machine allows them to use more than one implement at a time. They do the warning one pass

tracks in now, where it used to take two."

"Our fields are in better shape because of the 1200," says Harold Gentry from the city of Mesa's Hohokam Stadium. "The steering, traction, and speed allow us to do more work in less time. Plus, my mechanic likes it because it never breaks down."

"It's become a safety issue with us," concludes Kris Kircher from the City of Chandler Sports Complex. We have a better surface with the 1200 and that means a safer surface for the players."

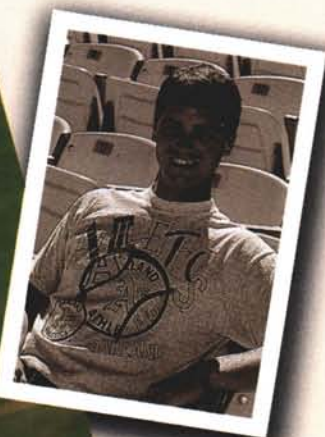
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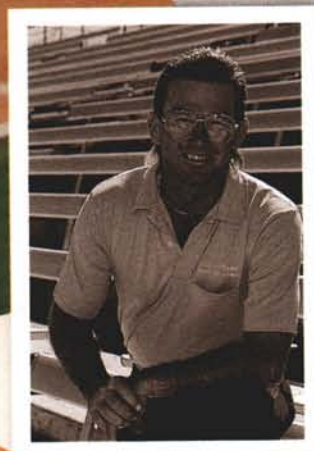
Like all these managers, Clay Wood of the Oakland Athletics uses a 1200 to groom his field for not only spring training, but a year-round schedule of other games as well.



Sal Leyvas depends on a John Deere 1200 to take care of Tempe Diablo Stadium, home of the California Angels during spring semester.



"The John Deere 1200 allows us to do a better job," says Harold Gentry of the City of Mesa's Hohokam Field, spring training site of the Chicago Cubs.



Kris Kircher of the City of Chandler uses two 1200s to take care of the fields used by the Milwaukee Brewers for their minor league spring training.



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Field Painting

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the touchline. The official area is 30 feet long and runs 15-feet on each side of the center line. There's a 15-foot "gap" between the official area and the coaching/team area. The coaching/team area is 60 feet long. Measure along the touchline – 15 feet, 30 feet and 90 feet – both to the left and to the right of the center line. Make sure a right angle is formed at the corner where the tape meets the touchline. Mark each corner of the official and coaching/team areas with aerosol paint. Extend the ends of these areas back away from the field, forming a right angle at each corner. When painted, these sections will appear as rectangles with one unfinished long-side for each section. String these areas after one of the spools becomes free.

Now you're ready to paint. Check with your supplier to select a good-quality, athletic field paint. These products are designed to be safe for the turfgrasses and for the players. Pick the product that works well with your turf and your climate and that fits your budget.

Make sure the bucket, mixer and paint machine are cleaned thoroughly

before beginning the process. We mix the paint using 1 part paint to 2 parts water. We've marked the gallon points on a 5-gallon bucket and use it exclusively for paint mixing. Mount a paint mixer on a drill for quick and easy mixing. With this method, it takes approximately one minute to mix.

Pour the paint mix through a funnel and a strainer (we use cheesecloth) into the paint container of the machine to avoid impurities that could cause clogging. A self-propelled, hydrostatic painter is worth the cost. It's easier to lay out a straight line when the machine moves at a steady pace – and the self-propelled unit is easier on the operator.

Be sure the machine is oiled, has plenty of fuel and is operating properly before starting the painting.

The time it takes to paint the field and the amount of paint needed to complete the painting will vary somewhat with each operator. Our two-person crews average 2-1/2 hours to lay out and paint a field. We average 9 gallons of paint mix per each 70-by-110-yard field. Work with your staff to identify those who enjoy the task and are most proficient at it.

Training two or three key people to handle the job, along with their other responsibilities, will increase operator efficiency.

When painting, keep the machine on the outside of the string line so that the tires don't cross the paint. Position the spray tips inside the string line and set the spray pattern and paint guide for the desired width. We use 4-inch line widths for our soccer fields.

First paint the goal and penalty box lines. Next paint the halfway line. Then paint the goal line, touchline and corner kick areas. Then paint the official and coaching/team areas. After the paint is dry, come back to the main field to paint the penalty spot, penalty arc, center spot and center circle.

The second crew member rolls up the string as the machine operator paints - and makes sure to keep the string out of the painter's way. Using a portable drill for the spools makes windup faster and easier.

Post-Painting Tips

After the field is painted, clean the paint machine immediately and thoroughly. We use a small amount of detergent in the first rinse. Fill the machine half full, pressurize the tank and spray until the water is clear. Then refill the tank with water only, and repeat the process. Finally, clean the spray nozzle tips with a soft-bristle brush.

We paint after mowing, generally one to two days before the weekend games. And, when possible, we avoid painting when the grass is wet. Paint sticks best and lasts longer on dry turf.

We paint fields once a week so that the lines are always fresh and clear. Because mowing with a reel mower can cause lines to "move" and because accuracy is so important, we restring the fields every two weeks. For the in-between week, crews "trace over" the painted lines. Actual touch-up painting takes approximately one-half hour; preparation and cleanup add another half-hour to the process.

The time and effort it takes to properly mark sports fields is paid back time and again in player pride – and in the knowledge that the fraction of an inch that decided a game was an accurate measure of the team's efforts. □

Editor's Note: Kevin Vos is athletic facilities manager of the Muscatine Soccer Complex, Muscatine, IA, a member of the national Sports Turf Managers Association and a board member of the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

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