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Play Ball! stands up to repeated wet/dry cycles without breaking down.



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# sportsTURF

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VOLUME ELEVEN, NUMBER ELEVEN

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1995

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### 40 Choices in Utility Vehicles

A utility vehicle exists to meet every turf manager's needs. Finding that vehicle can be a problem, though, because of the many choices you'll be facing. Here's a rundown on basic features and options that can help you make a sound decision.

### 44 What You Must Know About Turf Pesticides and the Environment

Rather than threatening the environment, improvements in turf from the judicious use of pesticides can protect the quality of water emanating from a turf area. Dr. Richard J. Cooper explains how cultural, biological and chemical approaches to pest control need to be fully integrated into management plans.

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Shortly after it was rebuilt last spring, Joe Robbie Stadium in Miami, FL, was temporarily converted to an arena for Billy Joel and Elton John concerts. The day following the concert, the field was again ready for baseball. Photo courtesy: The Motz Group, Cincinnati, OH, and Deborah Gray Mitchell.

## STMA MESSAGE



By Greg Petry

## STMA Presence

As the STMA continues to grow and mature as an organization, one of our goals is to have a greater presence both at a local level and at national events that affect the sports turf industry.

Most recently, STMA had a booth at the Florida Turfgrass Association Show and plans are in place for booths at the Baseball Winter Meetings Trade Show and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Show.

We realize that as a national organization with a large, diverse membership, we must find ways to reach those who are interested in advancing the profession of sports turf management. As more and more people are finding, our niche of the turfgrass industry requires a unique set of skills and will only continue to rise in importance as athletes are paid

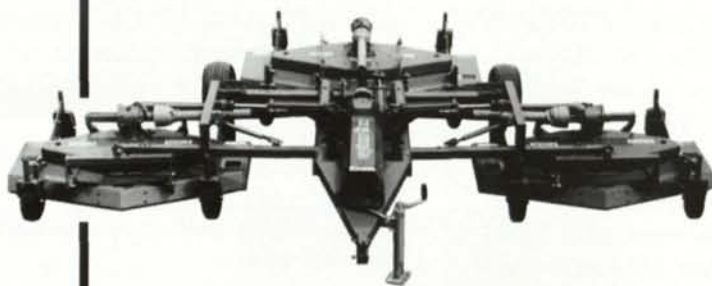
more, professional and amateur sports take on greater social value and the option of litigation is chosen more frequently for sports-turf-related injuries.

Take note in these pages of the happenings of STMA chapters scattered throughout the country. As a former chapter president and board member, I can attest to the hard work done at the chapter level. Along with those affiliated chapters are many organizations that are meeting and working through the chapter guidelines to form official STMA chapters. The chapter organizations help to deliver the STMA message at local and regional levels.

We hope you find the STMA influence in your area of sports turf and, just as importantly, we hope to find *you* present at future STMA events.

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# THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE



## The Ideal Forum

**B**efore dealing with an event of significance, the upcoming STMA annual conference, let me first introduce myself as the new editor of *sportsTURF*. Mike Augsdorfer, my predecessor, left this publication to pursue other interests — but not without passing

along his warmest regards to STMA members and others in the turf industry.

I look forward to following in Mike's footsteps and especially to meeting as many STMA members as possible at the annual conference. The members I have talked to so far have proven very cordial and helpful, and I hope your kind assistance continues. My knowledge of sports turf is not so much comprehensive as intimate — from having my face buried in a football field beneath a 200-pound linebacker. With the help of STMA members, I hope to become better grounded in this fascinating industry.

So, let's all meet in Anaheim January 24 through 28 for STMA's Seventh Annual Conference & Exhibition. This issue carries a full-page ad outlining what the conference offers as well as information on how to get more details.

Billed as the "one place to find all your 'Sports Turf Solutions,'" the conference offers a kaleidoscope of exhibitors, seminars, workshops, demonstrations, tours and local attractions such as Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm. Throw in future Hall-of-Famer Tony Gwynn of the San Diego Padres as the keynote speaker at STMA's annual Awards Banquet, and you have half the conference. The other half is the chance to compare problems, exchange solutions or just shoot the breeze with other turf managers from around the country — easily the best form of education available.

After almost two decades in the magazine business, this writer has learned that readership makes a magazine. The collected experiences, knowledge and wisdom of readers is far greater than that of an editorial staff, which primarily serves as an information bureau through which readers educate themselves and others. If you have comments, corrections or tips, send them to us; we'll make room to print them. Working together, we can create turf just a bit tastier for those quarterbacks who get stuffed into it.

*Jim Wilkin*

# EVENTS

CALENDAR

## November

**27-28** OSHA Compliance Workshop. Aladdin Hotel, Las Vegas, NV.

To register or for more information, contact Keye Productivity Center, (800) 821-3919 or (913) 345-2140. (Also offered November 29-30 in Los Angeles, CA; December 4-5 in Oakland, CA and December 6-7 in San Jose, CA.)

**27-29** North Central Turfgrass Exposition. Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL. Contact: Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, (312) 201-0101.

## December

**1** Deadline to register for 60-hour "Green School," offered by the University of Massachusetts Extension, January 3-March 21, 1996. Fee: \$350. CEUs and certificates offered for passing grades. Contact: Kathleen Carroll, (413) 545-0895 or Mary Owen, (508) 892-0382.

**5-8** Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference and Trade Show. Columbus, OH. Contact: (614) 261-6750.

**6-8** Forty-second Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association. Currigan Hall, Denver, CO. Contact: (303) 688-3440.

**11-13** Texas Turfgrass Conference and Show, sponsored by the Texas Turfgrass Association. Houston. Contact: Shirley Duble, executive director, (409) 693-1656.

**12-14** 1995 Georgia Turfgrass Conference and Show, sponsored by the Georgia Turfgrass Association. Georgia International Conference Center, Atlanta. Contact: (770) 975-4123.

**17-18** Twenty-sixth Annual National High School Athletic Directors Show. San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA. Contact: National Federation of State High School Associations, (816) 464-5400.

*continued on page 9*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

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### January 1996

**9-11** Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference and Trade Show, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Turf Council. Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA. Contact: Michael Smith, (610) 828-0253, or PTC, (814) 863-3475.

**10-12** Thirty-fourth Annual North Carolina Turfgrass Conference & Show, sponsored by the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina and North Carolina State University. Charlotte. Contact: (910) 695-1333.

**17** Professional Turf and Landscape Conference. Westchester Country Center, White Plains, NY. CEUs available. Contact: Carol Mueller, (914) 636-2875.

**16-18** Mid-America Green Industry Convention (MAGIC '96), hosted by the Professional Lawn Care Association of Mid-America. The Plaza Inn, Kansas City, MO. Contact: (816) 561-5323.

**22-25** Conference and Trade Show, sponsored by the Virginia Turfgrass Council. Richmond Center and the Richmond Marriott. Contact: Dixie McClenahan, executive director, (540) 942-8873.

**24-26** Midwest Turf Expo and Trade Show, sponsored by the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation. Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Bev Bratton, (317) 494-8039.

**24-28** STMA Seventh Annual National Conference and Exhibition. Hyatt Regency Alicante, Anaheim, CA. Contact: Carey Haines, (312) 644-6610.

**25** Ninth Annual Inland Northwest Turf and Landscape Trade Show, sponsored by the Inland Empire Golf Course Superintendents Association. Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds, Spokane, WA. Contact: Julie Boyce, (509) 535-8305.

Send announcements of your events two months in advance to: Editor, **sportsTURF**, 68-860 Perez Road, Suite J, Cathedral City, CA 92234. Fax: (619) 770-4380.

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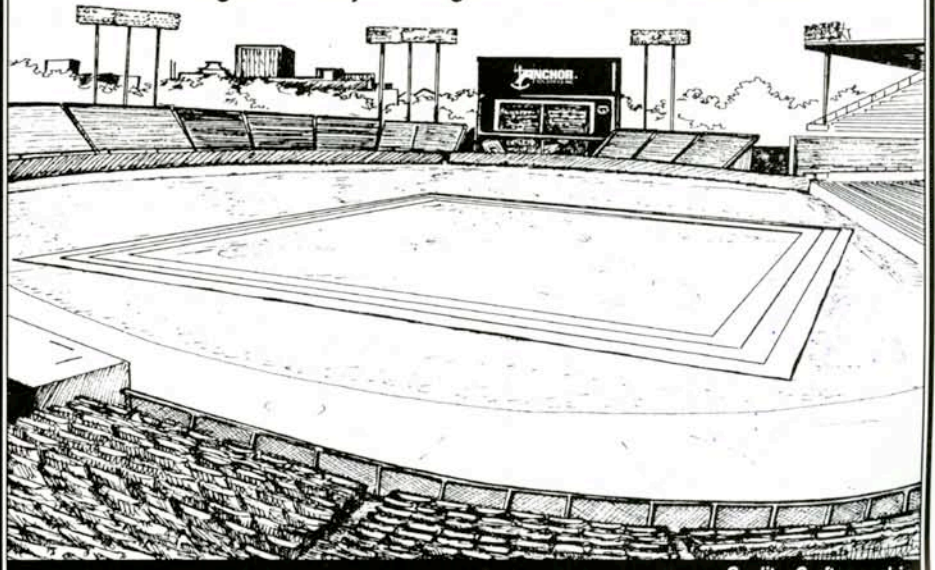
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*It's the end of the school year for some new fields — the end of the semester for others. Just how good are those report cards?*



Joe Robbie Stadium undergoes sand profile distribution, covering drain lines and irrigation lines. Photos courtesy: The Motz Group and Deborah Gray Mitchell.

# A “Commentary” Report Card on New and Rebuilt Fields

By Steve and Suz Trusty

Just as kindergartners timidly faced that first day of school, the fields within the Class of '95 faced their first season of play. With freshly manicured turf and a bright suit of new paint, these fields were braced for the tough tests ahead. Sure they'd had a great diet of nutrients, were deeply rooted, and many even had appropriate “wraps” in case of rain, but were they mature enough to handle the stress?

What if “classroom” conditions were less than ideal? What if their “teachers” had limited funds for supplies and few helpers? Would the coaches and players like and accept them? How would the fans react — especially those whose ticket prices had increased, or whose tax dollars had been used to support the field's appearance? It's the end of the school year for some new fields — the end of the semester for others. Just how good are those report cards?

## Denver's Coors Field

*Sports Illustrated* writers put their mark of approval on the Colorado Rockies' Coors Field. In *SI*'s July 10, 1995 issue, in, “The Play's the Thing,” the article states, “Colorado, a contender in only its

third season, is flush with the cash and goodwill generated by gorgeous Coors Field. Try telling a Rockies fan baseball is passé. Winning teams and attractive stadiums still sell.”

And in the same magazine's July 31 issue, in an article titled, “Rocky Mountain Home Run Fever,” was this positive segment: “The Rockies are baseball's most agoraphobic team, with a 28-15 record at their dazzling new home, Coors Field, but a 17-20 mark on the road.” And, in the same article was a quote from Larry Walker, the 28-year-old star of the Rockies who “has become almost a branch office of the Denver Chamber of Commerce. ‘Did you know there are 42 miles of cable under the field to keep it always at least 58 degrees?’ he asks a visitor to Coors. It's a treat to play here. That's why you see people getting here at 10 a.m. for a 7 p.m. game.’”

## Cleveland's Jacobs Field

*Sports Illustrated* also gives top grades to Jacobs Field of Cleveland, OH. Also in the July 10 article, “The Play's the Thing,” was this quote: “In most major league ballparks this season, it's so quiet you can hear the attendance drop. Then there's Jacobs Field, the 15-month-old home of the (Cleveland) Indians ...

You put the Indians in Jacobs Field, and you create something special.”

## Jacksonville Sports Entertainment and Conventions Facilities

Good comments keep coming in from turf professionals on the field of the new Jacksonville Sports Entertainment and Conventions Facilities. It's “a quality field built to USGA specs.” And, “They put the time and money into this field to do it right.” “An excellent field.”

## Joe Robbie Stadium

The one-two punch of baseball and football puts extra stress on a young field. For two months of the year, when the two sports overlap, playing conditions aren't ideal for either team. Football players must contend with sections of “dirt,” those highly maintained skinned areas on which much of baseball is played. The baseball players must deal with the torn up turf that is the aftermath of 22 spike-footed gladiators battling over each inch of forward progress.

Four NFL teams — the Oakland Raiders, the San Francisco 49ers, the San Diego Chargers and the Miami Dolphins — share grass fields with baseball teams. (The Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates share the artificial turf of Three Rivers Stadium. The St. Louis Rams