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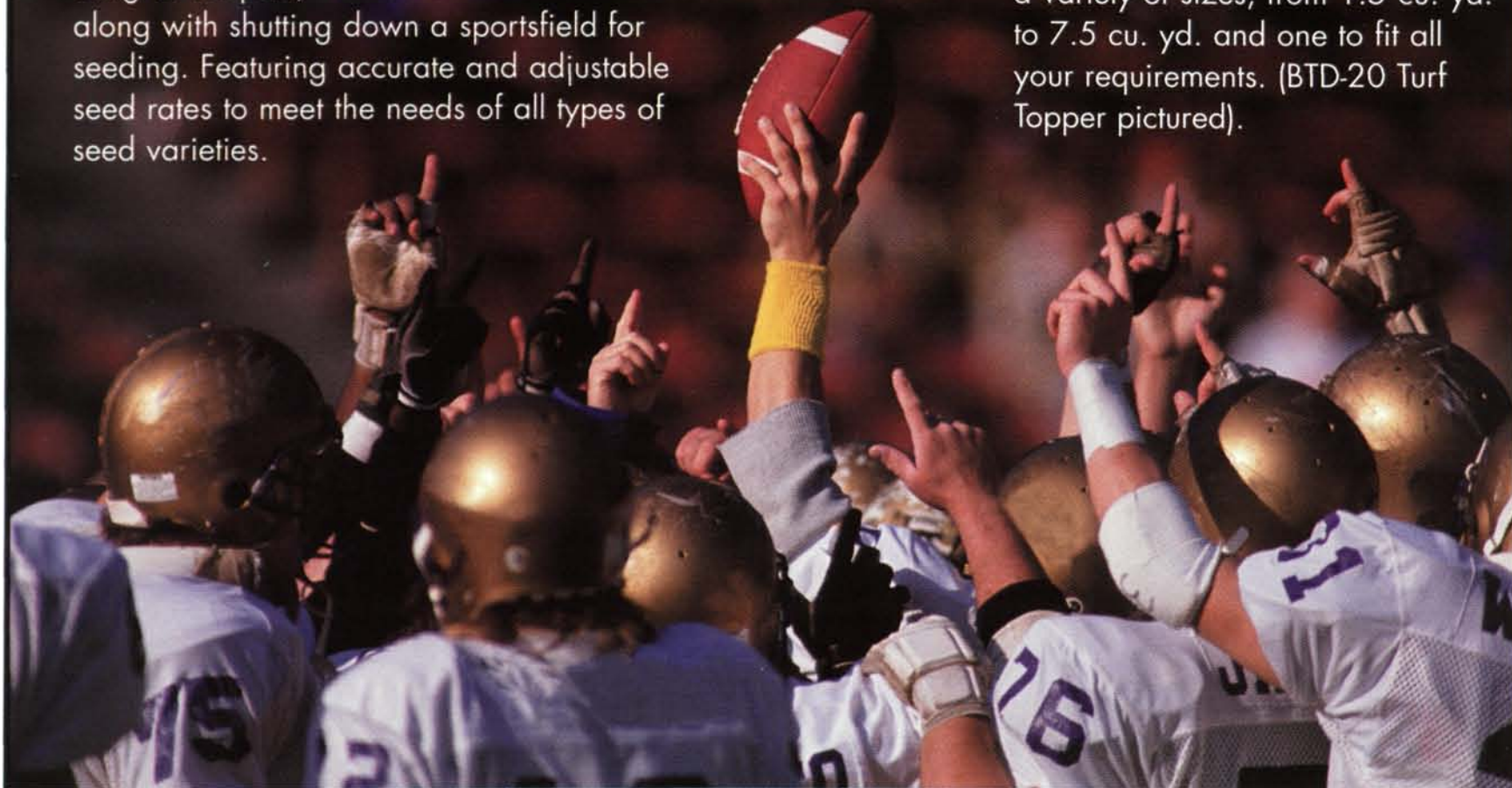


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Sports
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October 2001 / Volume 17 / Number 9



FIELD OF THE YEAR

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Olmsted Field of Westbrook, ME, earns Sports Turf Managers Association honors

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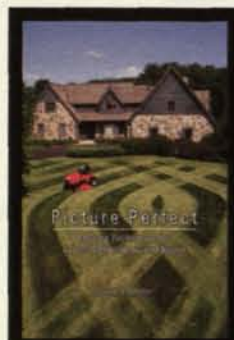
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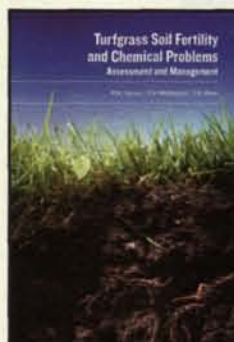


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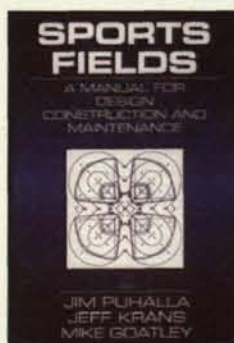


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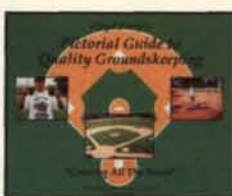


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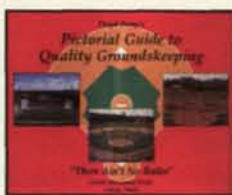
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Day to Day



We're all day to day," former ESPN anchor Keith Olbermann used to say after reporting that a certain athlete's injury status was "day to day." I thought it was funny then. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, it doesn't seem so funny. In 42 years, I've never been afraid of what tomorrow might bring until now. If our fellow American citizens can die in such a horrible way, there's no guarantee you or I might not as well.

How do we respond? Though our lives changed forever last month, in ways we don't even understand yet, we cannot let those changes destroy what our forefathers and we have built in the past 225 years.

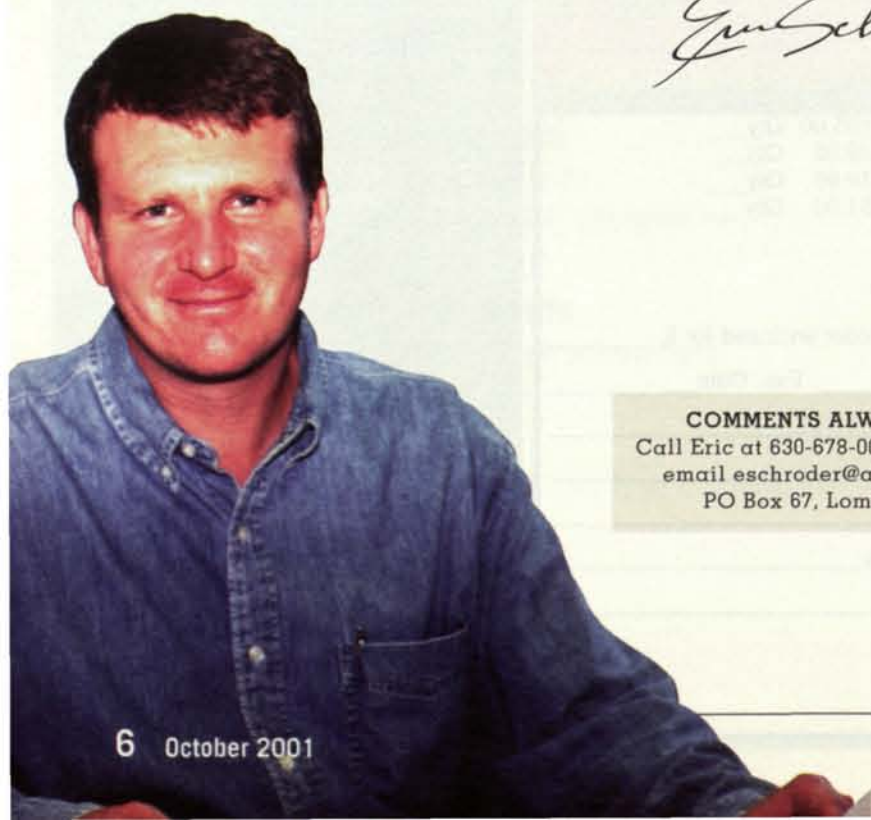
We must go to work, we must continue to gather together, we must sustain the fabric of our country. Our enemies want nothing more than to destroy what America stands for in the world, things like freedom, tolerance, and individual choice.

Like many of you, my first reaction was an emotional desire for massive retaliation. But we know that is not what we should do any more than we should take out our anger on American citizens who are Muslim; both these reactions are exactly what our enemies desire. Though "justice" doesn't seem enough revenge, it is what we first must seek, with the help of our allies, especially those in the Middle East. If we are thwarted in our quest for justice, then yes, it will be time to turn to military action. But a careless response on our part just goes against America's ideals, which is just what the radical Islamics seek.

Perhaps there will be a silver lining in this tragedy. Perhaps more Americans will see themselves as just that, Americans first, instead of German-American or African-American or Asian-American or Irish-American or Republican or Democrat or gay or whatever. Perhaps we'll all think more about the responsibilities that go hand in hand with the "civil rights" that you hear about so much.

I cried and was unable to sing the words during the National Anthem when I heard it over the radio before a baseball game after the season resumed. I cried for the victims, for America's lost innocence, for my family, for myself. And I resolved not to stay behind locked doors, not to quit living this American life, but to carry on the best I can. That is what we all must do so those who hate us will not win.

Sporting events have led the way in the nation's effort to get back to "normal." The hundreds of thousands of Americans gathering together in stadiums, large and small, around the USA, shows such support for our country. You should be proud to be part of that spectacle.



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president's message

Everyone wins

Sports turf management is an evolving profession. New ideas and new technology open the way to improvements in construction and maintenance that help sports turf managers keep fields in top condition through heavy use and threatening weather. Providing the best sports surfaces for every level of play is always challenging, sometimes stimulating, sometimes frustrating, often tiring, but never dull. Because of their dedication to improvement and willingness to step up to the challenges, sports turf managers get the job done—and everyone wins.

Challenges and improvements also are a big part of the organization that represents this profession, the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). Lots of exciting things have already happened in 2001. Lots more will happen between now and the end of the year and on into 2002 because STMA is "On a Roll."

For starters, the Membership Committee has been in high gear. First, there was a fax blast to potential new members, offering a special promotion with a reduced rate for membership from mid-year to the end of 2001.

Now, in this issue, we're kicking off the traditional end-of-year new member promotion that offers membership through December 31, 2002, at the 1-year membership rate to those new members who sign up during the last quarter of 2001. Just use the application card included in this issue to join your peers in advancing the profession of sports turf management through STMA.

In addition, all those new members joining between October 1 and December 1 will be eligible for a drawing for a free registration to the STMA 13th Annual Conference & Exhibition, January 16-20, 2002, in Las Vegas.

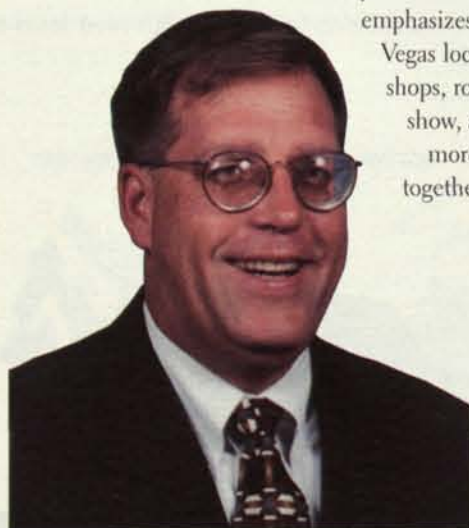
And, so long-time STMA members won't feel left out, the STMA member referral program also is starting October 1. For a 2-year period, each time an STMA member's name is listed on the referral blank of a membership application, that member will receive a coupon worth \$10 toward the purchase of STMA merchandise or reference materials, toward the STMA Annual Conference, or toward their own membership fees. In other words, everyone wins.

Winning continues as STMA's Website Committee undertakes an extensive upgrade of the association's website (www.sportsturfmanager.com) to better serve its members and our profession. The STMA Chapter Relations Committee continues to facilitate the networking exchange between Chapters that helps raise their programs to ever-higher levels. The STMA Marketing Committee soon will introduce exciting developments to promote the profession of sports turf management and help gain acknowledgement of the important role you fill within the profession.

And, keeping with this winning theme, also in this issue, you'll see a little of what's in store for you at 2002 STMA Conference. The theme "We're on a Roll,"

emphasizes the progress of STMA and ties into the Conference's Las Vegas location. Along with a jackpot of educational sessions, workshops, round-table discussions, and tours, the biggest-ever trade show, and networking opportunities galore, there's much, much more. Plan now to join your peers because, through working together to meet the challenges, everyone wins.

ST



Rich Moffitt,
STMA President

Rich Moffitt

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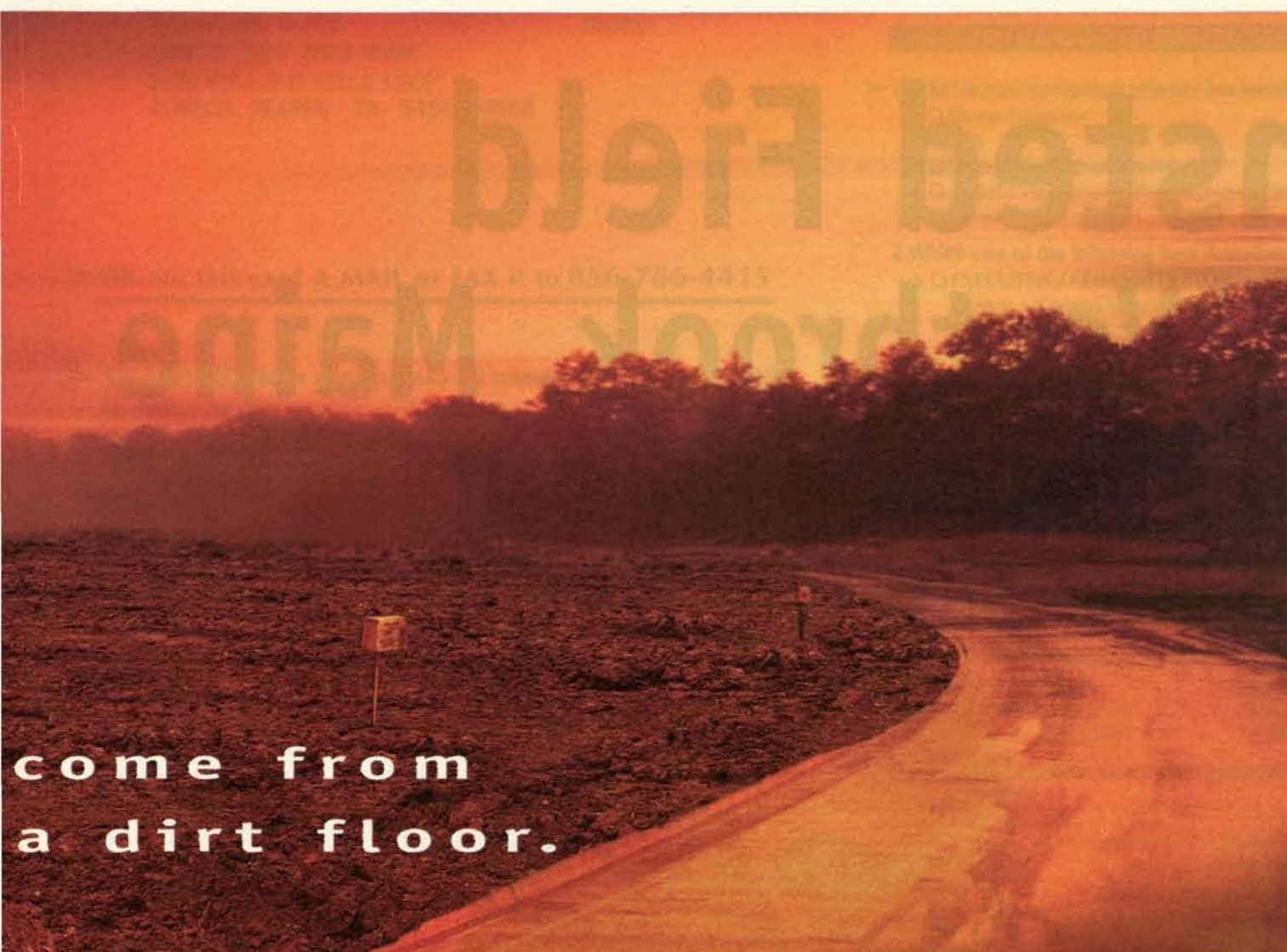


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Olmsted Field of Westbrook, Maine

Earns STMA 2000 Football Field of the Year Honors

Dedication to excellence, focused management and plain old hard work earned Olmsted Field of the City of Westbrook, ME, the 2000 STMA Football Field of the Year Award in the High School/Parks and Recreation division. Olmsted Field is part of the 22 acres of playing fields within the city of Westbrook and under the maintenance program of sports field manager Lance Tibbetts. The fields are located throughout the city, at the elementary and middle schools, the high school, and in city parks.

The original Olmsted Field was developed at the city's high school in 1965. It was a traditional native soil field seeded with cool-season grasses and was used for football and band practices and for games. Tibbetts says, "As each year's football season progressed this field would have more exposed soil than turf.

"In the late 90's, Westbrook undertook a major field construction/renovation project for its high school fields. Practice fields for football, soccer, and field hockey, and combination game and practice fields for softball and baseball, were constructed in the surrounding woods on an upper level of the school property. At the same time, Olmsted Field was completely renovated to be used as the football and soccer game field," says Tibbetts.

All of these fields share common construction elements. They were excavated to the native clay sub-base. This was topped by a gravel layer that contains a series of perforated drainage pipes to channel excess subsurface moisture away from the fields. This was topped by a sand-based soil profile. The track surface surrounds Olmsted Field. This field also has a Musco lighting system, with six 150-foot light poles, which was installed many years ago with help from the National Guard. The facility has two concession areas and a press box and seats more than 2,000 spectators for an event.

Tibbetts notes, "Olmsted Field has an 18-inch crown for surface drainage. The other fields have a 1 to 1-1/2-percent grade from corner to corner. The surface water is channeled into drainage swales that were placed around the perimeter of each field. Olmsted and the surrounding fields have Toro 2001 series in-ground irrigation systems. The control panels for these are located under the Olmsted Field press box."

Tibbetts has "worked with turf" since his graduation from Southern Maine Technical College with an AAS in Plant and Soil Science in 1991. He joined the city as sports field manager in 1999. He had previously been serving as Parks and Facilities Manager for the Town of Brunswick overseeing their athletic fields as well as the parks. Before that, he worked as a lawn technician and then a branch manager in the lawn care industry.

