

STMA AWARDS PROGRAM



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2001 Awards Recipients:



2001 STMA Professional Baseball Field of the Year - The Dell Diamond of Round Rock, Texas - Dennis Klein, Head Groundskeeper

2001 STMA High Schools/Parks & Rec. Field of the Year - Patriot Field of the Putnam City Schools, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - Rick Newville, Baseball Coach

2001 STMA College/University Softball Field of the Year - Samford Field, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama - Joe Collins, Sports Turf Manager

2001 STMA High School/Parks & Rec. Softball Field of the Year - McInnish Softball Complex, City of Carrollton, Texas - Andy Babbitt, Athletic Manager; Mason Ward, Athletic Supervisor

2001 STMA College/University Soccer Field of the Year - Lebanon Valley College Soccer Stadium, Annville, Pennsylvania - Kevin Yeiser, Director of Grounds and Athletic Facilities

2001 STMA Parks & Rec. Soccer Field of the Year - Muscatine Soccer Complex, City of Muscatine, Iowa - Kevin Vos, CSFM, Athletic Facilities Supervisor

2001 STMA College/University Football Field of the Year - University of Virginia's David A. Harrison III Field/Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, Virginia - Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, Sports Field Manager

2001 STMA High School/Parks & Rec. Football Field of the Year - Rush/Henrietta Central Schools' Elmer Gordon Stadium Field, Henrietta, New York - John Gaffney, Head Groundskeeper

2001 Dick Ericson Award - Heather Nabozny, Head Groundskeeper, Detroit Tigers Baseball Club, Detroit, Michigan

2001 George Toma Golden Rake Award - Terry Nance, Horticulture Instructor, Cape Fear High School, Fayetteville, North Carolina

2001 Dr. William H. Daniel Award - Dr. Coleman Y. Ward, Professor Emeritus, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama

2001 Harry C. Gill Memorial Award - Dan Douglas, Stadium Grounds Superintendent, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, Reading, Pennsylvania

Call for 2002 Applicants

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) recognizes that you make personal and professional contributions to our industry and the organization you serve. Both members and non-members are encouraged to participate in the STMA Awards Program.

If you are currently not a member of STMA, please join us.

This year, the following awards will be bestowed at the STMA Annual Awards Banquet, Friday, January 17, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas.

- STMA Baseball Field of the Year Award
- STMA Softball Field of the Year Award
- STMA Football Field of the Year Award
- STMA Soccer Field of the Year Award
- STMA Founders Awards: The Dick Ericson Award, The George Toma Golden Rake Award, The Dr. William H. Daniel Award, and the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award

All Award recipients will be selected by an Awards Committee made up of five highly-regarded STMA professionals.

For a copy of the Awards Booklet contact STMA Headquarters by phone: 800/323-3875, fax: 800/366-0391 or

AWARDS Sponsors



AERATION ON A BUDGET

TurfcO's aerator TM-42 comes in tow type and three-point hitch attachments and is good for large area aeration. Both models come with storage legs, making hook up quick and easy, says TurfcO, and the two-tongue can be easily removed to save storage space.

These units can cover up to 92,400 sq. ft. in an hour, use 3/4-in. tines for aeration depths up to 4 in., have a pattern of 5.5 x 8 in., and have tines mounted six to each wheel in sets of two wheels.

TurfcO Manufacturing/763-785-1000

For information, circle 197



TACKLE TOUGH TERRAIN

Broyhill's AccuAire core aerator is one of the most powerful aerators on the market, able to penetrate the toughest terrain, says the company. The FlexWing design allows the AccuAire to follow the contour of the ground, providing even penetration. The solid frame and extra-wide racks add weight to maximize core depth in all types of soils.

Equipped to use slicer blades or core spoons, the machine is available in two lengths, 69 or 93 in. The AccuAire is equipped with a hydraulic lift, and hooks up easily to the Broyhill TerraForce and Highlander PRO, or other utility vehicles equipped with hydraulics or three-point hitch.

Broyhill/800-228-1003

For information, circle 142

BIG-PRODUCING AERATOR

With an 80-in. coring swath, the John Deere Aercore Aerator 2000 delivers high productivity without sacrificing hole quality, durability, or ease of service, says the company. The unit, designed to produce coring holes up to 4 in. deep, can cover 100,066 sq. ft. per hour.

Its heavy-duty frame, tine rams, and adjustable hole spacing provide operators with added durability and versatility. You have a choice of two coring patterns, a 2.4-in. or 3.2-in. The Aercore 2000 features the patented "Flexi-Link" design that ensures tines stay perpendicular to the ground for a consistently round hole. The high-speed tines leave no scuffing at the top of the hole.

John Deere/800-537-8233

For information, circle 149





SHIELDED SPRAYER

The 52- and 132-in. aerodynamically designed shielded sprayers deliver an even spray every time. The sprayer applies a constant accurate balance of small droplets that "stick" to vegetation achieving greater coverage with less chemicals. The most efficient and cost effective way to apply liquid fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide and adjuvant, says the company, ProLawn. Independent floating chambers follow the ground contours for precise application. Grasshopper maneuverability is maintained, even in tight spaces.

Grasshopper/620-345-8621
For information, circle 144

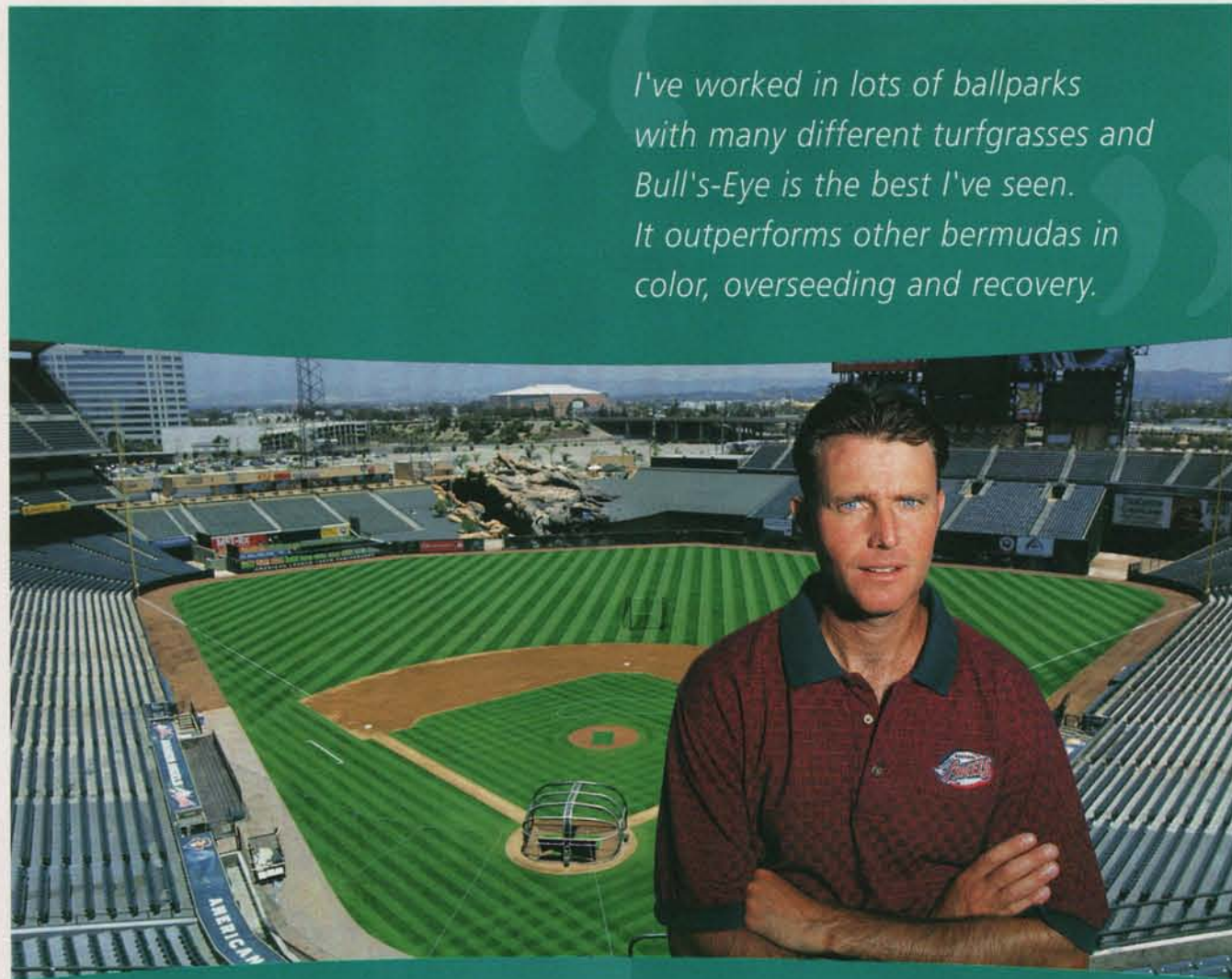


WALK AND SEED

Gandy Company's new 20-in. self-propelled Slice n' Seed walk-behind overseeder is used for repairing or re-establishing grass in worn areas for establishing new grass varieties. This walk-behind model complements the Gandy 48-in. 3-point-hitch overseeder.

The Slice n' Seed has an 8-hp Honda engine with centrifugal clutch and is capable of covering 22,000 sq. ft. per hour. Nine-inch heat-treated slicing blades are fixed on 2-in. centers. The seed box features Gandy's precision-mated stainless-steel bottom and slide with internal rotor driven by front-wheel drive. A cam gauge sets opening size to meter all types of grass seed while a hand lever is used to shut off flow.

Gandy Company/800-443-2476
For information, circle 145



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—Barney Lopas
Field Manager
Edison International Field,
home of the Anaheim Angels
Anaheim, CA.



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Circle 108 on card or www.OneRS.net/207sp-108

Maintaining the Grounds



FOR EARLY SPRING GREEN-UP

Kesmac's five-gang vertical mower helps seed germination in large turf-covered areas. But its main job is breaking up thick layers of thatch. According to Kesmac, the vertical mower also allows increased aeration, permits turf to use fertilizer more efficiently, helps prevent diseases, allows better water penetration, and is economical.

With thatch removed, Kesmac says that turf greens up in the spring up to two weeks earlier.

Kesmac, Inc./905-476-6222
For information, circle 146



VERSATILE AERATION TOOL

The Toro ProCore 660 aerator relieves compaction, controls thatch, and enables positive gas exchange for healthier turf. The 660 covers a 60-in. swath and produces excellent hole quality due to its RotaLink centering mechanism, says Toro. RotaLink requires no maintenance and ensures tines remain vertical as they enter and exit the ground, producing a consistently circular hole while the tractor moves forward.

No timing to tractor is required for operation or to vary hole spacing patterns. You just speed up or slow down to change hole pattern from 1 to 5 in. spacings. Individually floating turf holders keep the turf secure as the tine is withdrawn, preventing turf lift and maintaining a true and level surface. Aeration depth is adjusted without tools to a depth of up to 4.25 in. The unit is easily installed on any compact tractor and comes in three sizes.

The Toro Company/800-803-8676
For information, circle 150

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RIDE-ON AERATOR

This precision, self-propelled, ride-on aerator from Ryan delivers both quality and productivity. Featuring a 30-in. aerating width, the GreensAire 30 can aerate sports fields up to a depth of 3 3/4 in. The unique Ryan reversing gearbox ground drive system ensures every coring hole is perfectly vertical for precision introduction of soil amendments. Core hole spacing adjustments can be done from the driver's seat.

Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products/888-922-8873.
For information, circle 196



**NO-CORE
AERATION**

Grasshopper's AERA-vator is compatible with the company's model 618 and all 700 and 900 series True ZeroTurn FrontMount power units, and leaves no cores to clean up. Turf is available for use immediately. Units feature oscillating, forged steel tines that penetrate and fracture soil and don't require irrigation before operating. PTO-driven 40- and 60-in. models available.

The Grasshopper Co./620-345-8621
For information, circle 152

NEW CORE AERATOR

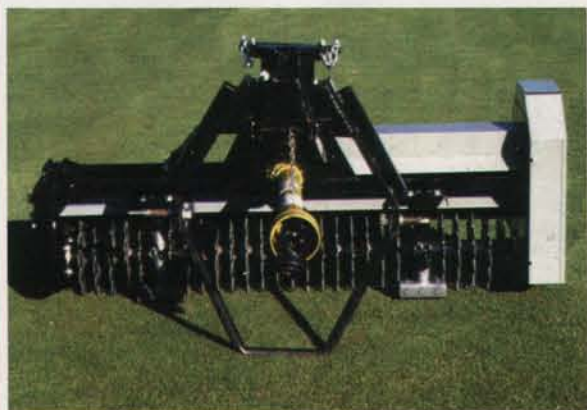
Redexim Charterhouse has introduced a new line of core aerators called Verti-Core, which they say penetrate more cleanly than other machines to a full 5 in. The units are available in three sizes: 4.2, 5.6, and 6.9 ft. All share a gearbox and crank design for the drive system, meaning there are no belts.

A control mechanism allows tine depth to be adjusted from 1 to 5 in., and a rapid-change feature permits quick tine changeovers, allowing the units to be fitted with a variety of tine types, including the popular 3/16-in. needles.

The company also markets Verti-Drain, Verti-Seed, Rapidcore, and Turf Tidy products.
Redexim Charterhouse/800-597-5664
For information, circle 148



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Avoiding problems

Analyzing soil- and sand-based fields

Managers of both soil- and sand-based fields face a variety of challenges during and after field construction. *SPORTSTURF* recently spoke with Dr. Norman Hummel, president and owner of Hummel & Co. Inc., a professional consulting service and soil physical testing laboratory, about those challenges and the benefits of soil physical testing.

ST: What do you see as the overall benefits of soil testing?

Hummel: During field construction, soil testing can be used to evaluate sand-based mixes or soils to reduce the risk of problems after construction, and to make sure that the sand-based mix or soil conforms to a specification or standard. Once the field is built, if there are any problems, soil testing can be used for diagnostic purposes to try to evaluate what the problems might be. For routine maintenance, soil testing to determine nutrient status of the soil and determine fertilizer requirements is valuable for setting up fertilizer programs.

ST: What are the most common tests that you conduct, and what do they entail?

Hummel: Probably the most common tests that we run are mix designs or complete physical analysis. These are tests that we perform during the construction phase—usually on sand-based fields—to make sure that the sand-based mix has a particle size distribution that conforms to either a specification or industry standards. The physical properties are determined to make sure the sand-based mix drains adequately and has adequate amounts of air-filled pore space and water-filled pore space.

We're testing a lot more topsoil samples or modified soil samples. There are still a lot of fields being built made of soils. In those cases we perform a particle size analysis to determine the percentages of sand, silt and clay as well as the sand size and organic matter content. Once we have this information

we can make recommendations to the client for any amendments, whether it is a sand amendment or an organic

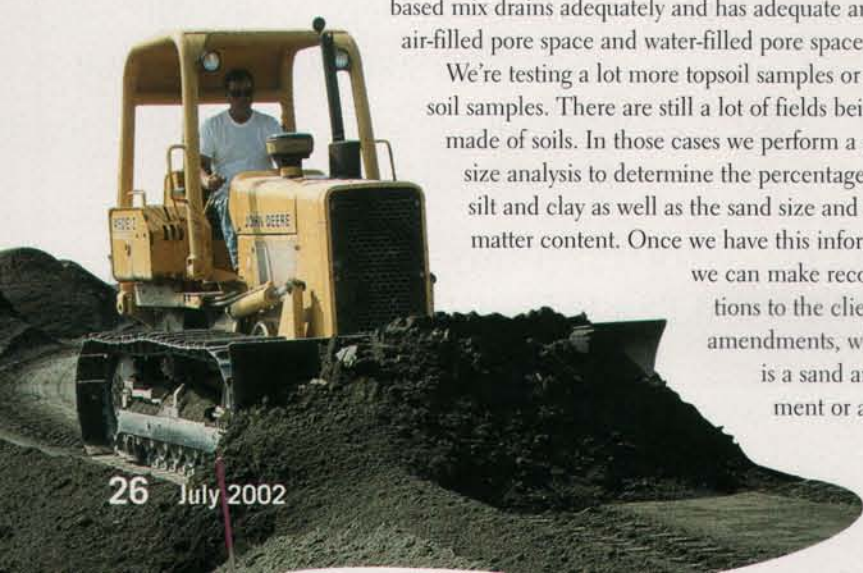
amendment or both. If they want to take it a step further with topsoil fields, we can do compaction testing on the samples to determine maximum levels of compaction of the soil. Then we can run physical properties on the soils at density levels that correspond to what the soil should be compacted to in the field during construction. This way they can get an idea if whether an amendment is improving the soil physical properties or not. We would test the soil before and after the amendment to see what benefit, if any, the amendment is providing. That would be a complete physical analysis, with a Proctor test.

ST: Do you typically recommend a particular type of amendment, or does it depend on each particular case?

Hummel: The most common amendments that are used are sand. We like to help people out when selecting the sand amendment, because there are some guidelines for selecting the sand amendment and the quantity. This is important, because adding too much or too little sand as well as improperly sized sand often results in a soil that is worse than what they started with. The other type of amendment that is commonly used is organic matter. More for economic reasons than anything else, composts tend to be the organic amendment of choice, for soils anyway. For sand-based mixes it's more along the line of good-quality peat.

ST: In terms of the tests you perform on existing fields, when and how often should the field manager have the soil tests done?

Hummel: Soil physical properties are normally performed on existing fields when there are suspected problems. Density is a real important parameter to measure, especially on topsoil fields, because it has a big influence on all the other properties. Density refers to the level the soil, or sand-based mix, is compacted to. To do it properly requires taking undisturbed samples. We have samplers that pull out 12-inch-long sleeves of samples and leave the soil pretty much in tact. Some grounds managers or superintendents will drive 2-inch PVC into the ground to extract a sample. If they're conscientious about how they take the sample and pack it right, they can pull a pretty good sample. When this is done we can determine physical properties, which is a pretty good diagnostic tool to assess whether there are any physical problems. The nutrient test is something that should be done every year on a sand-based field and once every 3-4 years on a soil-based field just to determine the nutrient status. Proper sampling



involves taking numerous samples with a soil tube off the field in random locations, getting a composite sample, mixing them together and sending them off to the lab.

ST: How quick is the turn-around on the tests?

Hummel: The turn-around varies with the type of testing to be done. Most tests are done within 3-4 working days. Some of the more comprehensive tests with the soils could take up to 2 weeks.

ST: What is the most common problem you see with sports fields?

Hummel: The most common problems we see on soil-based fields—in particular, newer soil-based fields—are a result of poor design. It seems that there are few people who know how to design a soil-based field. In their defense, though, there really aren't any good industry standards on topsoil fields. Many times these fields are over-engineered to the point that they are worse than older fields adjacent to these where the soil was just hauled in and pushed up. Compaction issues are probably the number one problem on newer fields. There often is no control during construction on the placement and grading of the soil. There are people out there with road graders and vibratory rollers trying to achieve the perfect grade. You can take very good topsoil and really build a lousy field by over-compacting the soil.

The common problem with sand-based fields, at least initially, is quality control during construction. If somebody is experiencing problems on a newer sand-based field typically it's due to a lack of quality control during construction and the materials that were brought in are not what they were supposed to be. But those are relatively few; we don't really have too many problems with sand-based fields.

ST: When someone is looking to have test done on a soil-based field, do you recommend which tests should be conducted?

Hummel: Yes, and what I typically recommend is what we call a topsoil quality test, which includes particle size analysis, organic matter content, and the nutrient test.

From this testing we will recommend any amendments, if needed, to the soil. I would like people to do the complete physical analysis for topsoils in which we do the Proctor testing and then look at physical properties under various compaction levels. That gives them a lot more information, especially in terms of evaluating

whether an amendment is doing any good, and what proportions are needed for the amendment to work properly. This testing is more expensive, requires more material and more time. All of this testing is done to reduce the risks down the road, and this more comprehensive testing just gives us more information.

ST

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Olivet Nazarene upgrades fields for Bears' camp

BY NATHAN ODGAARD

Hometown pride among Chicago Bears fans has blossomed in Bourbonnais, IL. That's obvious to anyone who has recently driven along Interstate 57 past the three-city community of Bourbonnais, Kankakee, and Bradley, about 50 miles south of Chicago. A 170-ft. tall water tower standing just off the highway boasts, "Bourbonnais, Summer Home of the Chicago Bears."

Last year the Bears announced that they were moving to Bourbonnais after 18 training camps in Platteville, WI. The Bears will begin practicing on Olivet Nazarene University's athletic fields this month in preparation for the 2002 NFL season.

While the community is pumped up for the Bears' arrival, Olivet's athletic department has a reason of its own to celebrate. Though Olivet must now share its facilities, the Bears' move is Olivet's gain. In preparation for the Bears' arrival, 14 acres of the university's game and practice fields underwent major renovation last year. The enhancements resulted in healthier, safer and more durable fields that Matt Whitis, director of physical plant, believes are now one of the best in the NAIA.

"Our athletic department has really benefited from this because (the Bears' move to Bourbonnais) brought renovation to the forefront," Whitis said. "We had nice football and soccer fields before, but we just bumped that up to another level."

Renovation to the fields, estimated to cost about \$400,000, was part of a \$1.5 million facelift to the entire facility in the second half of 2001. The incentive to serve as the training camp site for the Bears drew the financial backing necessary to upgrade Olivet's facilities, Whitis said. Most of the funding came from private and corporate donations.

Starting from scratch

With the summer nearly halfway over last year when the Bears made their announcement, the Olivet grounds crew had to move immediately to complete renovation before winter. The crew had to tackle the football team's game field, Ward Field, and two practice fields, and the soccer team's game and practice fields.

Olivet first had a soil analysis taken of the fields in July. The analysis, which revealed the soil's texture and characteristics, helped determine its top-dressing and fertilizing needs. Sod was stripped off the three practice fields, as renovation to the game fields was put on hold until the end of the teams' seasons. Roundup herbicide was used on the bare surface to ensure that no remaining grass would creep into the new sod.

"We had to do a complete kill because we had a lot of aggressive grass that we had to get rid of," Whitis said. The old sod consisted of a mixture of bluegrass, tall fescue and ryegrass.

Next, the land was tilled. In August, a topdresser spread 60 tons of Turface on each field, which was then tilled 4-6 inches deep into the fields' existing soil, a Midwestern silty-clay loam.

Olivet's native soils "are really prone to compaction and have a tendency to hold water, which is one of the reasons we brought in Turface, to help improve drainage," said Larry Berry, Olivet manager of grounds.

In September, underground sprinklers were installed. Whitis said the new sprinkler system will save the grounds crew invaluable time each day and will be more reliable than the university's walking sprinklers. The underground system operates automatically, which will save the crew from having to manually move the sprinklers, including in the middle of the night.

"We can water fields in a few hours, whereas before it would take a couple of days," he said.

In October, new sod, made up of bluegrass mix, was laid. That same month the grounds crew completely renovated Olivet's soccer game field. In December, the crew left the sod on Ward Field but installed an underground irrigation system, aerated and



In preparation for the Chicago Bears' training camp, Olivet Nazarene University hustled last year to complete a \$1.5 million renovation project, which included laying new sod, installing an underground irrigation system and adding TURFACE MVP to the fields.

then top-dressed the field with amendment. "We had an abnormally warm December, which allowed us to get the sod down, and we couldn't have asked for better temperatures in the fall," Whitis said.

Fields ready for Bears

Since their renovation, the five fields have sat dormant. The area has been roped off, almost daring the Olivet athletes and intramural players to step foot onto the plush, rich-colored bluegrass. The Bears, however, get first crack. Training camp runs every day from July 26 to Aug. 14; the rest of the year, the fields belong to Olivet's football and soccer teams. During training camp, the fields will be mowed and watered daily. Olivet's grounds crew will topdress by hand, using a grass seed/Turface mix, to fill in divots, and will aggressively aerate the fields immediately following camp.

Whitis commends the university's teams for their patience while having to arrange practices off campus. "Our coaches have been willing to make sacrifices because they know the quality of the end product they're going to get," Whitis said.

Quality of the fields is just one factor that helps make Olivet an ideal training camp site, Ken Mrock, the Bears' head groundskeeper, said. "The practice fields at ONU are everything that a pro team could want. The site is expansive, finely manicured and brand new," he said. "When we embarked on the building of these fields, the big reason to build four fields was to have the flexibility to rotate the play on these fields and enable the ONU athletes to have the same fine surface that our players are going to enjoy."

Whitis said Olivet would be able to accommodate the thousands of fans that are expected to attend training camp each day.

In addition to the field renovations, other projects completed to fit the Bears' needs were: the addition of lights to Ward Field, new locker rooms, a new training room, new storage units and enhancements to the university's landscaping.

Whitis' pride and enthusiasm for the new-look Olivet is as evident as the message on Bourbonnais' water tower.

"We're extremely ecstatic with the end product that we have," he said.

ST

Nathan Odgaard is a writer for Swanson-Russell Associates, Lincoln, NE.



FIELD MARKING SYSTEM

Newstripe introduces its ProLine field marking system. Just drive the nylon locators into the ground at key field positions, attach the supplied string line to the locators, and you're ready to stripe. The locators are permanently in place so you can precisely re-mark your fields without re-measuring.

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Newstripe Inc/800-624-6706
For information, circle 155

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Nature Safe/859-781-2010
For information, circle 193



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Beam Clay offers more than 200 infield products from distributors nationwide.

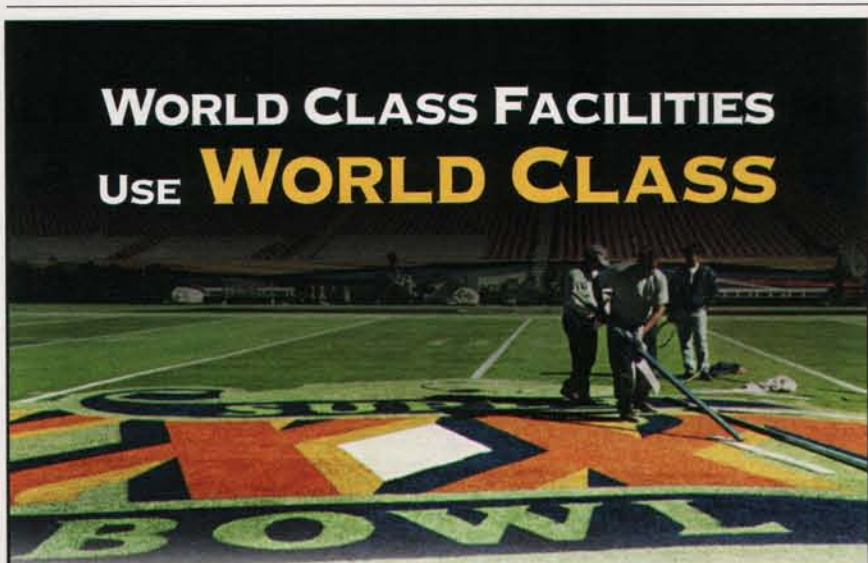
Partac Peat/Beam Clay/800-247-2326
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TurfGrids is a polypropylene fiber that is used to stabilize turf and high vehicle traffic areas such as turf parking or roadways. TurfGrids act like a mass of indestructible roots to increase load bearing of the rootzone. The product reinforces but does not interfere with standard maintenance operations, says manufacturer Stabilizer Solutions.

Stabilizer Solutions/800-336-2468
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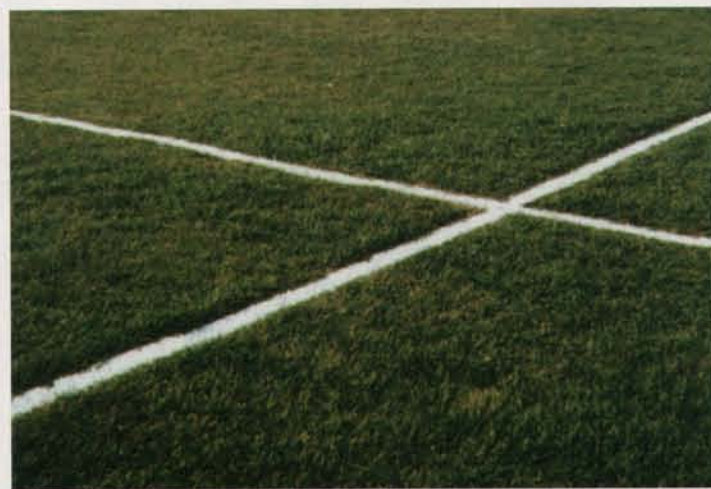
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Permaline Sports Inc/866-546-3787
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