

TAKE COVER

The Covermate handling system efficiently installs and removes gym floor covers. To install a cover section, the operator walks it over from one end of the gym to the other. To remove, attach the cover to its roller and wind it up with the standard cranks or optional power winder.

Covermaster/416-745-1811

For information, circle 080

also be used to extend a standard chain link backstop. This allows for more complete coverage of large seating areas, concession stands, playgrounds, buildings, or parking lots immediately adjacent to a field. In many cases, with only minor additions to an existing support structure, the lower cost and lighter weight netting materials allow significant coverage at a more reasonable price.

Vertical netting panels can be permanently installed using either extensions to the main backstop anchor poles or additional support poles located adjacent to the backstop. Nets can also be cut to fit around a backstop over-hang (Figure 2), or a lightweight over-hang can be made using netting and cantilevered support poles (Figure 3).

Some net installations must be designed for convenient raising and lowering of the net much like the extra point nets behind a football goal post. When this is necessary, a flexible cable can be added to the top edge of the net panels and a pulley system arranged so that the net goes up and comes down in a controlled manner.

The major cost factor in a netting-based backstop extension is generally the additional support structure required. Wooden utility poles or heavy-welded steel poles may be necessary depending on the height and length of the installation. However, it may be possible to use an existing building or utility pole for support to minimize cost. If an existing structure is to be considered for this purpose, the manufacturer or contractor that installed it should be consulted to determine whether it could support the surprisingly large wind load produced by a netting material.

When designing a backstop structure for your facility, regardless of what sport it is for, keep in mind it is there to protect people and property while facilitating a more enjoyable game for both spectators and players. **ST**

Jim Myrland is manager of Beacon Ballfields, Middleton, WI.



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Your turf is your reputation and when it looks good, you look good. Now with PERK® from Lebanon Turf Products, you can keep your turf looking its best all the time. PERK delivers instant green without stimulating unwanted growth. Here's how it works: PERK releases a burst of iron which turns the treated turf

green almost before your eyes. Then, the controlled-release iron humates and fulvates kick in to maintain the turf's green luster. Give PERK a try and you'll see it's the perfect product to keep your turf and reputation at their best. For more information, contact your Lebanon Distributor or call 1-800-233-0628. Or visit our website at www.lebturf.com.



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Circle 111 on Inquiry Card

COLD WATER PRESSURE WASHER

Tuff has a new line of heavy-duty, gas-powered, cold water pressure washers with seven models that deliver between 2,000 and 4,000 psi. All but one model of the DC line has a Honda engine; a 16-hp Vanguard engine drives the largest model, a DC-404027. The DC series also features the industrial-grade Legacy high-pressure pump with a 5-yr. warranty and EZ start valve.

Tuff Pressure Washers/800-772-8833
For information, circle 180



TESTIMONIAL

The ProLawn shielded spray system has saved me a lot of money in reduced labor costs. With boom-type sprayers, we couldn't spray if it was windy; it could be calm at the shop when we mixed pesticide, but when we arrived at the baseball fields it might be too windy to spray.

With this system, we can spray in winds up to 20-25 mph with no spray drift. We also have a fertilizer spreader mounted on the same unit so we can spray weeds and fertilize at the same time.

We've reduced our use of the hose sprayer; I don't miss dragging 300 ft. of hose around. —Stephen Cobbs, S & C Building Services, South Milwaukee, WI

ProLawn/800-292-3628
For information, circle 176

BATTING PRACTICE MAT

Colbond has manufactured various products for use in and on athletic fields for the past 30 years. Because of that success Colbond developed EnkamatPlus to protect natural turf fields in the most vulnerable areas—around the batting cage and fungo areas for baseball practices and sidelines during football and soccer games.

EnkamatPlus is made of a 1/2-in. nylon matting that has been heat bonded to a strong polyester fabric. The matrix provides an airspace and a structure that flexes as coaches and athletes continually walk over the protected area. The polyester fabric provides a smooth walkable surface while allowing rainfall to penetrate through the structure to the turf below.

Colbond, Inc./828-665-5016
For information, circle 181





TAKE THE WRITING OFF THE WALL

Remove graffiti with RE-MUV, Revere's industrial strength graffiti remover. RE-MUV can be used to eliminate all types of vandalism, including paint and markers, from almost any non-porous surface. The formula is non-toxic and emits no fumes, meaning it can be safely used in indoors. The gel formula clings to surfaces, dissolving marks in a few minutes.

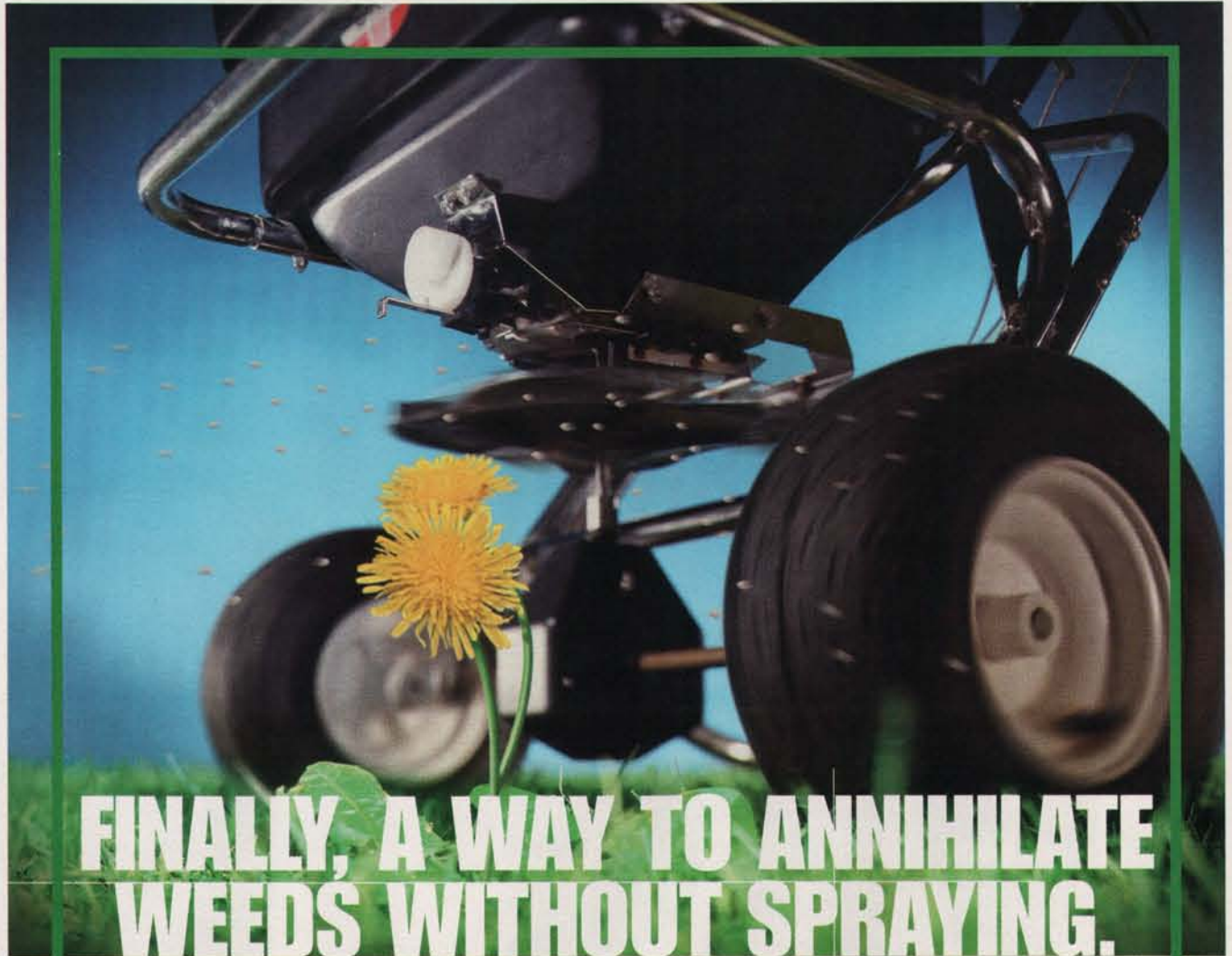
Revere/800-321-1976

For information, circle 188

ICE

IceDevlce is a non-mechanical dispensing system that offers labor-savings, safety and sanitation to a range of foodservice operators. When combined with the bagger accessory, bagging ice is fast and easy. With the IceDevlce system and bagger accessory, ice flows by gravity, through the chute into a plastic bag when the chute door in the bin front is opened and the bagger stand accessory is placed below the chute. The bags are attached on a plastic wicket to the assembly stand. Twenty IceDevlce models, with full stainless exteriors and non-corroding polyethylene liners, are available for use with nearly all commercial cube icemakers. Widths from 30 inches to 72 inches and storage capacities of 460 to 4640 lbs answer a range of floor-space and ice capacity needs.

Follett Corp/800-523-9361
For information, circle 186



FINALLY, A WAY TO ANNIHILATE WEEDS WITHOUT SPRAYING.

**ANNOUNCING GRANULAR CONFRONT FOR SPOT TREATMENTS.
AND CONFRONT WITH TEAM.**

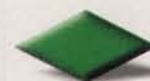


Confront is a remarkable granular postemergent broadleaf herbicide — remarkable because it actually works. Better yet, it works in either wet or dry conditions. Available on fertilizer or as a granular weed control. We've even formulated it with Team. So it's like getting a tank mix in a bag. A one step broadleaf

and Crabgrass control. Proscape offers the only granular Confront on the market, which makes it the perfect protection for keeping turf weed-free and beautiful. And we think that's pretty big news. For more information, contact your Lebanon distributor or call 1-800-233-0628. Or visit our website at www.lebturf.com.



To receive a FREE copy of our Broadleaf Weed Control Booklet, simply go to www.lebturf.com/offers and fill out the online request form. Coupon Code: ST0367



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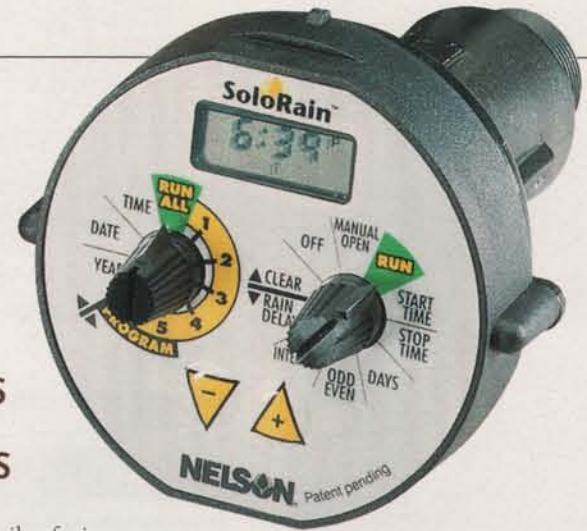
Our reputation is growing yours.™

Circle 111 on Inquiry Card

MAT DRAGS

Beacon Ballfields now offers cocoa mat drags in two sizes. The 6-ft. wide by 4-ft. deep mat is available with or without the Beacon leveling bar. The company also offers a 6-ft. by 2 1/2-ft. deep hand cocoa mat drag. The 1-in. thick natural fiber cocoa mats have a vinyl backing. The lead edge is steel reinforced. Cocoa mats give your field that major league finish and are affordably priced for the budget conscious groundskeeper. Call Beacon for pricing and a catalog.

Beacon Ballfields/800-747-5985
For more information, circle 081



NELSON'S GONE WIRELESS

With the SoloRain family of wireless control equipment, Nelson provides battery-powered irrigation products delivering reliable control without conventional wiring. Nelson's newest additions, the 8014 and 8014SR DuraLife valve actuators, operate on a factory-installed battery for up to 10 years of normal use on a Nelson valve. In addition, the 8014 and 8014SR, like all SoloRain actuators, are completely waterproof. Ideal applications include hard-to-reach areas or other spots where it is not practical or economical to install a hard-wired controller. It is also suited to retrofitting manual systems or repairing existing wired systems.

L.R. Nelson Corp./888.NELSON.8
For information, circle 082

YES.

Flowtronex can meet any of your irrigation needs through our full line of standard and custom engineered pumping systems. Sports complexes, city parks and commercial landscapes have relied on Flowtronex for years because we deliver the finest engineering, design and construction techniques in the industry. All of our systems are field tested

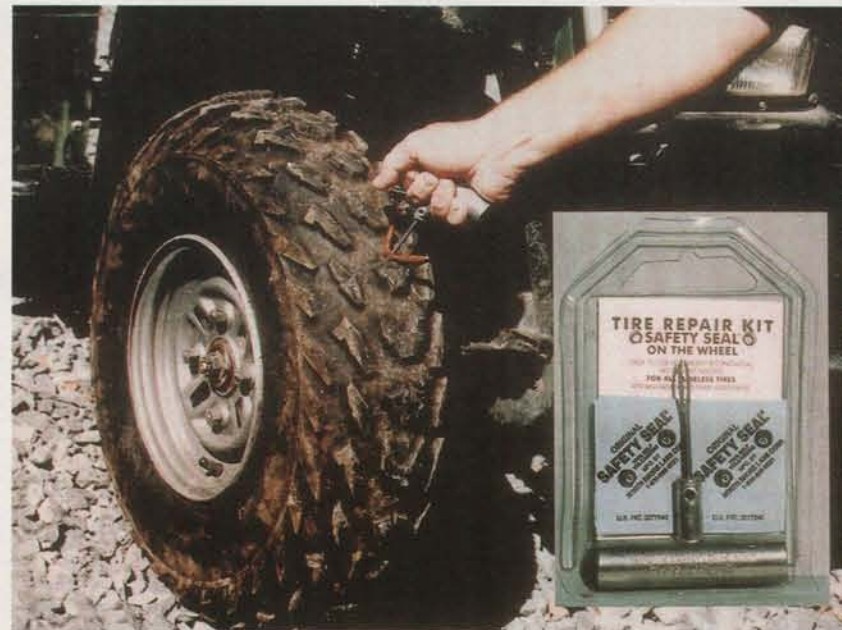


under actual operating conditions before they're ever shipped out, which guarantees trouble-free pump stations for any and all applications. And with the Flowtronex Service Network, you have a single source for repairs, replacements, upgrades and new station consultations. Say yes to the best in the industry. Say yes to Flowtronex.



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Circle 112 on Inquiry Card



TIRE REPAIR KIT

Safety Seal has available an ATV tire repair kit that contains a metal T-handle insertion tool, six self-vulcanizing repairs, and instructions, in a storable clamshell package. Kit also available with CO2 inflator.
North Shore Labs/800-888-9021
For information, circle 178



GYM WALL PADS

Pioneer Manufacturing has a full line of gym wall pads, including permanent and removable pads. Pads are available in a variety of styles, sizes, and materials to fit any budget, and pads can be custom made to fit nearly any wall space. Also available is customized lettering and logos.

Pioneer Mfg/800-877-1500
For information, circle 179

BOOTS BOOTS BOOTS

West Coast Shoe Co. has a website, www.westcoastshoes.com, where turf managers and others can find information and purchase Wesco boots. Wesco manufactures stock and custom-made boots in a 155-step process; standard features on all boots include full grain leather, double vamps, leather insoles and midsoles, and slip-in cushion inserts.

West Coast Shoe/800-326-2711
For information, circle 187



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WARRANTY
COVERS

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- Faster seed germination
- Deeper root development

- Delays dormancy in fall
- Ideal winter blanket

- Best for quick turf repairs
- Available in any size



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Dann Daly, Park Maintenance Supv.,
Parks & Rec Dept., North Smithfield, RI

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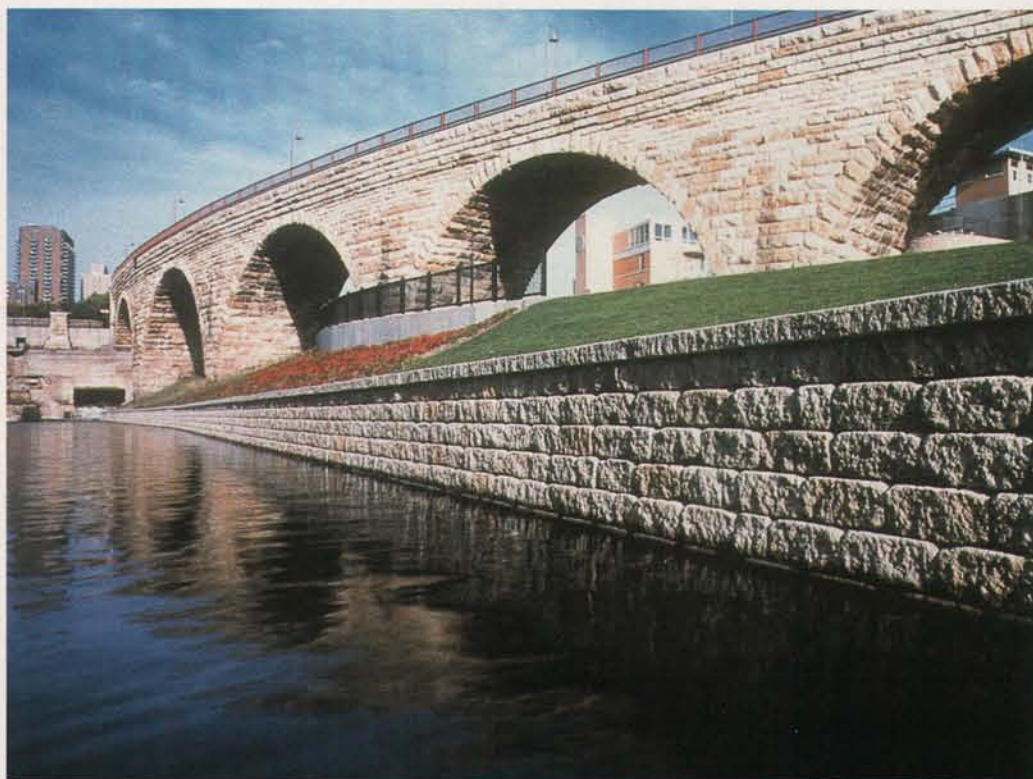


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Circle 113 on Inquiry Card



RETAINING WALL SYSTEM

Mill Ruins Park, an historical landmark that once was the largest direct-drive waterpowered facility in the world, now features a Weathered Versa-Lok retaining wall. In a continuing effort to reclaim land adjacent to the Mississippi River, the area has undergone reconstruction of canals, channels, and surrounding landscapes.

The first phase involved using segmental retaining walls to re-construct a tailrace that channels water from the river downstream alongside the partially excavated old flour mill ruins. The architects chose Versa Lok to complement historical surroundings while still ensuring long-lasting durability, it said.

Versa-Lok/800-770-4525

For information, circle 182

AIRFIELD™

**We Have Taken Athletic Fields
Out of the Stone Age!!!**



The Airfield™ Sports Turf System is the first natural turf system to offer a drainage technology that doesn't rely on the French drain, developed in the times of the Roman Empire. Airfield™ suspends the entire playing surface over a one inch layer of air. Once the water has moved through the root-zone it drains away easily in the open air void.

Airfield™ produces substantially higher drainage rates and reduces irrigation requirements when compared to conventional methods – with savings as high as 20 percent of the total cost of construction. Financing available.

GEOTURF

GEOTURF, LLC
888-287-9657

www.geoturfairfield.com

Circle 114 on Inquiry Card



LET YOURSELF BE HEARD

The Hyper Sonic Sound beam is a sound reproduction system which allows you to remotely place sound wherever you want it, up to 300 ft. away by simply "sending" the sound waves through space. The sound only becomes apparent to the listener when the traveling sound waves have made impact with a surface, be it material, organic or human. For example, if the Sound Beam is used in a large exhibit space, and aimed in one particular direction, the visitors standing in that immediate area will notice the sound emanating from the surfaces which the HSS Sound Waves have impacted within that targeted area, while others located elsewhere in the space will not be disrupted by the otherwise fully radiating sound of a traditional loudspeaker. The Sound Beam is a flat transducer system which can easily and unobtrusively be mounted on ceilings, walls or floors, secretly aimed to impact the surfaces where the sound is desirable, including people themselves.

International Robotics/212-982-8001

For information, circle 184.



LET THERE BE LIGHT

The GE PowrSpot luminaire comprises the core of GE sports lighting solutions for recreational and competition sports fields at all levels.

The PowrSpot optical assembly features a one-piece, symmetrically

spun, parabolic aluminum reflector, coated inside and out with ALGLAS (potassium silicate glass finish chemically bonded to the aluminum surface). This protects against entry of gaseous and particulate pollution, promoting corrosion resistance, optical performance and lumen maintenance. Customers can choose either standard optics or ULC (Ultimate Light Control) optics for installations requiring spill, light or uplight mitigation.

GE Sports Lighting Systems/828-693-2000
For information, circle 185

AMETEK NOW ARMOR

Ametek access boxes will now be known as Armor access boxes. The boxes are manufactured in five sizes that have numerous applications in turf irrigation and are available in green, black, gray, tan, red brick, and mulch brown. T-top or drop-in lids come blank or labeled "Control Valve," "Water Meter," "CATV," "Sewer," or "Telephone."

The company's full line of plastic valve boxes include round and rectangular boxes of various sizes and depths.
Plymouth Products/800-222-7558
For information, circle 177

**Pssst Frank,
Look At That Edging!**



Great Fields Get Noticed.

Turfco offers you a strong team of turf building equipment. They're the fastest and most versatile equipment to let you build hardier and healthier turf. Your sports fields become safer to play on and become easier to maintain. Originators of Mete-R-Matic® top dressers in 1961, Turfco's professional equipment gives your field a look that gets noticed.

Pro Turf Edger

Special design makes it easy to follow any edge. Eliminates spade work around the diamond. Oscillating blade action cuts fast and clean. Leaves no mess or no thrown debris to clean up.

Economy Aerator

Now you can afford to breathe life into any sports field. This low cost, 62" aerator has no hydraulics or mechanical linkages for easy use and low maintenance. Hooks up to any vehicle in seconds.

Precision Top Dresser

Fast, uniform, versatile. Patented chevron belt lets you handle top dressing, lime, crumb rubber, gypsum, calcine clay, compost and even overseeding with precision. Level fields and amend soil consistently.



For details and the name of your local dealer, call

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Minneapolis, MN 55449-4420

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Choice Fields.*



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PORTABLE GENERATORS

Coleman Powermate has a new line of Honda-powered portable generators available, ranging from 5,500 to 6,500 watts. All three new models have Honda GX overhead valve engines that shut down automatically if oil runs low; one model features electric start. Each model has tires, fold-down handles, and 5.6-gal. metal gas tanks. A special idle control reduces engine speed and noise when the electrical load subsides.

Coleman Powermate/800-445-1805
For information, circle 083



WALL PADDING

Promats Inc. has supplied protective padding for more than 250 stadiums across the country, including for every major professional outdoor sport. Its plywood-backed, "Z" clip attached pad is constructed with 3/4-in. APA BC or better exterior grade plywood, 3 in. of high-density polyurethane foam cores, and UV-resistant 16-oz. laminated vinyl covers. Normally meant for concrete or wood walls, can be used on chain link fences as well, says the company. Works when applying logos or advertising.

Promats Inc./800-678-6287
For information, circle 084

EARTH ANCHOR SYSTEM

A system you can install yourself anchors many parks and recreation amenities including benches, tables, playground equipment, and toilets. The AMU system consists of a Manta-Ray earth anchor attached to a threaded rod; the anchor is first driven into the ground with a heavy hammer and re-usable drive steel to proper depth; then a locking socket and drill is used to pull the rod, toggling the anchor into a perpendicular position. A nut and washer complete the fastening.

Foresight Products/800-325-5360
For information, circle 087



CUSTOM SIGNS

Revere has more than 700 stock sign designs or will customize signs for you. Special safety notices, personalized parking, or directional signs are examples of what they do. Custom signs are available in a wide variety of sizes and materials. Signs are made of plastic, vinyl, or aluminum. Complete line of OSHA and traffic signs available.

Revere Products/800-321-1976
For information, circle 086



OUTFIELD FENCE COVER

SmartCap and SmartScreen are available from Markers Inc. Bright yellow color heightens player awareness, and the company says the SmartCap won't crack and stays soft for many years.

Easy to install 25-ft. rolls come with nylon straps. SmartScreen comes in rolls of 3- or 6-ft. high by 25-ft. long. This P-E-M extruded and molded PVC product won't unravel, and comes in dark green that is UV-stabilized and won't fade. It provides 80+ percent screening and also can be used as a backstop screen.

Markers Inc./800-969-5920
For information, circle 085



FRESH, FROZEN AND FAST

The new high capacity floor shake freezer, Model 0212, is designed for applications where serious volumes of thick, creamy shakes are required. The 0212 will handle high-demand rush hour requirements quietly and efficiently, says the manufacturer. This freezer also features the company's patented automatic controls.

Stoelting/800-558-5807
For information, circle 183

Dress for Success.



Sprint® 330 delivers more iron to grass and keeps working after other products have fallen short. High performance turf needs high performance iron, and Sprint delivers, even in highly alkaline or calcareous soils. That's why it's the iron chelate turf and greens experts have trusted for over 15 years, and why you can trust Sprint to keep your grass in peak condition.

Admiral™ Liquid controls the growth of algae and other aquatic vegetation in lakes, ponds, and other bodies of water while adding a beautiful, natural-looking blue. Registered by the EPA, Admiral Liquid promotes a healthier and balanced aquatic ecosystem and is an important part of any lake management plan. Create more beautiful waterways with Admiral.

Green Lawnger™ puts an end to discolored turf. It's not a turf dye; Green Lawnger is an environmentally friendly permanent green pigment. Easily applied with most sprayers, Green Lawnger adds a healthy, natural shade of green that wears brilliantly and keeps turf looking fresh until you mow it away. So, bring it on—we've got you covered.

Admiral is a trademark of Becker Underwood, Inc. and is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency, No. 67-64-2. Read and follow label directions.

For more information about Becker Underwood's full line of quality turf products, please contact your distributor.



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Circle 116 on Inquiry Card

Leveling the playing field

BY MARTY CURTIS

Growing up in a small town on the South Dakota prairie, I used to have to travel 50 miles or more to play ball. The drives seemed endless to me. Finally arriving at our destination, we poured out of the bus, filled with boundless energy and the confidence that we could play with anybody!

As our team gathered on the field, we always gazed around the ballpark to check out the general conditions. Memories of bold-colored advertising on outfield fences, smells of freshly mowed grass, and brightly chalked batter's box and base lines remain vivid in my mind.

The outfielders looked over the grass to see how short it was cut, trying to get an idea of how the ball would roll. They checked the warning track, if there was one, and gauged the distance between the turf and the fence while waiting for the coach to hit fly balls.

Infielders lingered at their various positions, ready to start pre-game warm-ups. We scuffed around the infield dirt checking conditions and fielding grounders, taking relays from the outfielders, and turning some double plays. The starting battery warmed up on the sidelines for a few minutes before moving on to the field to try out the slope of the mound.

The ballparks we played on varied from town to town in their design and condition. Some physical characteristics, such as the size of the ballpark, seemed proportionate with the town's size. But good maintenance was not a product of either size or wealth. The quality of the maintenance reflected instead the dedication and direction of the civic leaders. As a young ballplayer, I just accepted that some fields were less desirable to play on without wondering why. Now, after playing ball for nearly 50 years at various levels, I'm still impressed stepping onto a well-maintained field, only now I understand how and why.

Safety first

We of course try to maintain fields in the best possible condition for our athletes' safety. A smooth, level playing field is an important factor in keeping players from injury. And, from the perspective of municipal parks and rec leaders, avoiding litigation stemming from negligence is key.

Another point to consider is the need to schedule make-up games caused by rain or standing water; with the large number of teams playing on a limited number of fields, it can be difficult to schedule make-ups during league or tournament play. A well-maintained field can dramatically reduce the number of make-up



Barney Lopas of the Anaheim Angels cut this flag into his outfield after 9/11. Credit: PBI/Gordon Photo.

games needed by eliminating the standing water problem. As a player, I'm as disappointed today as I was as a kid to arrive at a ballpark eager for a game only to find unplayable conditions!

So what should you consider when planning maintenance for your ballfield? First, talk to the experts, the people who know about turf and how best to care for it. Next, purchase quality, durable equipment that is versatile and easy to operate. Remember that soil conditions change from day to day, and each park and complex will have its own special needs. Finally, familiarize your crew with the operation of the equipment and your high standards of maintenance. The turf industry offers a variety of teaching aids to help you learn about quality care for your playing fields. Take advantage of these opportunities.

When done right, a well-maintained playing field adds to the safety, enjoyment, and success of every player, no matter what their part in the game. And playing teaches us so much about others and so much more about ourselves. If you lose, say little. If you win, say less!

ST

Marty Curtis is president of Rahn Industries, manufacturer of the Rahn Infield Groomer, 800-298-1707.