

For perfect diamonds as easy as 1,2,3!

1. EDGE IT

With its adjustable guide shoe, the Bannerman **Diamond Edger** is surprisingly easy-to-use. Its three-inch blade depth and reversible, 20-inch concave disc work together to quickly eliminate ridging. Debris is spiraled into the infield for fast and easy clean-up.



DIAMOND EDGER: MODEL NO. B-DE-20



DIAMOND MASTER: MODEL NO. B-DM-6

2. GROOM IT

The **Diamond-Master**® (pictured) and **Ballpark-6**® groomers will give your ball diamonds a surface just like the professional teams demand, and reduce the time, effort and labour required to do the job.

3. LINE IT

The Bannerman **WetLiner** is a simple, practical tool for line marking of turf surfaces. Other wet liners spray, while our WetLiner paints each blade of grass to the ground for solid, longer lasting lines. Paint saver roller is available as an option.



WET LINER: MODEL NO. B-WLM-234



41 Kelfield Street, Rexdale, Ontario, Canada M9W 5A3
CANADA 1-800-325-4871
USA 1-800-665-2696

Bannerman

THE HOME OF SPORTSTURF MAGIC

UV FEATURES FRONT DISC BRAKES



Available this month, the Toro Workman 2110 utility vehicle features hydraulic self-cleaning front disc and rear drum brakes. The enhanced braking system allows for increased braking ability and a towing capacity of 1,200 lbs. when using a heavy-duty tow hitch. In addition, the Workman 2110 has a powerful 16-hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard air-cooled gas engine.

"The front disc brakes provide optimum braking performance under hilly or heavy load conditions for high productivity and long-term value," said Neil Borenstein, Toro's senior marketing manager for vehicles. "The hydraulic brake system offers exceptional trailer towing capacity, increasing the versatility of the machine."

The mid-duty Workman 2110 offers a wide range of attachments such as a canopy, solid and folding windshield, portable refreshment center, hard cab, ballfield groomer, brush guard and bumper and many more attachments to customize your Workman for your specific needs.

The Toro Co./800-803-8676
For information, circle 155

COMMUNICATE IN SPANISH NOW

You can learn to communicate in Spanish without learning the language. Developed initially for golf course supers, it will aid anyone who needs to instantly find and say what you need to say in Spanish. Find the words to interact with your crew and to assign, follow up, praise and correct job tasks in seconds. Browse through the different categories of phrases, including General Maintenance; Safety, Training and Performance; Employment and Administrative; Housekeeping and Standards; Socializing; Equipment; Leadership; and Management.

The kit includes eight audiocassettes, workbook, 16 simple lessons, oral and written exercises, Quick Word Reference sheet, and glossaries that include nearly 500 phrases to give assignments and correct issues.

Spanish Systems/847-772-6474
For information, circle 157



INFIELD RAKE AND MORE

The Cushman Groom Master for sports field use features a tight turning radius. The Groom Master is available with either a 16-hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard V-Twin or Kubota 19-hp diesel engine. The nimble 2- or 3-wheel hydrostatic drive makes it both easy to drive and productive. The tilt-up engine cover provides easy access to all service points.

The Groom Master is more than just an infield rake. A variety of optional attachments such as a rear sand rake, mid-mounted cultivator that loosens compacted sand, a fan rake, drag mat, scarifier, leveling blade, and spiker are available.

Textron Golf & Turf/888-922-8873
For information, circle 156





COVER STORY

08 STMA 2001 Parks & Rec Softball Field of the Year

The McInnish Softball Complex, pride of Carrollton, TX.

Features

- 16 In & On the Ground**
When painting a field, several factors determine whether the end result will be a masterwork: set up steps, tools, application methods, the climate and, of course, the paint.
- 28 Topdressing your skinned infields**
Groundskeepers take different approaches to building and maintaining infields. However, the overall goal should be the same: To create a safe, playable surface day and night, rain or shine.
- 30 Maintaining the Grounds**
Early turf beats late in most situations, but does early beat "on time" or "peak" turf performance?
- 40 Around the Grounds**
With the ever-increasing amounts of money being spent on stadiums (and turfgrass fields), the revenue-hunters don't allow these venues to sit empty for too long.

Departments

- 03 MVP's
- 06 Front Office
- 07 STMA President's Message
- 50 On the Road with the Ace
- 52 Clippings
- 53 Chapters in Action
- 54 STMA Chapter News
- 55 Marketplace
- 57 Classifieds
- 57 Advertisers' Index
- 58 Q&A

ON THE COVER The McInnish Softball Complex, Carrollton, TX.
Photo by LeeAnn Widyn, Widyn Photography.

Demand The Absolute Best For Your Important Turf Projects.

LA PRIMA™
BERMUDAGRASS BLEND

Fast Establishment
Darker Green Dense Turf
Durable and Wear Tolerant
Blended for Variable Conditions
Drought & Heat Resistant
Finer Texture



Dark Green Color
Lower Maintenance Costs
Medium Texture/Excellent Density
Earlier Spring Green-Up
Heat/Cold Tolerant
Late Fall Color



*Plant an improved warm climate turfgrass from seed for consistently high quality turf.
Seeded turfgrasses are easier to establish, environmentally friendly and less expensive to maintain than sod or sprigs.*

GOLF COURSES ● SPORTS FIELDS ● HOME LAWNS ● PARKS

Choose **LA PRIMA** Bermudagrass Blend or **Companion** Zoysiagrass for their excellent, proven turf performance. **LA PRIMA** Bermudagrass Blend is your best choice for your high profile projects where fast germination and rapid establishment are required. **Companion** Zoysiagrass is an advanced generation cultivar with superior turf quality that offers outstanding wear tolerance. Both are perfect varieties for seeding new projects or upgrading your existing turf.

27630 Llewellyn Road
Corvallis, OR 97333
541-757-2663
1-800-253-5766

SEED RESEARCH™
OF OREGON

5314 W. Luke Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85301
623-435-9393
www.sroseed.com

the front office

Observe, document, respond, follow up

With apologies to those of you who work in areas of the country where your patrons rarely are stuck indoors because of Mother Nature, where the heck is Ms. Spring? The rest of America awaits you.

With little more than a week left in April as I write, most of the country either has had not enough rain or too much. And readers from here in Illinois haven't put away their gloves and stocking caps yet, save for a few days in mid-month when the temps skyrocketed to all-time highs.

Of course low-humidity, sunshine-filled warm days will most likely have arrived by the time you read this. And with the nice days will come the people for whom you work so hard: the beer-league softball players, the soccer moms, the summer campers, the kids on the playground.

To assist you in getting ahead of the game from a liability angle, we asked Greg Petry, executive director of the Waukegan Park District in suburban Chicago, for some tips:

"Form a safety committee that meets once a month and keep minutes," Greg says. "Establish a procedure to follow up all safety concerns, accidents, complaints, and incidents, and create a form to document complaints or report safety hazards."

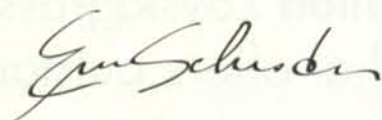
Inspect all your facilities, paying special attention to portable fire extinguishers, alarm systems, back flow valves, and boilers, and videotape all building contents and equipment, he suggests. On your sports fields, check bleachers and benches, fencing, pathways, turf, bases, and signage. "For special events, you need to have a plan for crowd control, traffic, volunteers, emergency facilities, and a lightning protocol," Greg says.

An important part of loss control programs is your staff. "Distribute your policy manual to everyone and have them acknowledge receipt," he says, "and establish discipline and termination procedures for safety violations. You also should have criminal background checks, drug screens and physicals completed before an employee is placed. And your orientation program must be thorough."

Do you have all the correct licensing needed? Does your staff? Are you meeting league standards, Consumer Product Safety Commission standards, ASTM standards? If applicable, can you rely on the opinions of a certified sports turf manager? Are you completing vehicle inspections, daily ones for vans and buses? Greg says you need to be on top of everything for an effective risk management program.

There's a lot more to be said about achieving success in the liability and safety game, so if you don't have the information you should, find it. At the very least, says Greg, you should always be looking for potential hazards, and if something does happen, be prepared to document, respond, and follow up as soon as possible. It'll be much easier to enjoy the nice weather that way, opposed to being deposited in some lawyer's office because you're being sued.

Oops: We neglected to credit the American Society of Agronomy for the illustration on p. 26 in the April issue.



Comments always welcome.
Call Eric at 630-678-0054, fax 630-678-0334, email eschroder@aip.com, or send to PO Box 67, Lombard, IL 60148.

SPORTSTURF®

250 S. Wacker Dr. #1150, Chicago, IL 60606
Ph: (312) 977-0999 Fax: (312) 980-3135 Web: <http://www.greenindustry.com>

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT L. MURRAY COOK
PAST PRESIDENT RICH MOFFITT
PRESIDENT ELECT BOB CAMPBELL
COMMERCIAL V.P. MONTY MONTAGUE
SECRETARY MIKE TRIGG
TREASURER TIM MOORE
STMA BOARD MEMBERS MIKE ANDRESEN, TONY KOSKI, BOYD MONTGOMERY, MARK RAZUM, DAVE RULLI, VICKIE WALLACE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVE TRUSTY

STMA OFFICE

1375 ROLLING HILLS LOOP, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503
PHONE: (800) 323-3875
E-MAIL: SportsTMgr@aol.com
WEB SITE: www.sportsturfmanager.com

INTEGRATED CONTENT TEAM

**VICE PRESIDENT/
GROUP PUBLISHER** STEVE BRACKETT
**VICE PRESIDENT/
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR** JO TREADWELL
EDITOR ERIC SCHRODER
SENIOR EDITOR JOHN KMITTA
TECHNICAL EDITOR DR. JEFF KRANS

PRODUCTION TEAM

GROUP CREATIVE DIRECTOR ANTHONY FICKE
GRAPHIC DESIGNER VIRGILIO CUASAY
PRODUCTION MANAGER GABRIELLE MOUIZERH

ADAMS BUSINESS MEDIA

CEO MARK ADAMS
PRESIDENT, COO J. PETER HUESTIS
SR. V.P. H.R. & ADMINISTRATION MARGIE DAVIS
DIRECTOR OF INTERNET OPERATIONS AARON NOEL
IT DIRECTOR TONYA PRZYBYLSKI
V.P., MARKETING SVCS. GROUP LIZ SANTELLI
V.P., DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION JACQUELINE M. SERRA

DIRECT MAIL LIST SALES LIZ DASCH (800) 548-5918
REPRINT SERVICE JORGIE STROSSNER (847) 885-3429

READER SERVICE SERVICES

JOANNE JUDA-PRAINITO -
READERSERVICE@AIP.COM
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION AND
DIRECTOR OF READER SERVICE

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

PHONE: (856) 786-6805 **FAX:** (856) 786-0861

ADVERTISING TEAM

SEE PAGE 57

Publisher's Notice: We assume no responsibility for the validity of claims in connection with items appearing in *Sportsturf*. Reader Service Numbers are given to facilitate further inquiry. Commercial product names are used for the convenience of the reader. Mention of a commercial product does not imply endorsement by *Sportsturf* or Adams Business Media, or preference over similar products not mentioned.

sportsTURF (Reg. U.S. Pat. & T.M. Off.) (ISSN 1061-687X) (USPS 000-292) is published monthly by Adams Business Media, 250 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60606. Material in this publication may not be reproduced or photocopied in any form without the written permission of the publisher.

Copyright © 2002.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ONE YEAR \$40 TWO YEARS \$65
FOREIGN (ONE YEAR) \$65 • \$130 Airmail or Single Copy \$5

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Provide old mailing label and new address; include ZIP or postal code. Allow 6-8 weeks for change. Send payments and correspondence regarding subscription service to: **sportsTURF**, P.O. Box 10515, Riverton, NJ 08076-0515, (856) 786-6805.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID at Chicago, IL and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Please send change of address to *Sportsturf*, P.O. Box 10515, Riverton, NJ 08076-0515.

**Adams
BUSINESS MEDIA**

**Sports
Turf
Managers Association**



president's message

Too little or too much, it's a challenge!

STMA members across the country have experienced abnormal winters and, in large blocks of the US, too little moisture this spring that is affecting the spring sports and will be a factor in summer wear and tear of their sports fields. Mother Nature has been into extremes this spring. April showers are supposed to bring May flowers, but those still waiting for the showers face real challenges. Water restrictions have been imposed in many areas that will have an impact on the playing conditions of our fields. Now is a good time to communicate with your fellow members and see how they are planning to cope with this issue.

Living in Florida for many years, we had to deal with this issue on several occasions. Watering the infield before the games during drought conditions was really tough to explain to fans whose yards were dead. Communication is key. I promised them my yard looked a lot like theirs and that watering the infield was required for player safety.

It's also important to explore all your options. A proactive approach will enable you to act rather than react. I can already tell you wetting agents are in high demand now, so contact your local vendor (who I am sure will be an STMA member) about products. They can make a little water go a long way!

While all the media coverage is focused on the drought situation, in other areas of the US, April showers brought wet field conditions extreme enough to force cancellations of practices and games. Because every field user group wants to get in all the games on the original schedule, that means working those missed games back into slots on fields already heavily scheduled. That so many fields at so many different levels of play are able to support these packed schedules is a tribute to the expertise and dedication of sports turf managers.



Murray Cook.
STMA President

Professional & patient

Whether Mother Nature brings you too little or too much precipitation, do be patient and be professional in how you handle your water management issues.

Now, while those spring sports are in full swing, is a great time to start taking photos of your fields to enter for the STMA Field of the Year awards consideration. The best time to begin planning your awards presentation is now. Take a series of photos, to show the before, during, and after views to demonstrate how your field changes throughout the season. You will reap other benefits besides using the photos to develop a great presentation package illustrating your field operations for awards consideration.

I have found that taking photos on a weekly basis helps in detecting problems on your fields. Since you are on the fields daily, it's tough to see the turf changes/problems in their early stages. Comparison of the weekly photos can make those differences stand out so it's easier for you to catch them.

You can also use photos to document on-field events, especially those where play takes place in poor weather conditions. Those too wet and too dry situations are prime examples. A before, during, and after photo series for such events may help you explain to field user groups, coaches, and supervisors why it may be necessary to limit or cancel play in bad weather.

Keep an eye on the STMA website as well (www.sportsturfmanager.com). It's a great place to catch up on industry news, connect with others on key issues of the day, or post a question for quick networking feedback. You can also contact any of the STMA Board members or STMA Headquarters with ideas to share or for additional resources. Your input is always welcome. You can contact me directly via email at murrayc@brickmangroup.com.

Whatever your game,



have a ball on our turf.

From the savage thrashing of rugby, to the deep divots of a weekend golfer, one of our 36 varieties will be the right turfgrass for your application.

Call us today
888-NEW-GRASS
639 4727

**Turfgrass
America**

"Making a positive impact on your environment."

Circle 102 on card or www.OneRS.net/205sp-102



The Championship "Green"

Photos by LeeAnn Widyn, Widyn Photography

City of Carrollton's McInnish Softball Complex earns the STMA 2001 Softball Field of the Year Award

BY STEVE AND SUZ TRUSTY

The Championship "GREEN" Field of the McInnish Softball Complex earned the STMA 2001 Softball Field of the Year Award in the Parks and Recreation Division. This is one of the five softball fields within the City of Carrollton, TX, McInnish Complex and is an exemplary example of an outstanding athletic facility in the Dallas Metroplex.

The current population of the Carrollton is 111,000, with growing room to reach approximately 125,000. This sports-oriented community has supported the development of its sports facilities and uses them extensively.

Andy Babbitt, athletic manager for Carrollton Parks and Recreation, says, "The McInnish Sports Complex is not only home to the five softball fields, but also to six baseball fields, nine soccer fields, and an additional five soccer fields in the R. E. Good Complex contained within the McInnish site. The City's Josey Ranch Complex is home to eleven fields: five baseball, two football and four girl's softball fields."

And there's more to come. Babbitt says, "The City has approved a major bond issue that will add 12 more soccer fields to the McInnish Complex, at the cost of approximately \$2 million, and develop the new T. C. Rice Complex. The \$10 million first phase of the T. C. Rice project will include six adult softball fields, five girls softball fields, and a multi-use, lighted facility—for a combination football, soccer and track—that will have seating for 2,000. Construction will begin the last quarter of 2002, with play projected for 2004."

Assisting Babbitt in overseeing all this is athletic fields supervisor, Mason Ward. Ward is in charge of field maintenance and sports organization outreach. Babbitt says, "Mason started as a crew member on the athletic field team 13 years ago, so he's covered every aspect of field care and understands the complexities of keeping so many different fields ready for play."

Maintenance Program

January

- Check base pins and replace bases and pitching rubber
- Mow overseeded perennial ryegrass to 1.5 inch height, once per week
- Drag field once per week to prevent valleys, hills and grass invasion
- Add additional infield material

February

- Mow overseeded perennial ryegrass to 1.5 inch height, twice per week
- Drag field at least once per week, and as many times as needed for each tournament
- Irrigate if weather conditions require it
- Edge around turf perimeter to keep sharp edges for games

March & April

- Mow overseeded perennial ryegrass to 1 inch height, twice per week
- Drag and prepare infield each day for league play
- Fertilize with 15-5-10
- Topdress with sand
- Irrigate twice a week (20 minutes per outfield zone; 5 minutes per infield zone)
- Slice aerate once in April
- Adjust mowing if needed as perennial ryegrass phases out and bermudagrass takes over
- Edge around turf perimeter to keep sharp edges for games
- Apply weed control if needed following standard IPM procedures

May, June, July, August & September

- Mow bermudagrass to 1 inch height, twice per week
- Drag and prepare infield each day for league play
- Slice aerate twice per month
- Irrigate infield daily (8 minutes per station); outfield three times weekly (30 minutes per station)



- Edge around turf perimeter to keep sharp edges games (once a month in June and July)
- Sod cut edges to keep lip down and field level in May
- Fertilize with 15-5-10 in May and August
- Topdress with sand in May and August
- Apply fire ant and other insect control if needed following standard IPM procedures

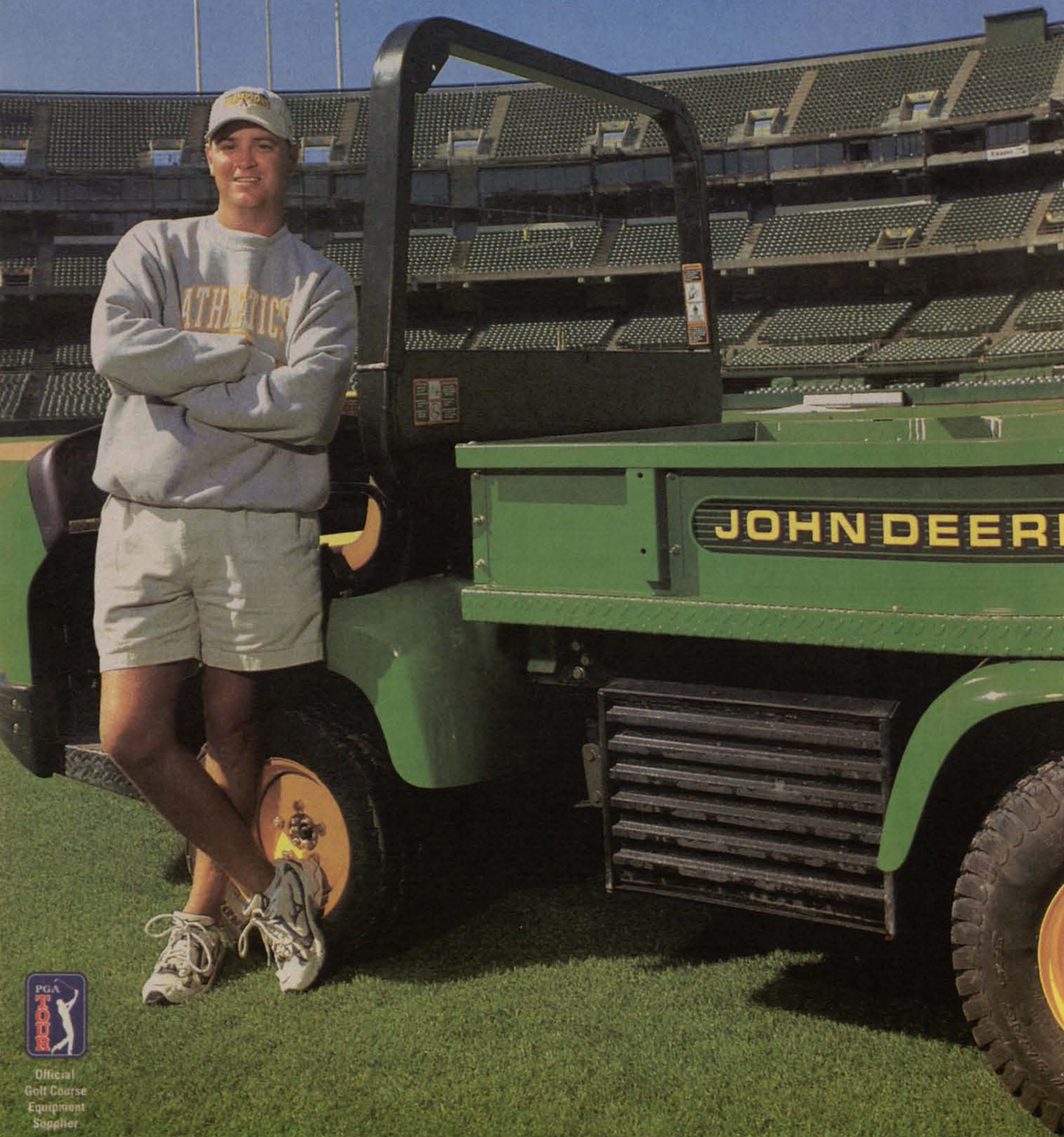
October

- Slice aerate in two different directions
- Overseed with perennial ryegrass and topdress with sand
- Mow bermudagrass to 1.25 inch, twice a week
- Drag and prepare infield each day for league play
- Irrigate twice a week (20 minutes per outfield zone; 5 minutes per infield zone)
- Edge around turf perimeter to keep sharp edges for games

November & December

- Mow overseeded perennial ryegrass to 1.5 inch height, twice per week
- Drag field at least once per week, and as many times as needed for tournament or league play

IN OAKLAND, BOTH THE A'S AND THE
RAIDERS KNOW THAT IT
TAKES CLAY TO MAKE A GREAT FIELD.



Official
Golf Course
Equipment
Supplier