

sweeper system by standing the grass up to its optimum cutting position.

In some sports turf venues it is common to use the sweeper 15 to 20 times during a particular season, whether it is a combination of football games, soccer, or lacrosse. The ability to eliminate the need of heavier, more cumbersome and damaging equipment is also minimized with the availability and use of a combined lawn sweeper system.

In hotter climates where bermudagrass is the dominant or grass of choice, overseeding is a logical and productive extension of the lawn sweeper system that incorporates various tiers of bristles from the lawn sweepers to "open up" the grass.

The lawn sweeper handles the conventional picking up of leaves and grass and other types of debris that sometimes finds its way onto a stadium turf. In addition, the productivity and viability of the fertilization and cutting processes are maintained more effectively with the use of a lawn sweeper's single swathe over the course of an athletic arena. Very simply the grass is cut off better, it stands up better, and it spreads out better, without the necessity to operate with less efficient, heavy-duty vacuums.

A remarkable aspect of this simple piece of equipment is that it has been operational for nearly 100 years. They really haven't changed much in design since their introduction in the early 1900's. And that's up to standard, knowing that the original design was ideal from the start.

Editor's note: In the first-of-a-kind offering from this magazine, an online demonstration of Parker Minuteman's lawn sweeper product is now available on the website, http://oners.hotims.com/9094-300. We hope to collaborate with other manufacturers in the future to provide more "virtual" product demonstrations.

Robin Pendergrast is president of Robin F. Pendergrast Photography, Inc. He can be reached at 815-363-0909 or visit www. rfpphoto.com.

### **TOOLS & EQUIPMENT**

#### **MINUTEMAN PARKER WEBINAR**

#### A Stadium Demonstration

Minuteman Parker is pleased to participate in and help inaugurate the new Webinar product demonstration program in concert with *SportsTurf* magazine.

The online presentation of the Minuteman Parker Lawn Sweeper system is an exciting and new venue for educating sports turf professionals about the value of this extremely well established product concept.

The Minuteman Parker Lawn Sweeper system is presented in the Webinar as well as in a PowerPoint presentation that details the benefits of the various product line components and many other aspects that provide a thorough, yet simplistic, way to help manage sports turf facilities.

The Minuteman Parker Lawn Sweeper system, considered by many to be an original, offers an exciting, new opportunity at a relatively inexpensive cost to handle some of the most difficult lawn-care challenges provided on sports turfs.

In addition to the Minuteman Parker website, www.parkersweeper.com, the sports turf Webinar is yet another venue to help assist today's sports turf professionals in maintaining optimum surfaces.

To view the demo, go to http://oners.hotims.com/ 9094-300

# IRRIGATION & DRAINAGE Yoder, Balough use fire nozzles at Petco

avid Milhalides, a former golf course superintendent-turnedentrepreneur who is also a rep with Reelcraft Industries, alerted us at the STMA Conference about two major league turf managers who had discovered that nozzles used by firemen work great for their purposes too.

Luke Yoder, director of field maintenance for the San Diego Padres, and his "aide-de-camp," Matt Balough, can't keep the secret any longer because Milhalides has worked out an agreement with the nozzle manufacturer to market them to turf managers. Yoder answered some questions via email on the nozzles:

**SportsTurf**: Where did you discover these nozzles?

**Yoder**: A friend who worked at a fire department supply warehouse referred us to Bill Black with Fire Etc. Bill sells us the nozzles direct.

**ST**: How did you find out they worked well for your purposes?

**Yoder**: We tried numerous nozzles with different spray patterns and orifices (the orifice affects the volume of water). These nozzles varied from 10 gallons per minute (gpm) to 90 gpm. There was such a wide variety we knew that something would work for our applications.

**ST**: What exactly about their performance is better for hand-watering?

**Yoder**: The 1.5-inch nozzle that has 40-90 gpm is perfect for hand-watering the turf areas. We always hand-water infield and foul turf areas and this nozzle cut our time in half compared to what we were using before. The more water that comes out the less time you hand-water. We also take advantage of this nozzle for watering in sand after topdressing. And finally, we use this nozzle for anytime we need to flood the infield skin, (before the team comes back [from the road] and postgame). Again, it saves us time.

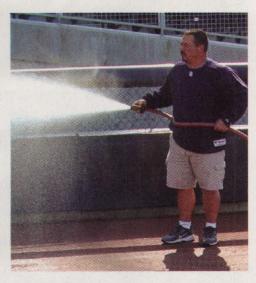
We have so many choices for different conditions. We choose a certain nozzle for a certain application based on the volume of water and spray pattern we want. For a typical pregame water I will use a 1-inch, 10 gpm to 30 gpm nozzle. This allows me to water with precision and even does a light mist if needed.

The nozzles are aluminum and come with or without rubber bumpers on the end. They are all adjustable from stream to fan. Some will create a light mist.

One of the nozzles is simply a 3/4-inch brass valve. This is good for mounds because you can create a very small stream to wet the packing area.

**ST**: What's your infield watering routine, both for off days as well as game days?





**Yoder**: When the team is out of town we do not water the infield skin. We start to flood out the infield 2 days before they return. We will flood the infield four times before the start of the homestand. We then flood the infield at post-game, work it all morning, and then flood it again before lunch. After that we just touch up with less water in between batting practice and at pre-game.

**ST**: What types of hoses and reels do you use?

**Yoder**: We use 1-inch, lightweight, clear hoses, and a Reelcraft reel system that is buried in the warning track.

**ST**: Any advice for others when it comes to hand-watering, regarding technique or efficiency?

**Yoder**: On hot, sunny days more water is usually better. Just think ahead and flood at the right times. You want to maintain a high amount of moisture in the base throughout the homestand. My opinion is that the infield should be under water at least once a day. We flood twice (again, this is assuming hot, sunny weather).

# 25TH ANNIVERSARY Memories and more from STMA veterans

e asked several prominent STMA members about how they first got involved with the Association and other thoughts on membership and its value.

#### **George Trivett, CSFM**

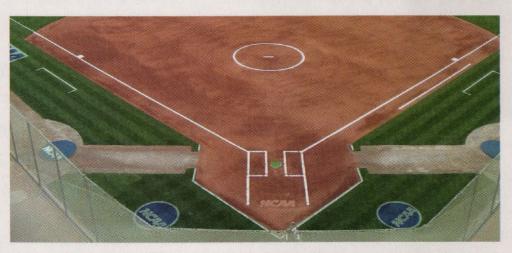
I became an STMA member in 1985 after attending a seminar in South Carolina where Bucky Trotter introduced me to the Association. From then until now the most compelling reason to be an STMA member is the great opportunities we as members have to network with others in our profession, whether on the phone or in person at our great conferences.

In all those years STMA members, no matter what level they work on, has never refused me help in any way. One of my best memories is of the late Dr. Kent Kurtz, who at my first conference in St. Louis invited to sit at his table. From that moment on I knew I was part of one of the greatest Associations anywhere. I also met Kevin Meredith at that conference and he made me feel like a brother and we continue our close relationship to this day. After being elected to the Board in 2003, I have been given opportunities that without STMA I would have never been given. I truly am grateful to our Association and to all the members for making me feel so welcome.

#### **Mike Schiller, CSFM**

I was blessed to have attended a turf conference at Purdue, where a gentleman by the name of Harry Gill was making a presentation. I stuck around asking a couple questions and we were friends. He told me the following year they would be meeting with Eric Madsen's group from Park Maintenance in Kansas City.

So I went to Kansas City the next year and saw Harry again as well as a fellow named George Toma. During the field tours I absorbed all George had to say about the



Chiefs' stadium and practice facility, as well as Royals Stadium.

I remember he took me out to center field where two of his crew were working hard to replace a piece of the Astroturf. He asked me how long I thought it would take two guys to change out one square yard of carpet, and I came up with an answer that was no where near correct, and George had me hooked.

The following year the meeting was in Chicago and I got to meet Dick Ericson, who was president of a group known as the Sports Turf Managers, and David Frey, who was at the old Cleveland Stadium. I walked into a meeting and was told I had been elected vice president of the Sports Turf Managers. I also got to know founding member Dr. William Daniel, the great turf man from Purdue. These men mentored me and helped immeasurably in my career. I have been truly blessed to be able to know and consider them all friends.

#### **Tom Burns**

My first experience with STMA was in 1986. I was working at the old Arlington Stadium and we hosted a regional seminar. SportsTurf magazine was just starting out then and I met the first editor, Bruce Shank, as well as the late Dr. Kent Kurtz. I can't believe 20 years have gone by so quickly.

At the conference in Tampa in 2001 I lost my golf clubs. Well I didn't lose them, Delta did. In order to save space in my luggage I packed all my shoes and auction items in my golf bag. There must have been 20 sets of clubs on that flight. As far as I know mine were the only ones that did not make it. Could have been worse, another guy got only his clubs and lost his clothes.

I only had the pair of hiking shoes that I was wearing on the flight. I was on the Board at the time and took a good amount of ribbing about my footwear all week, especially at the banquet. Nothing sets off a suit like a good pair of hiking shoes.

By the way, I borrowed a set of clubs, donned my hiking/golf shoes and my team won the tournament. Monty Montague is still bitter.

#### **Bob Campbell, CSFM**

I first became involved with STMA when the conference was held in Indianapolis. I remember a presentation given by Chuck Dixon about sand fields, which was so much over my head that I had no idea what he was talking about. (We hired Chuck a few years **25TH ANNIVERSARY** 

later to help us design our field at the University of Tennessee when we went back to grass in 1993.)

The next national conference I attended was at Colorado Springs. It is still one of my favorites and I believe that that was the conference where our Association really took off. There was so much energy at this conference because everyone was changing to the new sand fields and there were so many questions and ideas that everyone was sharing. It

is hard to believe that was more than 10 years ago, and it is amazing to see how our conference and trade show have grown since.

The most valuable thing about my membership is all the friends I have made from around the country. These are friends and relationships that I

will cherish for the rest of my life. I am very honored that the members of STMA trusted me to be President of this Association. It was a special time in my life and one that I will never forget. My life is so much richer because of my association with STMA.

#### **Dr. Steve Cockerham**

I had been involved in sports field research and consulting for several years when, in 1982, I was asked by the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission to help get the Memorial Coliseum field ready for the 1984 Olympics (I still consult for them). The LA Olympic Committee then asked to work with George Toma in getting the Rose Bowl ready for Olympic soccer.

The Olympics exper-ience and the continued work in the Coliseum seemed legitimatize me as a sports turf manager. In early 1986, I was asked to fill an open position on the STMA Board by President Steve Wightman and Executive Secretary Dr. Kent Kurtz. When the appointed term expired, I was elected to the Board, eventually serving as President in 1989.

The two W.H. Daniel Awards that I received from STMA for my research really mean a lot to me. I am very honored to be considered by my sports turf manager colleagues to be among the scientists that have received the award. Dr. Daniel was my professor and mentor at Purdue, which gives the Award added meaning for me.

As a note to show the impact that the Association made on my career: I gave a talk at the 1992 STMA Conference in Indianapolis, after which an assistant city manager of Anaheim asked me if I would be interested in consulting with Anaheim Stadium, which I was. That stadium was the venue for California Angels baseball, Los Angeles Rams football, a college bowl game,

I'VE NEVER FELT PROFESSIONALLY ALONE SINCE I JOINED THE STMA AND STARTED ATTENDING THE CONFERENCES EVERY YEAR. - ROSS KURCAB, CSFM

> motocross, tractor pulls, concerts, etc. It was a great bunch of folks to work with. At the time, I was also involved with the Los Angeles Raiders football team at the Coliseum. A couple of years later while I was working with them, both the Rams and Raiders left southern California in the same year. Consultants lose clients, however not many lose two major league clients by both of them leaving the state at once. I only accept part of the responsibility.

#### **Ross Kurcab, CSFM**

While the education I have received from my involvement in the STMA has been so very valuable to me, by far the greatest benefit has been the people I have met, and the friendships I have made. As I grow older, it seems I can count my personal friends on one hand. But my STMA fiends are way too numerous to count. Even now, as the STMA has grown and the Conference is much bigger, my favorite part is just as it was 20 years ago: Sitting down over a cold drink with my friends "talkin' turf." The only difference is that now I am one of the "old goats."

In 1995, Troy Smith (who was my assistant at the time) and I headed down to Bradenton, FL for the STMA show. We figured "Hey, it's south Florida, why pack anything but shorts?" Well, they had a freak cold snap with temps in the mid-30's all week but we were determined to go to the beach so Troy could get some seashells for his kids. So there we were, alone on the beach, in our shorts, freezing our #\$\* off collecting seashells.

Then we were in St. Louis at the awards banquet, having a blast as usual at a table with Colorado Chapter members. Tim Moore was announcing the Field of the Year award winners. The soccer field of the year went to the Cox Soccer Complex. Tim was an excellent MC, but when he said, "The winner is the

> Cox Soccer Complex," he said it quickly, and well, use your imagination. It sounded like something different to us. I've never laughed so hard and long in my life. The whole table could not gain our composure for at least 15 minutes. We laughed so hard, our faces hurt. In short, these con-

ferences are like a giant family reunion to me. I really mean that. I've never felt professionally alone since I joined the STMA and starting attending the conferences every year.

#### **Steve Wightman, CSFM**

I got involved in STMA in the late 70's when I saw an ad in an NRPA publication that referred to an organization dealing in sports fields. I remember the first membership roster was a single sheet of one line info per member that included the names, addresses and phone numbers of the 50 or so members. Some of the names were in all capital letters, some were last name first, some were first names first, and it was sent with faded purple ink from an old mimeograph roller machine.

As I look back at previous National Conferences the one that comes to mind exhibiting the most comical flare was undoubtedly the one where the biker gang invaded the banquet and took over the stage from the Board of Directors. Organized by Steve Trusty (former Executive Director of STMA) and held in total secrecy from the BOD and the membership, that "interruption" nearly prompted serious security measures from hotel law enforcement officials! It was, of course, all in fun and enjoyed by all, and, indeed, one of the highlights of that Conference.

# **Membership has its privileges**

elcome new STMA Members! As a new member, you now have an instant network of peers who are willing to share their best practices, and quick access to information, education and resources from STMA. We believe STMA's programs and services will help you do your job better and help to save you time and money.

We hope you'll take advantage of the benefits of membership:

 A monthly electronic newsletter that communicates association and industry information, and new resources and technology available.

A hard copy of the Membership Directory

Certificate of membership and a membership card.

 Access to the Member's Only section of www.sportsturfmanager.org, which has a real-time membership directory and employment opportunities.

• Access to Michigan State's Turfgrass Information File, the green industry's greatest resource for up-todate technical information, a \$100 value.



This American soldier stationed in Iraq asked his wife to send him dirt, fertilizer, and grass seed, so he could smell the sweet aroma and feel grass grow beneath his feet. When the men of the squadron have a mission, they take turns walking through the grass and the "American soil" to bring them good luck.  Ability to enter your field or complex in the nationally recognized Field of the Year Awards Program.

 Opportunity to become a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) to showcase your professionalism.

 Access to dozens of educational sessions that you will not find anywhere else except at the STMA annual conference and exhibition, at a \$95 savings over the nonmember price; and discounts to other organizations' education.

• Discounts on merchandise, turf related and professional development books and resources.

 Opportunity to participate in volunteer leadership positions.

• Opportunity to join one of STMA's affiliated chapters for a strong local network. (Each chapter sets its own local dues.)

· SportsTurf magazine each month, a \$40 value.

 The ability to apply for scholarships (students only).

For a complete list of professional and commercial members who have joined STMA in 2006, please see www.sportsturfmanager.org.



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The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) is the recognized leader in championing the sports turf industry and its professionals. STMA members combine the science of growing turfgrasses and the art of maintaining fields to produce safe and aesthetically pleasing playing surfaces.

#### The three most important reasons for you to join STMA:

#### 1. Job security

Take advantage of STMA's programs and services, and you proactively enhance your value to your employer.

#### 2. Career success

The knowledge, skills and abilities you gain by accessing STMA's education and information can help you to prepare to take that next step in your career.

#### 3. Recognition of your professionalism

STMA's advocacy with groups such as athletic directors, parks and recreation directors, coaches, and parents enhances the image of the entire profession.

#### The top three benefits you will receive as an STMA member:

1. A network of peers who are willing to share their best practices.

2. Opportunities for education to help you do your job better.

3. Quick access to information and resources to help you save time.

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### **STMA Chapter News**

#### Sports Turf Managers Association

of Arizona: The 2nd Annual Nogales Sports Turf Golf Tournament will be held May 31 at 1:00 pm. The City of Nogales Parks & Rec Dept. and the Arizona STMA will be hosting the 2nd Annual Sports Turf Field Day June 1 at War Memorial Park from 7:30-3:00 pm. For information contact Darin Budak, CSFM at dbudak @goodyearaz.gov or call 623/882-7616, or David Oropeza, at doropeza@cityofnogalez.net or 520/285-5781.

**Chesapeake Chapter STMA** (formerly called Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization -MAFMO Chapter STMA): For information, contact Graham Davis at gdavis@american.edu or call 301/495-5522.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: The CSTMA's next workshop will be June 8 in Commerce City. The workshop will focus on the drip irrigation application in sports fields. Watch for the flier or visit the website. We are also planning a fun day in August with the Sky Sox in Colorado Springs. Details TBD. For more information visit www.cstma.org or call 303/346-8954 or President Ken Norkosky at 720/427-4174, or email knorkosk@auroragov.org.

Florida #1 Chapter: The next chapter meeting will be held May 16. There will be a bus tour that goes to Dolphin Stadium, Calder Race Course and Florida Atlantic University. For information visit the Florida #1 Chapter page on STMA's website or contact John Mascaro at 954/341-3115 or STMA@turf-tec.com.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: The Gateway chapter event for May will be at St. Charles Community College, date and time TBA. For information contact Mark Vessell at 636/940-7776 or e-mail vessel@slysa.org or Frank Schaffer at 636/940-7776.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Skip Kirby at 770/928-1580 or by e-mail at skip@sportsturfmanagement.com.

The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter: For more information call Carol Gundlach, CSFM at 909/594-5611 ext. 5174 or e-mail cgundlach@mtsac.edu.

Illinois Chapter STMA: For information call Libby Baker at 847/263-7603 or e-mail Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: The next ISTMA Workshop is June 6 at the University of Iowa. For more information visit www.iowaturfgrass.org or contact Jeff Wendel, CGCS of The Turf Office at 515/232-8222 or fax 515/232-8228 or e-mail Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club at 610/375-8469, ext. 212 or by e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: The next KySTMA event will be the July 2006 Field Day, July 27-28 at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. For more information visit www.kystma.org, contact Donnie Mefford at dbmeff00@email. uky.edu or call 859/257-1451.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MISTMA): For

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information visit website at www.mistma.org or contact Chad Follis at 269/377-3340 or 269/381-0596 or by email at chadfollis@farmngarden.com.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Chapter will have their annual tour on wheels June 14. The day-long event will stop at several points of interest, and end with a tailgate party and a St. Paul Saints baseball game. For information, visit www.mstma.org or contact chapter President Tom Adamini at 952/953-2420 or by e-mail at tadamini@ci.apple-valley.mn.us.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: The Mo-KAN chapter is pleased to announce our new website at www.mokanstma.com. Check it out for information on upcoming events, membership, helpful links, etc. For information, contact Jody Gill at 913/239-4121 or by e-mail at jgill@bluevalleyk12.org.

**New England STMA (NESTMA):** For information, contact David

Pinsonneault at 781/861-2757 or dpinson@ci.lexington.ma.us or Nick Caggiano at 603/589-3370 or caggianon@ci.nashua.nh.us.

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information, contact Jennifer Roeber at 402/441-4425 or jenr@saltdogs.com.

Sports Turf Managers of New York: The first event for the STMoNY is a Summer Field Day, date is TBD. For info, contact Mike Albino at 315/468-6225 or 315/427-1214 or mikealbino@earthlink.net or Kevin Meredith at 607/287-6609 or kimeredith@earthlink.net.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: The SFMANJ Summer Field Day, featuring George Toma, will be June 28 at County College of Morris in Randolph. For information call SFMANJ at 908/730-7770, e-mail HQ@sfmanj.org or visit www.sfmanj.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): OSTMA will hold the Summer Field Day June 21 at Columbus Crew and Ohio State Stadium. For information, contact OSTMA headquarters at 614/354-1196 or Ostma@aol.com. You can also visit our new website at www.ostma.org. The new OSTMA address is PO Box 3426 Dublin, OH 43016.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: The PNWSTMA will host an on-site renovation project at Dacca Park/Columbia Jr. High School in Tacoma. We will be renovating a soccer field owned by the City of Fife/Fife School District. Register by calling 206/285-0400. For more information contact Matt Johns at 253/445-4538 or mjjohns@puyallup.wsu.edu.

### **STMA Chapter News**

#### Southern California

**Chapter:** The next event will be our Community Service Project on July 7-8. We will be renovating Ted Williams Field at Hoover High School. For more information contact Michael Tarantino at 858/679-2526 or MTarantino@powayusd.com.

#### South Carolina Chapter of

**STMA:** For information contact Bruce Suddeth at 864/503-5514 or bsuddeth@uscupstate.edu or visit www.scstma.org.

#### **Texas Sports Turf Managers**

Association: For information contact T. J. Thompson, President-Elect at txturfmanager@1scom.net or 972/670-2138.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): The Middle Tennessee Field Day will be June 8 in Columbia, TN. For more information, contact Chapter President, Al Ray at 931/388-0303 or ARay@maurycounty-tn.gov.

#### Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: The

VSTMA Annual Field Days will be held June 13-14 at Woodberry Forest School. June 13 will include a Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament, an educative Workshop and the Tailgate Reception. June 14 will be lectures and demonstrations. For information contact Bob Studholme at 703/324-8590 or robert.studholme @fairfaxcounty.gov.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: Our next event will be the UW-LaCrosse Field Day June 15 from 9:00-2:30 pm with the opportunity to stay for a Loggers game. For more information, contact Chris Brindley at 715/346-3622 or cbrindle@uwsp.edu.

#### FORMING CHAPTERS:

#### North Florida STMA

Chapter: For information, contact Mark Clay at 904/633-6116 or Jay McCord at 904/448-2583.

Idaho STMA: For information, contact Greg Liggett, at 208/496-2421 or liggettg@byu.i.edu.

Nevada STMA Chapter: For information, contact Corey Angelo at 702/433-3113 or sIs654ASCM@lesco.com. ■



#### Session LE23

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#### Efficient Irrigation Management for Sports Fields

Dave Minner, Ph.D., Iowa State University Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries

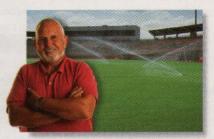
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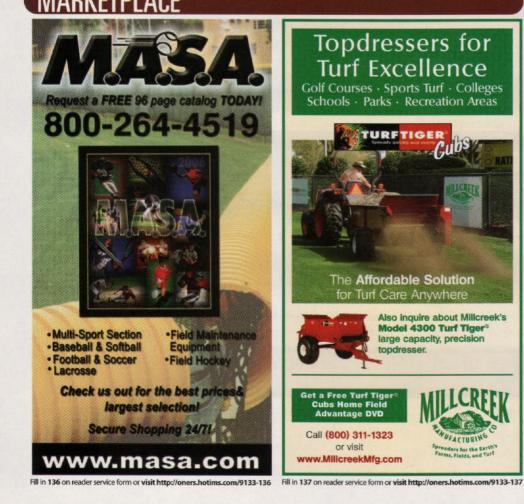


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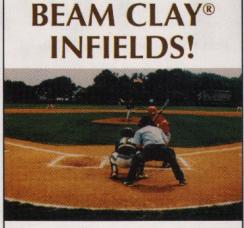
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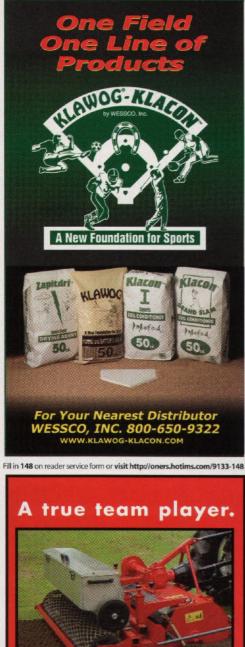
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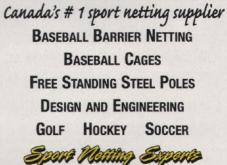
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