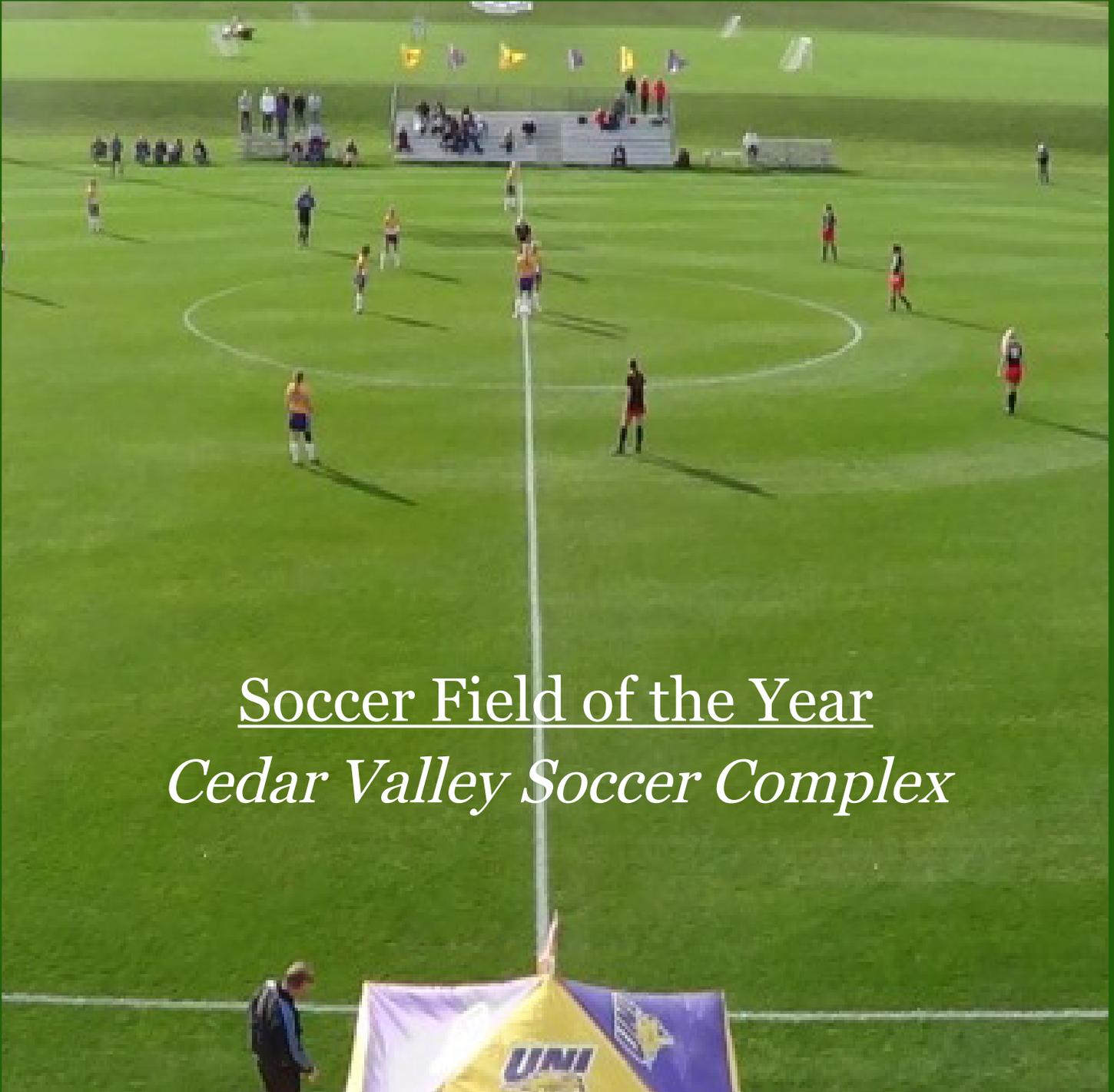


The *Sideline* Report

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

December 2014



Soccer Field of the Year
Cedar Valley Soccer Complex

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Publishing March 2015 Issue;
Articles and Advertisements are due February 1, 2015

For more information regarding articles and advertising rates contact the editor.

Sarah Hodgson, Sideline Report Editor

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A Letter from the President

TJ Brewer, CSFM, Burlington Bees



Here we are, already full of turkey and dressing, black Friday is once again in the rearview mirror. Winter is not my favorite time of year. I am more of a summer, sunshine and sweat kind of guy. This time of year is conference season. I am looking forward to all of the freshness that the ITI conference is going to bring us this year in its new location. From what I have heard there are a lot of positive changes that will be taking place that will make this year's conference in this location one to remember. From a new trade show floor to a jam-packed slate of education and a fresh new location for our ISTMA member social. I look forward to this being held at the same site as the conference and hope more will be able to attend.

As our annual meeting moves closer so does the end of my tenure as the ISTMA President. I want to thank each one of you for your help in making this organization what it is. Your board spends a lot of time and effort making sure that we are moving the organization in the right direction. I appreciate all of you who have reached out to me, or another board member, with suggestions and feedback, it is a vital part in continuing to improve the ISTMA. This past year has seen a lot of positive change. We started the year by securing a scholarship investment that will protect the ISTMA's ability to award scholarships on an annual basis. We have reached out to you, the member, with surveys to help us gain direction for the ISTMA. We created a website committee that is working to update our look... keep your eyes open for more info on this. Our education committee has outdone itself once again by developing top notch workshops and conference education. Also new in 2015 we are looking at hosting a "winter workshop" in November or December. Our membership committee has been hard at work looking to broaden our membership base. They have created some new marketing materials to get the ISTMA brand out there. We are working on better ways to recognize our members and commercial supporters. I hope you are all excited about the direction we are headed, and if you have any suggestions make sure you speak up... we are eager to listen.

A big change we are looking to make in our by-laws is how our board operates and how the chapter officer ascension process works. The key to this move is allowing more participation in our board by the membership. Right now we have a 9 member board that consists of 5 regional directors, 2 vendor directors, and 2 at-large directors. Currently our President maintains their director position during their presidency. Our intent is to create two positions on the board making it an 11 member board consisting of a President, Immediate Past President, 5 regional directors, 2 vendor directors, and 2 at-large directors. In the new system the President would vacate their director or at large position to take the Presidency. This would open up their previous director position to elect a new member to the board. After serving as President and Immediate Past President, that board member would move off the board. However, he would be eligible for re-election to the board in the future. We feel this will allow more of our membership the chance to serve and keep the board room from becoming stagnant.

Another by-law change we will be voting on is the creation of a retired membership category. The intent of this is to allow those who have retired from our industry to remain connected. The vision is to offer our retired members a reduced membership rate and discounts to ISTMA and ITI events. Keep your eyes open for by-laws changes in regards to these issues. We will be voting on this at our Annual Meeting.

I hope you all have had a great 2014. I want to thank all of the members of the 2014 ISTMA Board for their hard work and dedication. I also want to thank Jeff and Sarah in the Iowa Turfgrass Office for their efforts and support in keeping the ISTMA great and on track to getting better. I hope you all have a safe and bountiful holiday season and look forward to seeing you at ITI conference.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
TJ Brewer, CSFM

Iowa Turfgrass Office Update

Jeff Wendel, CGCS, Iowa Turfgrass Institute

Iowa Turfgrass Water Quality & Conservation Committee

The first meeting of the Iowa Turfgrass Water Quality & Conservation Committee took place on June 12, 2014. The following goals were established.

Goals:

1. Understand current Practice and Usage
2. Identify Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality and Water Conservation
3. Create Water Quality and Conservation plan
4. Educate Partnering associations

Vision Statement: Collaborate with the Turfgrass Industry and Related partners in an effort to protect, improve and conserve water resources in Iowa.

The committee met again on August 14 and established the following Short & Long term goals:

Short Term Goals: Submit grant proposals by the next meeting and have the BMP Survey ready to test so it can be launch at the 2015 ITI Conference and Trade Show. We will also apply for GCSAA CEU credits for Superintendents who fill out the survey. Committees are the following:

1. BMP Survey: Chairman: Jeff Wendel, CGCS
Committee: Ryan Adams, Bill Dickens, Brett Hetland, CGCS, Sarah Hodgson, Rick Tegtmeier, CGCS, & Ryan Galles
2. Existing Research: Chairmen: Ryan Adams & Keith Schilling, PhD
Committee: Nick Christians, PhD, Neric Smith, Dan Strey, Tim VanLoo, CSFM
3. Grant Proposals: Chairman: Chauncey Barry
Committee: Bill Dickens, Scott Harvey, Keith Schilling, PhD, Jeff Wendel, CGCS

Long Term Goals:

- 2015 – have preliminary BMP's
- 2016 – have phase 1 of research completed and present to legislature, Dept. of Ag, DNR
- 2017 – have completed initial research.

We wrote two grant proposals in September/October, a GCSAA BMP development grant and a GCSAA Chapter Cooperative Research grant. Awarded a \$2500 grant for the development of BMP's for turfgrass water use in October. Currently waiting for the decision on the \$20,000 matching funds grant, results announced on December 31.

The most recent meeting was **November 18** and work continues on the effort to establish Best Management Practices for turfgrass water use. One of the important efforts in development of this program is getting engagement of everyone in the turfgrass industry.

Every turf maintenance decision you make has an effect on the ecosystem. Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are practices designed to maximize resources while minimizing the risk to the environment. BMPs cover important aspects of turf management from design to daily maintenance.

Please complete the BMP survey when it comes to you!



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And the Award Goes To



Cedar Valley Soccer Complex 2013 Soccer Field of the Year

Last January, the ISTMA awarded Cedar Valley Soccer Complex with the 2013 Soccer Field of the Year. With glowing recommendations it was no guess as whom this award should go to. Randy Muller produces a product that is said to be the best field in the NCAA Midwest Division 1 level. Below is a letter from Randy about the complex and the care it receives.

Dear Members of the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association,

Hello. My name is Randy Muller and I am the Fields Manager for the Cedar Valley Soccer Complex (CVSC), as well as a master service technician with Dan Deery Motor Company in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The Complex is located at 3031 West Ridgeway Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa. In the fall of 1991, a group of interested parents formed the Cedar Valley Youth Soccer Association to promote amateur youth soccer in the Cedar Valley. During the spring 1992 season, 186 youth athletes began league play. Interest grew, and soon there were over 4,000 youth soccer players representing 19 different communities involved. As the number of players increased, the lack of available field space became a problem. So, in 2001 the Cedar Valley Soccer Complex (CVSC) was built with eleven game fields and four practice fields.

For the first couple of years, the mowing of the fields was contracted out, leaving myself and a few volunteers from the league to maintain the complex and mow the off-areas. With the cost of hiring a mowing crew steadily increasing, the league decided to invest the money normally paid to mowing contractors into purchasing its own mowing equipment. Since then, all of the field maintenance (including coring and seeding), mowing, trimming, painting, and field set-up have been done by a group of volunteers, saving the league thousands of dollars.

Over the years our volunteers have taken on several time-consuming projects at the complex. These include; cutting sod and filling in the low spots created by the irrigation system, raising the sprinkler heads, repairing irrigation lines, replacing the irrigation heads, repairing tile outlets in the parking lots, and more. Our largest project to date was to re-tile our premiere field (field #3). To complete this project, I and a group of 38 volunteers added 28 tile lines to correct the drainage problems on this field. By doing this work ourselves, we saved the league half of the cost of hiring the work done.

The improvements to this, our premiere field, have made it playable in all weather conditions. It has become the home field of the University of Northern

Field of the Year Continued...

Iowa Women's Soccer. It is also the home field for both men's and women's soccer from Cedar Falls High School and is used extensively by many of the other area high school soccer teams, including; West High School, East High School, Columbus High School, Hudson High School, and more. This field has also played host to the state high school play-off games, state cup games, and other tournaments. Along with the growth of our league, has been the growth of our academy teams, and the U-9 and U-10 academy uses this field for practice.

Through the field improvements and careful maintenance, this field has become like a beautiful field of carpeting, and I am told, a delight to play on. This year we began mowing this field with a reel mower, which has only made it better. I have been told by members from several visiting universities and high schools, along with many people who have traveled here for games that this is best field they have ever played on anywhere.

Sincerely,
Randy Muller



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**More information and Online Registration is available at
www.iowaturfgrass.org/iticonference2015.htm**

ISTMA Annual Meeting Notice

The ISTMA Annual Meeting will be held on January 21, 2015 at 3:00 PM at the Meadows Event Center.

You can view the proposed By-Law changes at www.iowaturfgrass.org/istmabylaws.htm

Call 515-635-0306 for an absentee ballot.

Sports Turf Workshop**Tuesday January 20, 2015**

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00	Proactive Measures for Staying in the Game	Brian Unruh, PhD, U of Florida
10:15	Plant Health Products & Maximizing Plant Health	Bill Kreuser, PhD, UNL
11:15	Reducing Your Inputs	TJ Brewer, CSFM, Burlington Bees
12:00	Lunch	-----
12:45	In Season Field Renovations & Conversions	Derek York, Bush Sports Turf
1:45	Winter Damage	Elliott Josephson, Prairie Ridge Sports Complex
2:45	Weed Control in Sports Fields	Jared Hoyle, PhD, Kansas State University
3:45	Poa Annua Control and Aerification Timing	Ryan Adams, M.S. Iowa State University

Wednesday January 21, 2015**General Session / Keynote**

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30	Awards	Troy McQuillen, Kirkwood Community College
8:45	Scholarships	Troy McQuillen, Kirkwood Community College
9:15	Making Regulations Work for You	Fred Whitford, PhD, Purdue University & Gretchen Paluch, PhD, IDALS
9:45	New Products	Exhibitors
10:00	One Big Happy Family	Rex Havens - <i>Keynote</i>
11:00	Trade Show Grand Opening	-----

Sports Turf Session

Time	Topic	Speaker
1:00	Advances in Nutrition, MLSN - Cool things I'm, Working On	Bryan Unruh, PhD, U of Florida
2:00	Colorants: Most Effective Strategies	Jared Hoyle, PhD, Kansas State University
3:00	ISTMA Annual Meeting	TJ Brewer, CSFM, ISTMA President

Thursday January 22, 2015**Sports Turf Session**

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:00	Round Table Discussion	Tim VanLoo, CSFM, Iowa State University
9:00	Break Trade Show Open	-----
10:00	Mixing and Measuring Pesticides, 'More To It Than You Think'	Fred Whitford, PhD, Purdue University
10:45	Drone & Time Lapse: Fun or Function?	Casey Scheidel, CSFM, I-Cubs Sports Turf Management
11:30	Trade Show Open	-----

Pesticide Applicator Training - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**ISTMA Membership Social****Prairie Rose Room at the Meadows Events Center****4:30 PM - Tuesday January 20, 2015****Send your pictures to sarah@iowaturfgrass.org**

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Member Price Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> IGCSA <input type="checkbox"/> ISTMA <input type="checkbox"/> IPLCA <input type="checkbox"/> IGA				
_____ 3-Day Registration with Workshop (Includes Wed/Thurs Trade Show, Lunches & PAT)	\$175	\$195	\$215	\$
_____ Registration for Tuesday Workshop Only (Includes Lunch)		\$140	\$150	\$
Choose Your Regular Workshop				
1st	2nd	(Mark your 1st choice in the 1st column & 2nd choice in the 2nd column)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Golf Course Workshop (120 limit)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Turfgrass Crash Course (120 limit)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lawn Care & Landscape Workshop (120 limit)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sports Turf Workshop (120 limit)		
Special Workshop				
<input type="checkbox"/> Turfgrass Crash Course Afternoon Session Only		Stand Alone Rate \$125	W/ Other 3-Day Registration from same company \$50	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration for ISTMA Membership Social – The Prairie Rose Room – 4:30PM			ISTMA Members	No Charge \$0
2-Day Registration (Wednesday & Thursday [Includes Trade Show (both days) & PAT])				
_____ 1-Day Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday or <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday [Includes Trade Show & PAT]		\$110	\$120	\$
_____ Student Registration (3-Day Pass. Does NOT include PAT) Call for One or Two day rates.		\$ 55	\$ 60	\$
_____ Trade Show Only (per day) <input type="checkbox"/> Wed. <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. (Includes Lunch / Does NOT include PAT) (MEMBERS)		\$ 50	\$ 55	\$
_____ Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) ONLY (Thursday PM, does not include Trade Show)		\$ 50	\$ 55	\$
_____ Iowa GCSA Member Breakfast • Thursday 6:30 AM		\$ 20	\$ 20	\$
_____ Spouse Registration: <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday (Complimentary)		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
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ISTMA Membership Social
Tuesday January 20th, 2015
The Meadows Events Center - Prairie Rose Room
4:30 - 9:30 PM

IOWA CHAPTER
SportsTurf
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Please RSVP on your conference registration or email to Sarah at sarah@iowaturfgrass.org

Send your pictures from the 2014 season to be featured at the Social! Send pictures to Jason Koester, CGCS at jkkoster@yahoo.com or Jeff Bosworth, CSFM at jeff.bosworth@drake.edu

ISTMA will host an exciting opportunity to socialize with your peers and vendors during the 2015 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show. On Tuesday evening following the Sports Turf Workshop, ISTMA will be having a Social in the Prairie Rose Room at The Meadows Events Center. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available.

Join the ISTMA for a great night of remembering the 2014 season with a short program and great networking!



2015 ISTMA Election

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Board of Directors Candidate for Southwest Director

Elliott Josephson

Prairie Ridge Sports Complex
ISTMA Member – 9 years

Employment History:

Prairie Ridge Sports Complex: April 2009 - Present
Outdoor Escapes: 2007 - 2009
Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management: 2005 - 2007



Personal Information/ Family/Hobbies: In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my wife Amanda and our two children, Rowan and Elaina. I also enjoy golfing and anything involving Iowa State Athletics

Education:

Kirkwood Community College - Golf Course and Athletic Turfgrass Management

Goals as a Board Member: As a board member of the ISTMA, I would like to make sure members have and continue to have opportunities to benefit from their membership. I would also like to find ways for the ISTMA membership to grow. I believe ISTMA is headed in the right direction and I would like to ensure that it continues that way by serving on the board.

Lee Van Meeteren

City of Sioux Center
ISTMA Member – 7 years

Employment History:

City of Sioux Center: 2008 - Present
Owner of Yardman Lawn Care: 2006 - 2008
Interstates Electric: 2004 - 2006



Personal Information/ Family/Hobbies: I am 34, and have been married to my wife Alissa for 5 years. We have two children Carter (4) and Jaelee (1). I love to golf and work on the family farm and enjoy any local athletic events with my family.

Education:

University of Sioux Falls - Bachelor of Arts - Management and Marketing Economic Majors

Goals as a Board Member: Some of the goals I would have is to help serve the western part of the state and help educate schools and coaches of the area. Also, I am looking forward to learning from other leaders of the ISTMA and find ways to help the association.

2015 ISTMA Election

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Board of Directors Candidate for Central Director

Tim VanLoo, CSFM

Iowa State University Athletics Turf Manager
ISTMA Member – 4 Years

Employment History:

Iowa State University: 2010 - Present
Northwestern University: 2007 - 2010
Michigan State University: 1999 - 2007



Personal Information/ Family/Hobbies: My family consists of 7 children and my beautiful bride of 12yrs. I enjoy hunting and coaching my kid's basketball teams. A little golf when I have time is always a welcomed event.

Education:

Michigan State University - Masters of Science, Turfgrass
Michigan State University - Bachelors of Science, Turfgrass
Michigan State University - 2 Year Certificate, Turfgrass

Goals as a Board Member: My goals on the board would be to simply serve our organization and members in any way that I can. I am committed to this industry and will do whatever I can to help it move forward. It is important to find economical ways to educate our members and use our commercial members responsibly. Together we can continue to make ISTMA one of the strongest local chapters in the STMA.

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2015 ISTMA Election

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Board of Directors Candidates for At - Large Director

Troy McQuillen

Kirkwood Community College
ISTMA Member – 6 years

Employment History:

Kirkwood Community College: 2005 - Present

Cedar Rapids Kernels & Upper Iowa University Athletic Departments:
2003 - 2005 (while being a full time student)



Personal Information/ Family/Hobbies: I have been married for 6 years to my wife Lindsey. We have a daughter named Kinley who is 3. My hobbies include spending time with my family, Iowa State Football games, and lot's of golf.

Education:

Master's in Higher Education from Iowa State University 2011

Bachelors in Plant Science from Upper Iowa University 2006

Applied Science Degree in Turfgrass Management from Kirkwood Community College 2004

Goals as a Board Member: As a board member, I would develop a stronger relationship between the students of the Sports Turf industry and the professional sports turf managers. I would bring a better awareness to other affiliate organizations about the ISTMA and encourage non-members with sport fields to participate/join in the ISTMA. I hope to continue the success as the chairman of the education committee to keep growing the attendance and the quality education at area workshops and state conference. As a board member I also want to continue ISTMA involvements with the National Sports Turf Managers Organization.

Chad Peterson

Tuma Sports Complex (City of Cedar Rapids)
ISTMA Member – 10 Years

Employment History:

Tuma Sports Complex: March 2010 - Present

Service Writer at Saturn of Joilet: 2008 - 2010

Bettendorf High School: April 2003 - April 2008

Crow Valley CC: May 1996 - 2003



Personal Information/ Family/Hobbies: I am married to my wife Rheanna. We have two little girls Audra (5) and Evie (3). In my spare time I love to play golf and softball

Education:

High School Graduate

Goals as a Board Member: My goal on the board would be to further my turf knowledge and to be more active in the ISTMA. I want to try to be the voice of the 'little guys', the ones that don't have degrees, that work for a city or a school, and the ones that might be nervous to speak up. I want to see that everyone has a voice and isn't afraid to use it.

The Band is on the Field, The Band is on the Field

Ryan Adams, Iowa State University

There were two sporting events played around the time I was born that are forever ingrained in my mind. My mom was born and raised in southern California, while my dad lived in northern California for 20+ years. My dad is a Stanford Cardinal and Oakland A's fan, while my mom still to this day roots for Cal and the L.A. Dodgers. Kirk Gibson's limp around the bases was painful enough for my dad in 1988, but one loss hurt even more. Almost thirty-two years ago to the day, one of the most improbable last-second victories occurred in college football history. Cal completed five lateral passes during a kickoff return as time expired against the entire band and kick coverage team of Stanford. The Cardinal marching band had wandered onto the field early to celebrate the upset. Unfortunately for Stanford, and my dad, the game was not over and the early celebration turned to tears when Cal scored a game winning touchdown. As was the case in 1982, having the band can be a bad idea on a natural turf game field with exception of halftime performances.



Figure 1: Picture courtesy of ioffer.com

Communication as means to Traffic Control

It is very crucial to have communication among the administrator, coach, band director, and field manager. Accepting your role as a user of the field is the first step in communication. Below, I will highlight several of the different roles and their influence on overall field quality.

The Role of the Big Bad Band:

The band director needs to realize his influence on field safety, playability and longevity. Paint a separate practice field on another grass area or in a parking lot specifically for the band. Situate the area to facilitate viewing from above, as if you were in the bleachers. Band practice on the game field should be limited to one time per week, and only when the soil is dry enough to resist compaction. Just like the football team, the band should never practice on the game field after a substantial rainfall event. Their repetitive movements can cause significant compaction and wear resulting in a decrease in turf quality.



Figure 2: Band practice field at the University of Florida, picture taken by Ryan Adams

The Coach:

The coach must take an active interest in scheduling practice activities and preventing excessive turf wear. The coach and the grounds manager can work together to develop improved grass areas specifically for drills that are conducted on/off the game fields.

Field rotations should occur monthly. If you have the ability to change field orientations and rotating heavy traffic areas, DO IT! Spend time talking with the coach and explaining that this approach works best for them. A majority of practice fields are still poorly used because of the concentration of drills on areas of the field. Commonly, the side of the field nearest to the locker room, parking lot, or some other point of

interest is used more often than the far end. Encourage the coaches to use both halves of the fields to reduce wear and allow for turf recovery.

Field Manager:

In most situations, the field manager should realize that he is caring for a multi-use facility rather than a single field. He needs to account for additional labor, equipment, and resources to combat all school functions. Graduation, classes, track meets, concerts, and in some cases, soccer games will use a portion of the field or sidelines throughout the season.

It is the role of the field manager to be the biggest advocate of using practice fields if and when possible. If practice fields are available, require use and leave game fields for games only. The biggest factor in poor playing conditions is excess traffic and compaction. Allocate resources so that you have at least one “showcase field”. This lets your boss and the public know that you are capable of producing high-quality turf when given the proper schedule, tools, and budget. This also helps with job security and reputation. Even if resources are limited, do not spread them out so that all of your fields are average-to-poor quality, or your reputation as a grounds manager may be perceived as average-to-poor. One of the most important things a field manager can do is documentation. Always write down maintenance schedules, and use these to justify how an increase in resources will improve the rest of the fields that are in average-to-poor condition. Do not wait for administrators to allocate more money to field maintenance, show them how to use their money for greatest benefit to the facility.

Administrators:

Administrators should keep in mind that proper traffic control costs nothing in terms of dollars and at the same time, offers the most effective means of reducing dangerously worn areas on game and practice fields. The administrator must clearly define the conditions for using the field at the beginning of each season. The game field should be reserved for games only. Be prepared to allocate resources on an annual basis for field maintenance, and on a less frequent basis for field renovation. It is important for the turf manager to keep the administrator up to date on what is best

for the field. In addition, discuss the budget at multiple points throughout the year with all parties involved.

Aerification and its effect on high-traffic fields

The best way to combat excessive use is with an extensive aerification program. Aerification reduces compaction and reintroduces oxygen, water, and nutrients into the root zone. It can also be beneficial in combination with a sand topdressing program to improve the internal drainage of a field, as well as providing a uniform surface that is safer. Constant aerification can also provide an excellent environment for new seedlings growth and development, as well as increased rooting of an established field as seen below.

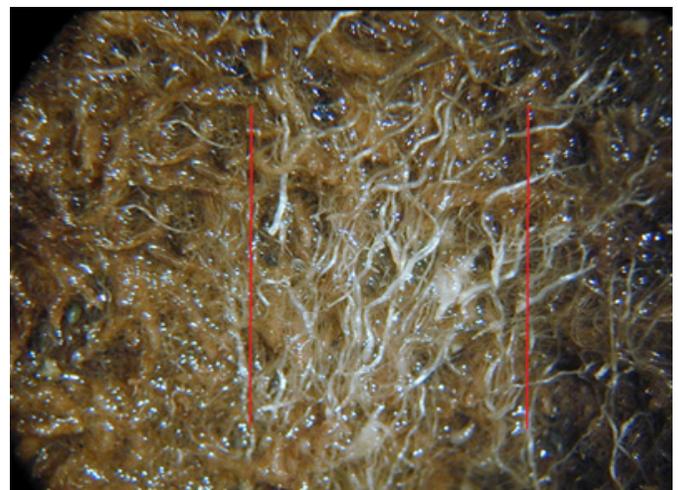


Figure 3: Increased rooting following aerification, picture taken by D. Minner

Native fields are more prone to compaction than a sand-based system because of the higher clay content. Clays, especially when wet, are highly prone to compaction. Regardless of the root zone constituents, hollow-tine coring is necessary in the battle of preventing excessive field wear and soil compaction. Aerate all fields at least two times per year, regardless of budget. In high use facilities, it is common to aerate 4-8 times per year. As mentioned previously, following aerification is also a great time to seed and build a seed bank. Late-summer/early fall is the best time to aerify cool season athletic fields, but anytime works as long as environmental stresses are low and a period of down time exists before the next field activity. It is important to remember that the use of 3/4-inch hollow tines can double the area of the field impacted, in comparison to a 1/2-inch tine.

Types of Aerifiers best suited for Athletic Field Use

Hollow and solid tine coring, water jet coring, slicing, spiking, and one of the new trends high pressure air (Air2G2) are methods of cultivation that are routinely used on fields to reduce soil compaction. The Air2G2 is a new method of using pressurized air to relieve soil compaction with minimal to no surface disruption. Research at the University of Tennessee has found that the Air2G2 reduced soil bulk density from 1.63 to 1.39g/cm³, as well as surface hardness by 21% (Sorachan and Dickson, 2014).



Figure 4: Air2G2 aerification, picture courtesy of growinggreengrass.net

Conclusion

The two biggest factors in preventing compaction and unnecessary turf decline on athletic fields is communication and aerification. Communication is vital to the facility success and overall longevity of the field. There needs to be open lines of communication between the administrator, coach, band director, and field manager at ALL times. As soon as the communication breaks down, the quality of the field will decline drastically regardless of cultural and maintenance practices. Second, an extensive aerification program is one of our most important practices in preventing turf decline caused by excessive play. Aerification reduces compaction and reintroduces oxygen, water, and nutrients into the root zone. Regardless of the root zone constituents, hollow-tine coring is necessary.



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