

# TALK TURF

Official publication of the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2015

## BACK IN SESSION

### GROUNDS MANAGERS TAKE ON HIGH SCHOOL FIELDS

We've all seen them. High school athletic fields that look more like barren wastelands than a safe space for youth to compete in their sport. While many schools are faced with budget cuts and limited resources, these coaches share how their athletes are able to play on safe, well maintained fields thanks to the tireless efforts of their grounds managers.

#### RYAN MCGINNIS - KIMBERLY HIGH SCHOOL



I feel that a large part of my job as an athletic director is to plan and to communicate. The single most important people to communicate with in this role just might be the Director of Building and Grounds and his staff. They have such a large hand in how our fields and facilities look, perform and sustain. They are an invaluable part of any success we have in

the athletic department.

Over the past six years, Joe Harvey, the Director of Building and Grounds in our district, and I have built a strong relationship built on communication, trust and the understanding that both of us are on the same team. With all the varying needs and demands that we both have, these two elements are important as is a mutual respect and an understanding that issues need to be discussed and

prioritized continuously. By discussing issues over the years, we have each learned and grown so much in what the person's job entails.

I have conversations daily with Joe regarding work that has been done, is being completed, or will be done. Joe sees things very black and white and is an honest and prideful person. This serves us both very well because we don't spend much time with small talk. We aim to get things done and I appreciate that a great deal. What I appreciate most, however, is Joe's integrity. In what can be a very negative job, he remains positive and prideful in how things look, how they function, and how they work. This keeps my coaches very happy and this also keeps things the best they can for kids in the Kimberly Area School District.

Joe is not only organized and knowledgeable, but he is also flexible and understanding. This is where "being on the same team" comes into play. In some cases, I have heard of people playing the "you owe me" game or tallying a scoreboard for every late request or additional thing that might be done that goes "above and beyond". Joe and his staff are extremely detailed and have high expectations for what the facilities, grounds, and district should look like and feel like.

Together, we push in the same direction. This allows us to provide the best experience for the kids and for the community as a whole. *Continued on page 11*



#### Also inside...

- Fall Meeting at Lambeau.....PAGE 6
- WSTMA First Field Demo Day Recap.....PAGE 8
- Concert Prep at Miller Park.....PAGE 9

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Surprisingly, when I look at the calendar it says July, but Mother Nature brings April/May-like weather to us just about every week right now! The swings in temperature and rainfall mirrors one of the greatest rollercoaster rides ever built and today we are just finishing our plummet and are now back on the climb.

Regardless of the weather, Sports Turf Managers are getting fields playable every day. The commitment we all have to our profession and facilities was evident by the

number of Sports Turf Managers that came to the baseball and soccer fields of Oregon High School on June 30th for our first WSTMA Field Demo Day! I want to extend a huge THANK YOU to our sponsors as this event would not have been possible without your support and involvement! Though we had good attendance, there are a lot more Field Managers out there that could benefit from hands on events like this. The resources our vendors have available to make our profession easier as Sports Turf Managers, can be realized by not just your personal education, but educating those that make the decisions that impact your fields. Please talk with your local Groundskeepers who would benefit from the educational events that we provide as a WSTMA throughout the year.

Given the WSTMA's dedication to the growth of our industry, we are excited to announce that we are headed to Green Bay in October for our Fall Meeting. Please see to it that we get as many Turf Managers there—the names on the marquee for this event are impressive! Hope to see you and all your recruited new members there.

As we finish out July, I wish the best of luck to those of you finishing your summer sports in the next month or two and also to those managers that are preparing your fields for the impactful fall sports. Let's all be hopeful Mother Nature will bring us some good weather as we finish out this growing season!

*Michael Boettcher*

### WSTMA Contact Telephone Numbers

Mid-AM | Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show | [www.midam.org](http://www.midam.org)

PLANET | Professional Landcare Network | 800.395.2522

STMA | Sports Turf Managers Association | 800.323.3875

TPI | Turf Producers International Field Day | 800.405.8873

WGCSA | Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association | 920.643.4888

WSTMA | Wisconsin Sports Turf Manager Association | 920-643-4494

WTA | Wisconsin Turfgrass Association | 608.845.6536



### WSTMA 2015 BOARD CONTACTS

#### OFFICERS

Michael Boettcher, President  
Milwaukee Brewers  
[michael.boettcher@brewers.com](mailto:michael.boettcher@brewers.com)

Bart Bartelme, President-Elect/Treasurer  
Green Bay Packers  
[bartelmeb@packers.com](mailto:bartelmeb@packers.com)

Nick Strain, Commercial Vice President  
Quali-Pro  
[nstrain@controlsolutionsinc.com](mailto:nstrain@controlsolutionsinc.com)

Allen Behnke, Secretary  
Howard-Suamico School District  
[allebehn@hssd.k12.wi.us](mailto:allebehn@hssd.k12.wi.us)

#### MEMBERS

Jake Hannes  
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers  
[jhannes@timberrattlers.com](mailto:jhannes@timberrattlers.com)

Dan Carmichael  
Pro Turf Solutions Owner/Sales  
[dan@pro-turfsolutions.com](mailto:dan@pro-turfsolutions.com)

Ron Novinska  
Oregon School District  
[RJN@oregon.k12.wi.us](mailto:RJN@oregon.k12.wi.us)

Craig Schlender  
Ball Diamond Fine Sports Turf  
[cschlender@greatwolf.com](mailto:cschlender@greatwolf.com)

Eddie Warczak  
Milwaukee Brewers  
[edward.warczak@brewers.com](mailto:edward.warczak@brewers.com)

Pete Bemis  
Western Technical College  
[bemisp@westerntc.edu](mailto:bemisp@westerntc.edu)

#### CHAPTER MANAGER

Brett Grams  
Chapter Manager  
920.643.4494 | [bgrams@wstma.org](mailto:bgrams@wstma.org)  
N1922 Virginia Drive  
Waupaca, WI 58481

# CHAPTER MANAGER'S REPORT

Mid-summer greetings to all WSTMA members! I am happy to report that the WSTMA continues build on the renewed focus and educational offerings. It was great to see all members and guests that attended our June Summer Field and Demo day. Mother Nature challenged us with rainfall the night before but the weather the day of the event allowed for us to

have success! Thanks to our host Ron Novinska, his staff, and the Oregon School District we were able to learn about their operation and how Ron is managing existing sports fields while growing in and creating new ones. The

day was also successful because we have some the best vendor companies around that are gracious to help with sponsorship and provide education, materials, and financial assistance to keep our per person costs to a minimum for all of our events.

My recent efforts for the chapter were focused on assisting Ron Novinska

in the planning and execution of the June Field Day and now turn to assisting Bart Bartlme in our next event in October at Lambeau Field and the practice facilities of the Packers. It should again be a great day for networking, education, and camaraderie with your fellow peers. Please save the date!

**AS YOU NAVIGATE THROUGH THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, BE OPEN TO COLLABORATION. OTHER PEOPLE AND OTHER PEOPLE'S IDEAS ARE OFTEN BETTER THAN YOUR OWN. FIND A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO CHALLENGE AND INSPIRE YOU, SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH THEM, AND IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE.**

**- AMY POEHLER**

Other efforts are to continually monitor and improve the website. We recently made a few user-friendly upgrades to the website. I hope you find the online registration and renewal features easy to use. The website is also a good recruitment tool for new members.

New member recruitment continues to be an important focus for our growth and success. Please continue to promote the WSTMA to all your peers and fellow sports turf managers and suppliers. We need new members to continue to offer more education and build on our recent awesome events.

We NEED YOUR HELP getting the word out! If you would like more

membership brochures just let me know. I challenge all of you to add "Proud member of the WSTMA" to your email signature and adding [www.wstma.org](http://www.wstma.org) to all of your outgoing emails as well.

Lastly, my role is to assist all of you as I can, let me know how I may be able to help you with any questions or to assist in signing up a new member.

Hope to see all of you soon and especially in October in Green Bay!

*Brett Grams*



**BEILFUSS**  
*Corporation*

**ATHLETIC FIELD:**

- Construction • Renovations •
- Maintenance • Field Marking •
- Field Setups •

- Daily / Tournaments -

**Muskego, WI**  
**262.679.8009**

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL IRRIGATION | Built on Innovation®  
Learn more. Visit [hunterindustries.com](http://hunterindustries.com)



Eric Simmons  
TEL: 630-200-7581  
[Eric.Simmons@hunterindustries.com](mailto:Eric.Simmons@hunterindustries.com)

**Hunter®**

**4 Grades of Infield Mix**  
**Find the right Sure-Hop for you**



**Sure-Hop™**  
**INFIELD MIX**

Waupaca Sand & Solutions  
715-258-8566 • [www.WaupacaSand.com](http://www.WaupacaSand.com)  
**YOUR Trusted Material Source**

SAND & SOLUTIONS  
**WAUPACA**



# SAY HELLO...

*Each issue we'd like to highlight one of the WSTMA Board Members to connect you to the great resources, knowledge, and enthusiasm each member has to offer. This issue we're featuring WSTMA Secretary, Allen Behnke of Howard-Suamico School District.*

**What first got your interest in turf management?** My interest in turf management began early in my career with the Two Rivers School District. The demands for better turf on overused fields was ever increasing. Athletic fields were known as "football" fields because soccer was barely on the radar and lacrosse was only known as city on the western side of the state. My challenge was to provide quality athletic fields that were overused and we didn't have nearly enough green space.

**What is the biggest challenge in maintaining the Green Bay Schools?**

I spent 17 year in the Green Bay School District and in June of this year, I moved to the Howard-Suamico School District. No matter the size, i have found the challenge remains the same - providing a quality green space for student athletes. The expectations for turf managers continues to increase and the science behind growing quality turf is amazing. National companies are spending billions of dollars annually on research and development to develop more tolerant grass and less toxic chemicals. I have also found that no matter how much green space you have, it's never enough. We have such a tight timeframe for spring and fall sports - and no time for fields to recover.

**What do you like best about your job?**

I love working with school staff and students to solve problems. I like having an impact on providing quality facilities for student and staff - as well as protecting the taxpayers investment. It's also pretty cool, if you ever get frustrated, just go to a elementary school and observe any K - 3 class. These little kids are so happy to be in school - it's infectious.



**What has been the most memorable moment of your career?** I'll give you two - one positive and one negative. When I was in Two Rivers, we had a staff member that was willing to spray our school sites for weed control. We wanted to spray early in the morning so it would dry and have the least interference. In my haste to get the operator going, I grabbed Round Up instead of weed control and put it in the tank. The operator even said to me "I don't think that is the same stuff we put in before". I said confidently, "it's the same crap just get going". Well, needless to say - it was Round Up and the guy did an excellent job applying it. We managed to kill all of the grass at one of our elementary schools. Many valuable lessons were learned and obviously something I will never forget.

The other memorable event for me was when we (Green Bay School District) hosted a Green Bay Packer scrimmage at City Stadium by East High School - the original home of the Green Bay Packers. That was such a huge event in the community and very unique for a professional football team. It gave me, our Lead Groundskeeper and Utility Staff a glimps of the demand put upon the Grounds staff of the Packers. We though we had a very god field however, the Packers Ground Staff and our staff worked together and made the field even better. It was an amazing event to be a part of - and it went off extremely well. Good for East High School, good for the school district, good for the Packer and an exceptional event for the community.

**What do you wish other people knew about the turf industry?** I wish people had a better understanding the complexity of turf management. It is a completely

different world. Turf industry is very similar to the farming industry - because people have a garden and maintain their own yard, they believe they are experts. I think the average person would be amazed at the technology and expertise required for both. The other thing I wish people had a better understanding is how costly managing turf is - there is nothing cheap about it. Labor, equipment, fertilizer and chemicals are all very expensive. If people want a quality turf areas, resources need to be allocated in order to do so. The old adage you get what you pay for certainly is true in turf areas as well.

**Who has been your biggest influences/mentors?**

My biggest influence on me for my professional career would be a former superintendent Bill Loasching. Had it not been for him, I don't think I would have taken the career path I chose. He was able to see the potential in me and guide me accordingly. Much of his advise is still applicable today. For example - when I was contemplating a job offer from another district, I said to him that I didn't feel I was ready. He said if

you wait until your ready, your never going anywhere. You are always going to have things you want to get done and planning.

**When you are not working, what do you like to do?**

I have a cottage about 10 mile northwest of Crivitz. I like to go there to get away and go four wheeling. I also golf and go with friends on the lake fishing and hunting with family.

**If you were not in the turf industry what would you want to do?**

I like the variety k-12 education provides. Not only turf, but maintenance, long range planning, staffing, problem solving, managing renovations and budgets. I really like the variety of the position I can't envision myself doing anything else - it's very rewarding.



<p><b>Mike Krupke</b> Turf Specialist Madison Area</p> <p>Phone <b>920-723-0936</b></p>	<p><b>Tim Gagnon</b> Certified Turf Specialist Waukesha Area</p> <p>Phone <b>414-333-8082</b></p>
---	---




**Irrigation Consultants**  
Sports Fields • Pump Stations •  
Golf Courses • Controls • Bidding • Site Observation

Dan Feick, PLA  
dan@frsdesign.com

2901 International Lane  
Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53704

www.frsdesign.com **608.442.5130**



**"Let me help you have a better field..."**

**Craig Schlender - Manager**

Sports Turf Consulting  
Sports Turf Construction  
- Batters Boxes / Mounds  
- Infield Mixes - Fertilization  
- Prairie Grass Restoration

1106 Tillberry Drive  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
Phone 608-434-2504  
craigsschlender@gmail.com



**Proud Supporter of the WSTMA**





Gary Huenerberg (608)751-0074  
Jake Vollbeer (847)417-0548 Joe Baert (847)417-4238



# FALL MEETING

## OCTOBER 22

Green Bay Distillery & Lambeau Field

DAY INCLUDES:  
TOURS OF LAMBEAU FIELD & PRACTICE FACILITIES

### GUEST SPEAKERS :

- ALLEN JOHNSON  
GREEN BAY PACKERS FIELD MANAGER & NATIONAL STMA PRESIDENT
- PEPPER BURRESS  
GREEN BAY PACKERS DIRECTOR OF SPORTS MEDICINE ADMINISTRATION
- ANDY MCNITT, PH. D.  
CENTER FOR SPORTS SURFACE RESEARCH DIRECTOR

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT [WWW.WSTMA.ORG](http://WWW.WSTMA.ORG).

**Athletic Field  
Specialists**

*Midwest Athletic Fields*

**CONSTRUCTION  
RENOVATION  
MAINTENANCE**



New Construction  
Infield Renovation / Maintenance  
Turf Renovation  
Laser Grading / Recrowning / Design  
Infield Skin Topdressing  
Warning Track Construction / Renovation  
Sod Installation / Grass Seeding  
Aeration/Topdressing / Overseeding  
Edging/Lip Removal (Infield, Baseline, Warning Track)  
Mound and Batter's Box Reconstruction  
Drain Tile Installation  
Irrigation  
Fence and Backstops

Midwest Athletic Fields  
323 William Street  
PO Box 76  
Watertown, WI 53094

*Proud Member of the WSTMA serving all of Wisconsin!*

**Contact Us Today!**  
**920-378-0650**  
[info@MidwestAF.com](mailto:info@MidwestAF.com)



# Call today for free planning & design



Providing Equipment for  
Site, Sport, Park & Play, Since 1968.  
**1-800-953-8700**  
[www.millersaukprairie.com](http://www.millersaukprairie.com)



## BARENBRUG SEED



### **YELLOW JACKET**®

Coated Grass Seed

*Zeba Moisture Absorbant Coating  
Dormancy Breaker  
Fungicide*

A Barenbrug exclusive - Yellow Jacket coated grass seed utilizes Zeba superabsorbant technology to produce a coating that can hold up to 600 times its own weight in water. The addition of metalaxyl fungicide prevents seedling diseases.

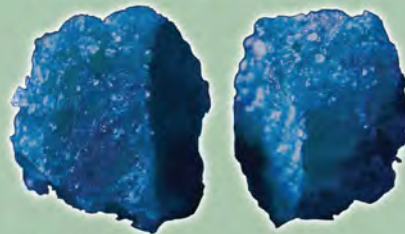
A third component of Yellow Jacket - DORMANCY BREAKER - reduces days to germination on Kentucky Bluegrass and Fine Fescues by half.

[www.barusa.com](http://www.barusa.com)

## LEBANON FERTILIZER

### **MESA**®

Patented Controlled Release Nitrogen



*Half a piece of MESA...  
is still MESA.*

With methylene urea & sulfate of ammonia combined in each tiny granule, MESA fertilizer products work immediately to provide a consistent, brilliant green color that will help your turf perform at its best. MESA retains its slow release attributes even when cracked, chipped or crushed. MESA also helps your bottom line and makes your customers happy.

[www.lebanonturf.com](http://www.lebanonturf.com)



DHD Turf & Tree Products  
866-343-8733  
Juneau, WI



# WSTMA FIRST FIELD DEMO DAY

By: Ron Novinska



Nearly 50 people attended the first field demo day hosted by the WSTMA and Oregon School District on June 30. It was a day filled with educational talks, equipment demo's and a chance to meet turf managers from around the state and talk "shop".

The event was broken down into four stations. Station 1 consisted of talks about the irrigation and drainage that was installed in the fields. Don Dahlk from Capital Lawn Sprinklers, talked about the system his company installed and the benefits of having an irrigation system. He also spoke about the new high speed rotors used to water the baseball skin area. Gabe Lopez of Irrigation Protection Services spoke about the benefits of a drainage system and the ways to protect systems from lightening strikes and other issues that may come up.

Station 2 was infield maintenance. Micheal Boettcher, Director of Grounds at the Milwaukee Brewers, talked about proper infield maintenance and the various types of infield materials. Ron Novinska, Groundskeeper for the Oregon School District, talked about the skin material that were used and the benefits of adding an amendment.

Also included was Burris Equipment and Horst Distributing. Representatives from both companies brought in equipment from Smithco and Turfco to demo on the infield. Some attendees even had the opportunity to drive the equipment.

Station 3 was mound building and maintenance. Craig



Schlender from Ball Diamond Fine Sports Turf and Jeff Langer from Profile Products helped build the mound with clay bricks and shared tips on maintaining the clay after use. They also spoke about pitching rubber installation and how to set the correct mound height.

Station 4 consisted of turf cultivation and grass seed. Patrick McKinley of the Reinders Company talked about the varieties of grass seed and proper selection. Reinders also brought Toro equipment to look at and demo, including mowers and a ProCore 648.

Thanks to Waupaca Sand and Solutions for sponsoring breakfast, Frontier-Servco FS for the tasty lunch and DHD Turf and Tree Product for supplying beverages for the day. Thank you to all who attended. It was a huge success and with your help we hope to host many more in the future!



# FIELD PREP FOR CONCERTS

By: Michael Boettcher

The usage of our sports field facilities throughout the world at every level of play have no longer been restricted to the sports themselves. We have begun to see the demand for extra events like concerts, dinners, conferences, weddings, etc. to take place on our fields during the off season and quite often during the season. Even though our fields were never meant for these types of events, we as Sports Turf Managers are expected to come up with solutions to make them work, and usually have the field ready for normal play in couple days' time. Outsiders simply look at the few days surrounding the actual event and what you're doing to pull the event off. In actuality, preparation has been happening for months to get the turf readied for these events.

Here at Miller Park, countless hours are spent planning and prepping, in hopes of making the field succeed and be 100% back to its' previous condition following the concert. Once the date of the large event has been set, we focus greatly on the following items:

**FERTILIZATION** – Our fertilization program sadly has to be developed around field events. Regardless, we always make sure the turf isn't hungry at any point throughout the growing season. Even though we consistently feed the plant throughout, when impactful extra events are coming up, we elevate our Potassium along with a slight elevation of our micronutrients to help with the stress defense and tissue strength. After the event is over the application of quick release and readily available N, P and K assists greatly with speedy recovery.

**CULTIVATION** – With heavy machines trafficking the surface, we try to make sure we have a firm surface, but we try to solid tine aerify about 3 weeks ahead so we aren't heavily compacted going into the event. Once the event is over, a solid-tine aerification helps us relieve that compaction, oxygenating the root zone.

**DISEASE CONTROL** – Preventive applications of fungicides helps us reduce the potential for disease growth on the already stressed plants. We always schedule our apps so we are not at the end of a products' effective period and have coverage all the way through the event.

**COMMUNICATION OF POTENTIAL CONDITIONS**  
Even though a great plan should prepare your turf and allow it to survive these types of events, there is always potential for the turf to lose the battle. Always prepare your management of the potential "worst case" scenarios. Detailing your plans and what you as a turf manager and



your staff will be doing, shows your commitment to the fields and your desire to have a quality product following the event, regardless of the elements that are out of our control.

Use of turf protection such as turf flooring and matting can always be used and assist greatly with your turfgrass survival, but may not always be available. Preparing your turf plants and surface properly is the basis for success and should be your main focus when faced with possibility of extra and impactful events!

An advertisement for Milwaukee Lawn Sprinkler Corp. It features a green background with a white banner at the top that reads "Sports Turf Systems Since 1974". Below this, the names "Michael Todd, CID", "JJ Busalacchi, CID", and "John Michels" are listed. On the left side, there is a photograph of a baseball field. At the bottom, the company name "Milwaukee Lawn Sprinkler Corp." is written in a blue, stylized font, with a blue water drop icon to its left. Below the company name, the website "www.milwaukee-lawnsprinkler.com" and phone/fax numbers "Phone 262.252.3880 • Fax 262.252.5379" are provided.

# Wisconsin Turfgrass Summer Field Day

Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> 2015



at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Verona, WI



The O.J. Noer Facility in Verona is where you need to be on July 28<sup>th</sup> to learn all the latest turf management innovations coming out of the UW Madison. **Morning talks will focus on lawn care, sports, & general landscape issues. Afternoon talks will focus on golf turf solutions.**

**What you will learn:** Turfgrass species identification, methods for treating trees for insects, improving lawns with compost, backpack sprayer calibration, pollinators and insecticides, weed control in unmowed rough areas, control of ants on putting greens and insect Q&A, dollar spot prediction model, reduced risk disease control, and much more.



Fun and education for all. There will be turf tips and research findings for anyone working in lawn care, sports field management, sod production, and golf course management. Great lunch and camaraderie are included.



The trade show will have a huge variety of equipment and turf supplies / services to help you improve your maintenance program. Get expert advice from the many helpful exhibitors.

More details or to register and pay online visit

[www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org](http://www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org)

Questions - Contact Audra Anderson, WTA administrative assistant, at (608) 845-6536 or [ajander2@wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@wisc.edu)



## DAN KISSLING - OREGON SCHOOL DISTRICT



When I started in Oregon as an assistant football coach and head track coach in 2000, the building custodians were in charge of all field maintenance. There were three or four custodians that would routinely mow, water, and pull weeds on our fields.

Our athletic fields serve not only as competition fields but as our practice fields, physical education fields, community sports fields, and summer soccer tournaments.

In 2000 we spent \$750,000 on a new track and stadium renovation and our school district took one of our custodians, Ron Novinska, and placed him in charge of field maintenance and as our turf manager. Ron was also charged with all school district landscaping for the renovation of the track.

Prior to Ron taking over, our practice fields were a combination of green grass and green weeds. After the first week of fall football practice our practice fields, between the 20 yard lines and the hash's, were dirt, dust and weeds. We didn't water our practice fields so it was as if we were practicing on cement.

Ron spent the next couple of years working on our athletic fields; watering, fertilizing, field dressing and aerating. He started with one watering wheel that he would rotate from our main field to our practice fields to our baseball fields and back to our main field. This required Ron to come in at all hours of the day and night to move it. All of his hard work has paid off; our practice fields are in better condition than some of our opponent's football game fields. The plush grass leads to fewer injuries. Every coach that comes to Oregon comments on the excellent condition of our field.

Ron works closely with our coach's to communicate field conditions and rotations. When necessary our football team will practice on our baseball outfield. Most baseball coaches or athletic directors might cringe to hear this but our baseball program knows the fields will be in great condition when the season starts. In 2012 our athletic director came to me and asked me if I wanted artificial turf or grass. I told him I would rather have grass as long as we have Ron Novinska as our turf manager.

Ron's role has changed some since 2000. Ron was primarily

in charge of athletic fields and landscaping, for the stadium project, and now he spends about 80% of his time on our athletic fields and 20% on our school grounds. Having someone like Ron here at Oregon has been a huge benefit.

## HAROLD OLSON - DEFOREST HIGH SCHOOL



In DeForest, a northern suburb of Madison in Dane County, the school district and its outdoor athletic programs boast teamwork when it comes to field maintenance. DeForest High School athletic complex consists of a football/soccer/track stadium, two softball diamonds, and two baseball diamonds surrounded by practice fields for other sports

programs such as soccer and lacrosse. Practice fields are also used by community sports programs such as youth football.

Appropriate communication and understanding between the athletic maintenance crew and coaches have allowed the district and community to provide a high quality and safe athletic complex for all participants involved.

James Karow and James Byrd are the two full-time maintenance employees that are responsible with athletic field maintenance. Responsibilities carried out by this staff are numerous. Aeration of athletic fields occurs 2-3 times per year. A fertilization program is applied to the fields 4 times per year. Following the guidance of the Wisconsin School IPM Manual and our weed counts, pesticides are periodically applied when threshold numbers are reached. Irrigation is also carried out as needed with the aid of a Kifco Water Wheel. Fields are mowed 3x per week; infields are dragged daily, diamonds are chalked, holes are filled and grassy areas are overseeded as needed.

From a baseball perspective and as the high school baseball coach, players are instructed on how to rake and fill batter boxes, baselines, and around bases on a daily basis after practice and games. Turface mound clay is incorporated to fill holes and reshape the mounds after each use. We clean out the dugouts, dump garbage, and rake the bullpens.

With our aid with daily maintenance, the employees can focus on the larger picture of keeping up the athletic fields.

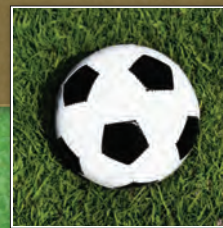
This is the teamwork that is needed so all our baseball teams—high school, summer American Legion, and our community Home Talent—can play on a field that is well maintained and safe.



**SEED IT      FERTILIZE IT      WATER IT**  
**MOW IT      TRIM IT      RAKE IT**  
**SPRAY IT      AERATE IT**

**DO IT ALL WITH SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT FROM REINDERS.**

As the keeper of the turf, we know you work hard to keep your athletic fields looking good. So count on us to provide you with the products and expertise to help keep them in championship condition.



- Toro mowers, aerators, utility vehicles and more
- Kifco water reels
- Echo trimmers, edgers and blowers
- Turface®
- Grass seed
- Fertilizer
- Control products
- Tools
- Chalk

*Reinders*

Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry  
 (800) 785-3301 • [www.reinders.com](http://www.reinders.com)

Reinders is the Proud Supplier of Turf Equipment to the Milwaukee Brewers

