



The turf crew puts in 40 hours a week to keep the field looking this good.

## Infinity Park Wins Field Of The Year Award For The Fourth Time

by Kathy Fairchild

Writer for and on behalf of the City of Glendale

For the fourth year, *Infinity Park* was once again recognized as the "Field of the Year" in its category "Sporting Grounds" under the management of Noel Harryman, Turf Manager.

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) was officially formed in 1981 under the idea that sports turf could be significantly improved through the sharing of ideas and knowledge throughout the industry and practice.

Four key founders spanned from county and college stadiums to professional fields around the country. Now, over 30 years later, the association serves for multiple turfs and an array of people can become members.

Every year, sports turf managers who are members have the option to enter for field of the year in three categories: professional, college and university, and schools and parks. Since the early '90s, the STMA Field of the Year Award has been an honor given to its members who manage sports grounds around the country. They are judged separately and on a list of criteria that may seem foreign to the average person. To members of the STMA, however, this is the highest honor, and a huge recognition for the hard work each of them and their skilled teams put in to make fields and sporting grounds beautiful and safe to play on.

"The application process to even be considered for the award is rigorous and challenging," Harryman explained in a previous interview. "I had to document everything we did to the field throughout the year," he shared, "I tracked how much water, fertilizer, (among other things) we used."

A plan was sent to the association stating what the team was going to do throughout the year to maintain and upkeep the field. In addition, Harryman submitted images to make a visual timeline of the field throughout the year for judges to reference.

The ever-changing climate of the Mile High City makes maintaining the pitch at *Infinity Park* a challenge. Harryman and his team of three other public works employees put in 40 hours a week in upkeep.

"We had to make sure tarps are set for



The *Infinity Park* turf crew posing after they won the 2012 Field of the Year Award.

the winter," he said. "We check under them periodically during the winter, especially during cold spells."

Four awards later, the team's legacy of excellence continues. "We have a great support system," said Josh Bertrand, former Turf Manager, current Director of Public Works and two-time STMA Field of the Year winner. Harryman agreed.

"Not only do the players hold high respect for their field and the people who manage it, but the City of Glendale prides itself on the turf and stadium making the award possible," Bertrand and Harryman agreed. Glendale, where possibilities seem to be endless, continues to get *Infinity Park's* name out to the public.

"Receiving this prestigious award for a fourth time is a testament to the dedication and expertise of *Infinity Park's* turf crew," said Glendale Mayor Mike Dunafon. "We are honored to be recognized by STMA again and look forward to earning more accolades in the future."

The City of Glendale is a team of visionaries. That persistent vision is what allows the continued success of *Infinity Park*. Congratulations for the fourth Sports Turf Managers Association Field of the Year Award.



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