



# Ohio State HCS News

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## 2006 Buckeye Sports Turf Awards Announced



OSU alumnus Joe Motz presents Weston Appelfeller with the 2006 Joe Motz Sports Turf Student of the Year Award.

Three major awards were presented to outstanding individuals in the sports turf industry during the 10th Annual OSU Sports Turf Short Course. Held on the Ohio State University campus in March, the 2006 Buckeye Sports Turf Awards recognized two OSU staff members and one student for their dedication to the industry.

**Weston Appelfeller** was honored with the *2006 Joe Motz Sports Turf Student of the Year Award*. Given to a sports turf student that has shown great enthusiasm for both their studies and the industry, this award is given in honor of Ohio State alumnus **Joe Motz** (BS 1977 Horticulture). An accomplished student who has internship experience at Fenway Park in Boston and The Ohio Stadium, Appelfeller has earned numerous scholarships from the Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association, the national Sports Turf Managers Association and the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation.

Motz sponsors this award with a monetary gift for the student and a donation to the OSU Turf Club. After earning a degree from OSU, Motz went on to create one of the largest international sports turf construction companies in the world. President and CEO of The Motz Group, his firm currently has field projects in the USA, Europe, Australia, & the Middle East.



Gene Smith presents OSU Superintendent Brian Gimbel (R) with the 2006 Brad Friedel Field Manager of the Year Award.

Ohio State alumnus and current Athletic Grounds Superintendent for the Department of Athletics at OSU, **Brian Gimbel** (BS 1994 Agronomy) was recognized with the *2006 Brad Friedel Field Manager of the Year Award*. This award is given to an athletic field manager that has shown leadership in the industry and supported sports turfgrass education and research efforts. With the help of dedicated staff and student workers, [Gimbel manages all the Ohio State varsity athletic fields](#). He employs several interns each season and has

mentored many sports turf students over the years. He is currently serving as President of the Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association, he serves on the program development committee for The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, and he regularly and willingly interacts with the turfgrass science faculty & students at Ohio State.

This award is given in honor of **Brad Friedel**, an Ohio native that played on the USA National Soccer Team and currently plays for a Premiership club in England. Friedel has strong ties to Ohio and comes home each year to host a soccer camp in the state. Friedel sponsors this award with a \$1,000 scholarship for the recipient. Unfortunately, Friedel is currently playing soccer overseas with Blackburn Rovers FC in England, so Ohio State's Athletic Director, **Gene Smith** stepped in to offer congratulations and present the award to Gimbel.



OSU's Mike O'Keeffe won the 2006 Buckeye Sports Turf Global Excellence Award.

The awards committee didn't have to look very far to find someone who has made a significant contribution to turfgrass science on a global scale. **Mike O'Keeffe**, of [The Ohio International Intern Program](#) at Ohio State, earned the *2006 Buckeye Sports Turf Global Excellence Award*. For the last twenty years, O'Keeffe has been instrumental in placing turfgrass science students at golf courses & sports venues all over the world. Each year, American students have the opportunity to do their internship in the British Isles, Australia or Europe. Similarly, students from those countries have the opportunity to come to the USA and train at top-notch golf courses and sports venues. This year an English turf student, Dan Bingle, is interning at Columbus Crew Stadium, while Ohio State student Brett Tanner will intern at Arsenal Football Club in England.

An Irish native, O'Keeffe has also worked with the OSU Turfgrass Science Program to accommodate international visiting scientists. Most recently, that list includes: Pam Sherratt (England), Nuno Sepulveda (Portugal), Bobby Kerr (Scotland), Pawel Lewinski (Poland), Ed Nangle (Ireland), Aneta Studzinska (Poland), and Marcela Munoz (Chile).

Watch a narrated slideshow of this story with additional photos here: [Buckeye Sports Turf Awards Slideshow](#). Quicktime software required to view slideshow.

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