

Best Money Ever Spent

With everything athletic directors are expected to do each day, they certainly don't have time to sit around and watch the grass grow. Yet they're still expected to produce playing fields that are safe, well kept, and attractive.

Fortunately for Randy Trumbower, Athletic Director at East Chapel Hill (N.C.) High School, he has a special lineup to help him. First up is a collection of John Deere equipment that includes a five-reel mower for large fields, a walk behind reel mower for finer work such as the baseball infield, a 1200A infield rake, and several Gator Utility vehicles. With the equipment, Trumbower maintains a football stadium field, baseball field, softball field, and two practice fields. The stadium field plays host to nine teams, including the field hockey program, which has won nine state titles since 2004.

But the MVP of the squad may be Nick Westbrook, a Mobile Technician from Revels Turf and Tractor, a John Deere dealer in nearby Fuquay-Varina, N.C. Westbrook visits ECHHS monthly to perform the preventative maintenance needed to keep the machines operating at peak efficiency. This includes greasing and lubing the parts, checking fluids and belts, and adjusting the cutting reels as well as going over the machines closely to look for any other work that needs to be done.

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To locate a John Deere dealer near you, click on the "Contact a Dealer" link at JohnDeere.com.

"The service agreement is great," says Trumbower. "Trying to service that machine the first time where you have to back lap it, change the oil, and make sure everything straight was a pain in the butt. To have someone come out and fix it appropriately and make sure it's running efficiently is the best money spent ever."



An AD's MVP

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East Chapel Hill (N.C.) High School

And should a problem develop in between these monthly visits, the local John Deere dealer is usually able to get someone out to the school in a day or two to fix it and get the machine back in operation. In addition to servicing equipment, local dealers like Revels can also be good sources of information about local growing conditions and practices. And if there are questions or situations they can't handle, these dealers will certainly be able to find someone who can.

"I think the goal of every athletic program is to win games," Trumbower says. "But winning is not my ultimate priority. Safety is my first priority and our field plays safe—it plays fast and it plays very safe. I have a great group of people who help me maintain it and I hope it keeps playing that way."

CONTACT:
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