

What it takes...life in MLB.





Minor league training; 7 seasons.





TOYOTA 76 BUCKLE UP
Bank of America Higher Standards
WELCOME to DODGER STADIUM
Official Bank of Baseball

300	INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE	CIN	PIT	FL	CIC	IND	MTN	MEM	300
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BUD LIGHT

CHEVY

Adelpia
GET WORKING DO WHAT YOU WANT

Travels across America.





Photo: Wayne Kryduba.

MLB Head Groundskeeper position turnover.

- ▣ HG jobs at Natural Grass fields, 1999-2012.
- ▣ AMERICAN LEAGUE = 18.
- ▣ NATIONAL LEAGUE = 33.
- ▣ TOTAL = 51
- ▣ Summary: 51 jobs as the Turf Manager over past 12 seasons with the 28 MLB teams on natural grass (Tampa Bay and Toronto excluded from list).



What does it take to do this?

- ▣ Motivation is unique to each person in MLB.
- ▣ My personal motivating factor:
'RESPECT FOR and COMMITMENT TO the GAME of BASEBALL'



Opening New Ballparks.



Getting started every spring.



Pre-game activities.





Stressful situations.



Photo: Hannah Foselin.

Getting the job done.



High points of the job.

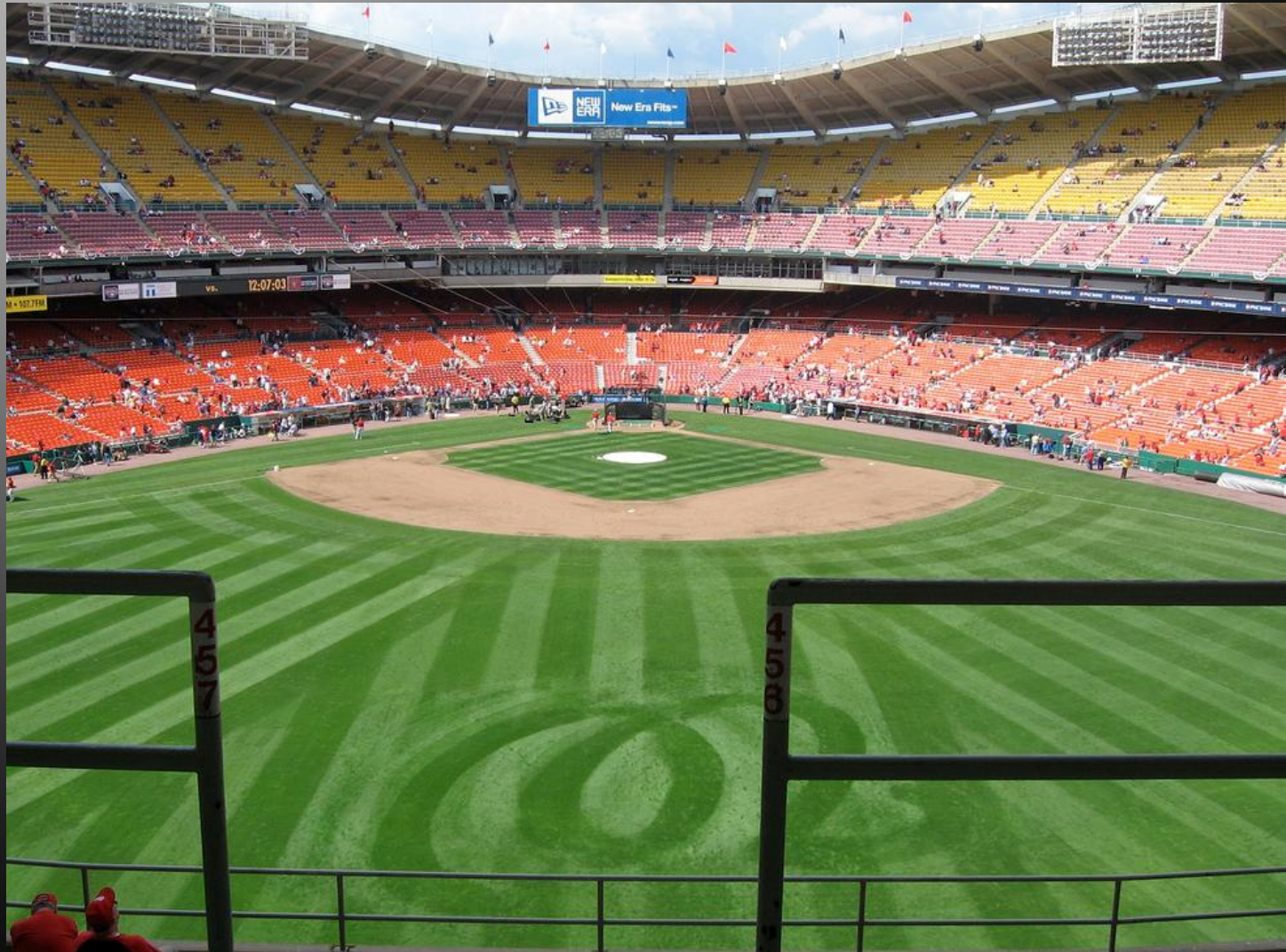


Dealing with other sports.





Dealing with upper management.



Special event management.



Crisis management.

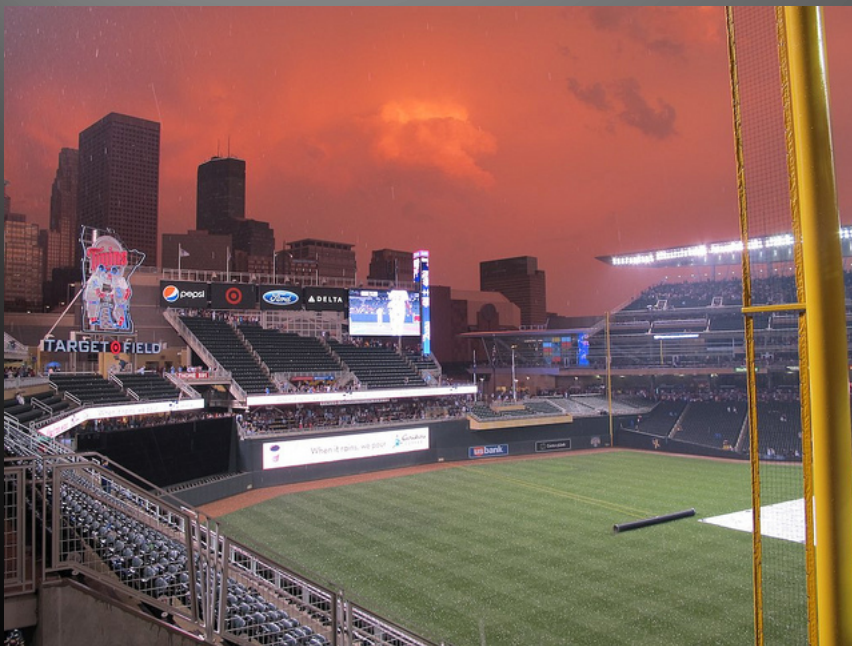




Weather always changes your plans...



Hail delays...



Priority areas of the job.

- ▣ 1. The FIELD.
- ▣ 2. Personnel management.
- ▣ 3. Office work & budget. Equipment & shop.

WEATHER VARIABLES CAN CHANGE
YOUR PROGRAM DAILY & WEEKLY.

Work with your eyes open!

- ▣ Field evaluation never stops.



What is a 'working manager' at MLB level?

- ▣ My personal outlook:
 - * Never ask your staff to work harder than you work every day.
 - * Be as 'hands-on' as possible on game day.
 - * The speed of the leader determines the rate of the pack. The HG needs to set the pace for all.
 - * Save office work for when your team is out of town.
 - * Monitor the weather 24/7 for 6+ months.

Role as working manager.



Photo: Charles Gill

What to delegate to your crew?



I do not paint...at all.



Find crew members who enjoy painting.



Crew takes pride in logos.



My role in game situations; weather and field conditions.



Watching the game...



Monitoring the pitcher's footing and comfort with the mound.



Focus on the players and the baseball.



Time management...personal game clock.



Photo: Charles Gill.

Pregame timing; manage yourself, your crew, team staff.



Water management.

Photo: Mark Goldman.



Stamina and endurance.

- ▣ Be prepared for the physical demands of the job, even when you make it to MLB.



Gameday responsibilities.

- ▣ Early batting practice; extra work.
- ▣ Players on rehab.
- ▣ TV setup; early interviews.
- ▣ The Weather. Can BP go?



Tarp management. Stay involved with tarp work.





Management concepts.

*Broad Focus vs. Fine Focus on the field.

1. Is it safe?
2. How does the field play?
3. Is the appearance up to your standards?

*Simplify your objectives to achieve a bit at a time.

*EMPHASIZE RESULTS .

*STRIVE FOR CONSISTENCY.



Career advice for students.

- ▣ Learn the game of baseball.
- ▣ Study and gain experience with warm-season, cool-season and transition zone turf.
- ▣ Be willing to move around the country to advance your career.
- ▣ In the minor leagues, decide if you truly want to pursue a career in baseball first, then worry about money second.
- ▣ Learn basics of meteorology.

Thank you.

