

# **An Interview with Dean Oliver**

- Sarah Oliver

Dean Oliver had been hoping for a turf field in Marblehead ever since he became involved in Marblehead Youth Soccer nearly a decade ago. But it wasn't until last year, when he organized the All Sports Foundation, with turfing Piper Field as their first goal, that this dream was able to become a reality. Mr. Oliver agreed to answer some FAQs about the new turf field.

S: Why did you want a turf field?

D: As former president of Marblehead Youth Soccer, I saw how limited athletes could practice and play because of field restrictions. The high school field in particular was tremendously underutilized, and seemed the most logical place for a turf field because of lighting, parking, and ease of access.

S: What was your first step in the turfing process?

D: I met with the other youth sports leaders, athletic director Mark Tarmey, town officials, and parents.

S: Who was originally involved?

D: Bruce Bial, Steve Maxwell, John Tompson, Bill Quigley, Derek Norcross, and Mark Tarmey, but it quickly expanded.

S: How much did the project cost? D: About \$900,000.

S: What did The All Sports Foundation do to fundraise?

D: We contacted local citizens, held "Turfs Up," a concert where local band "Better Than Nothing" performed, and held an auction.

S: When did construction begin? D: In June of this year.

S: When did the field open?

D: It was officially rededicated to Sergeant Chris Piper on September 12th.