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Encyclopedia > FieldTurf

FieldTurf Tarkett, a division of Tarkett Inc., is a Montreal-based company that installs artificial turf playing surfaces identified by the FieldTurf trademark.

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Product

FieldTurf is an artificial turf composed of monofilament polyethylene blend fibres tufted into a polypropylene backing with a mixture of silica sand and cryogenic rubber infill. FieldTurf was patented in 1982.

Legal disputes

FieldTurf claims Southwest Recreational Industries (SRI), the former manufacturer of AstroTurf, allegedly duplicated the FieldTurf product and attempted to sue SRI for patent infringement. FieldTurf lost the suit for lack of evidence in 2002,^[1] and in late 2003 was ordered to reimburse Southwest Recreational Industries for approximately \$4.3 million in legal expenses.^[2]

Following the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit's affirmation of SRI's verdict against FieldTurf, FieldTurf paid SRI Sports \$1,195,000 in September, 2002. The verdict arose from a jury's finding that FieldTurf was guilty of false advertising and breach of contract. In conjunction with the November, 2000 trial, the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan found that FieldTurf and its CEO John Gilman acted in bad faith and engaged in conduct to prevent a fair trial and constituted obstruction of justice in a Federal Court proceeding.

Installations

✖ The wide plain of FieldTurf used at Toronto's Rogers Centre was installed after the 2004 baseball season.

The wide plain of FieldTurf used at Toronto's Rogers Centre was installed after the 2004 baseball season.

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In 1999, the Metropolitan Oval, a soccer complex in New York City, was one of the first in the USA.

In 1999, Nebraska installed FieldTurf in Memorial Stadium. In 2006, Nebraska installed alternates between two shades of green every five yards.

Nevada installed FieldTurf at its Mackay Stadium in 2000. The playing surface had been used for 38 seasons.

In 2000, FieldTurf was installed in the Washington's Husky Stadium, replacing the astroturf installed in 1968. Husky Stadium was used as the Seattle Seahawks home field from the demolition of the Kingdome in March 2000. This would be the first FieldTurf used in the Pacific Northwest. It was first installed at Qwest Field (originally Seahawks Stadium) in 2002.^[1] The original plans called for natural grass at the new stadium, but due to the favorable reactions from players while playing at the old stadium, the Seahawks had FieldTurf installed instead.

Washington State installed FieldTurf at its Martin Stadium in 2000. The playing surface had been used for 10 seasons, preceded by astroturf, first installed in 1972.

The University of Oregon installed NexTurf in Autzen Stadium in 2001 but the surface was not expected and during remodeling in 2002 it was removed and replaced with FieldTurf.

Colorado State installed FieldTurf at its Hughes Stadium in 2006. The playing surface had been used for 38 seasons.

Several UK teams have installed it as a training pitch, but as of October 2006, only Oxford United (Academical F.C.) uses FieldTurf (installed in 2004) for their first-team matches.^[citation needed] The Estadio Nacional in San José, Costa Rica became the first stadium to host a FIFA World Cup match on FieldTurf.

The New England Patriots installed FieldTurf midway into the 2006 NFL season.^[4] They did so during a week when the team was on the road.

As of 2007, seven of the eight Canadian Football League teams have installed either FieldTurf or artificial grass, as well as approximately half of National Football League venues as well as Major League Baseball stadiums (List of FieldTurf installations).

Super Bowl XL, featuring the Seattle Seahawks and the Pittsburgh Steelers, was the first Super Bowl to be played on FieldTurf. The Ford Field installation differs slightly from the standard FieldTurf in that the recycled rubber used is made from Firestone tires.^[5]

Criticism

In September 2006, several top Canadian soccer players appealed to the Canadian Soccer Association to install a natural grass surface at BMO Field in Toronto.^[6] The Association has, however, declined to install FieldTurf despite the players' request.

In addition, following David Beckham's move to Major League Soccer in 2007, in which he suffered a severe ankle injury,^[7] he voiced his opinion that the league should convert to grass for all professional soccer. Beckham quit the FieldTurf brand^{[8][9]} (which he later recanted^[10]), while outsiders suggested that Beckham's injury in Toronto had been a factor in his decision to instead sign with another team (he signed with Manchester United).

During a telephone interview on David Beckham's Soccer USA (UK version), former Manchester United and Red Bull New York striker Juan Pablo Angel criticized the surface, saying, "I find it really hard to play on [Giants Stadium] turf field... it takes me two or three days just to recover [after a match]."

New England Revolution manager Steve Nicol is quoted as saying "there is no give in the surface, it's the worst the best surface,"^[12] in regards to professional soccer matches.

Gary O'Connor, current Birmingham City and Scotland striker, has recently spoken out against the artificial surface at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia, which hosted the England-Russia Euro Cup match in October 2007. After a short summer term at Lokomotiv Moscow, O'Connor described the artificial surface as "a nightmare" and a "misfortune".^[13] He noted the effects of the artificial surface on his play, saying, "The ball skids off the surface, so it becomes extremely hard to read when it's in the air."

In 2007, a Connecticut non-profit organization Environmental and Human Health Inc. (EHHI) questioned the safety of recycled tire crumb rubber in artificial turf.^[14] EHHI funded a Agricultural Experiment Station, a state agency, which independently reported^[15] that under conditions approximating field conditions for temperature and leaching solvent, four chemical compounds volatilize into the vapor phase (outgas) in water in contact with the crumbs: benzene, butylated hydroxyanisole (a carcinogen and toxicant), n-hexadecane (an irritant) and styrene (corrosive to mucus membranes, a suspected endocrine disruptor^[16]). FieldTurf, ALI/ATI, a consortium founded by tire makers Bridgestone, Continental, Dunlop Goodyear, Kléber, and ADEME (the French Environment and Energy Management Agency) release a statement^[17] concluding that there was no cause for concern to human health by inhalation of volatile organic compounds and aldehydes released by recycled tire crumb rubber surfaces.^[18]

See also

- Artificial grass
- AstroTurf
- List of FieldTurf installations

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External links

- Official FieldTurf web site
- [http://uncutvideo.aol.com/videos/d0df2e8ca6d959654ad2176bf18aca03 Beckharr
- Spanish FieldTurf web site

FieldTurf comments at post-match press conference on 8/9/07]

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Results from FactBites:

FieldTurf crews running no-huddle (883 words)

- ▶ Kraft went on to explain that the change, which is the first mid-season conversion from grass to artificial turf in NFL stadiums as you might think – they practice on it every time they're indoors at the Dana-Farber Fieldhouse.
- ▶ Rather than waiting for the **FieldTurf** to settle naturally, as is usually done, the crews will roll the **FieldTurf** to practice before the game.
- ▶ Gilman said the **FieldTurf** can be installed in the rain, since the spreaders used for the artificial dirt are fitted with nozzles that spray the dirt.

Giants.com (943 words)

- ▶ **FieldTurf** is an increasingly popular synthetic field used by the Seattle Seahawks and Detroit Lions in the NFL, the San Francisco Giants in Major League Baseball, as well as Nebraska, Kansas State, Washington and Washington State.
- ▶ Fassel, however, is excited because the **FieldTurf** will enable the team to leave the bubble and practice at times it is unable to do the previous three years.
- ▶ In the survey, the **FieldTurf** at Detroit's new Ford Field ranked 11th, despite the fact that less than a third of the players had the opportunity to play on it.

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