

MAGIC CARPET FLOATS AT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA



Gaming figure Sam Boyd cuts the ribbon to the new Magic Carpet field at UNLV as UNLV President Robert Maxson (right) and Stadium Director Dennis Finrock assist.

Growing turf in the desert for six home games a year didn't make sense to Dennis Finrock, executive director of the football stadium at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The artificial turf installed previously was quickly destroyed by the sun's intense ultraviolet rays. So, putting down another carpet didn't make sense either.

More than 30,000 fans expected the University of Nevada-LV to play and win each fall. Finrock also wanted to use the stadium for mud bogs, tractor pulls, and moto-cross races he knew were popular and profitable. To cover the field for each event cost an estimated \$25,000 to \$40,000. Finrock listened with interest when Monsanto salesmen came up with a unique solution—a removable field surface called the Magic Carpet. The unique field system was being used at the Pontiac Silverdome, home of the Detroit Lions. All he needed was \$1.2 million and his problems would be solved.

High rollers are common in Las Vegas and, fortunately for Finrock, gaming figure Sam Boyd wanted to help sports at UNLV. So, for the needed amount UNLV got its removable field and Sam Boyd now has a stadium named after him, the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl.

"We're really excited about being the first outdoor stadium to install this system," Finrock said when the field was rolled out for the first time in August.

The entire field of AstroTurf-8 is rolled up on a steel core when not in use and stored at the side of the field. Dozens of air jets float the carpet so crews and winches can move the surface into position on the field and back onto the steel core when finished.

The Magic Carpet system will allow UNLV to generate revenues for further capital improvements, says Finrock, including a paved parking lot, improved sound system, a new scoreboard, locker room renovation, and new parking entrances and exits.

Football coaches and players have told Finrock the new surface is a great improvement over the previous one and has more bounce and give.

SCOREBOARD

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RANSOMES DISTRIBUTORS TREATED TO ENGLAND



U.S. Ransomes officials visit the headquarters in Ipswich, England. Pictured (left to right) are New Jersey distributor Steve Willand, U.S. President Helmut Adam, Washington distributor Bob Erickson, and U.S. Executive Vice President Dick Lehman.

The roots of the Ransomes companies are planted solidly in Ipswich, England, at the Ransomes Sims & Jefferies production facilities. So it was only natural for North American Ransomes Inc. to take 20 of its top distributors and their wives on a journey there this fall, especially after a record sales year.

Led by Vice President Dick Lehman, the group toured the 150-year-old Ransomes facility, attended the Institute of

Groundsmanship International Exhibition at the Royal Windsor Racecourse, visited Brighton to see the imaginative work of the prestigious seaside town's parks department, and enjoyed an afternoon sightseeing in historic Cambridge.

The North American visitors were given an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with several of their English counterparts and to discuss emerging technologies in the turfgrass industry.