

ROSE BOWL BLANKET PROTECTS BENCH TURF



Crew unrolls blanket on Rose Bowl field two days before the game.

When heavy foot traffic threatens valuable turf, like the bench areas at the Rose Bowl, all a sports turf manager can do is hope post-game overseeding brings the areas back before they turn into mudpits. The turf team at the Rose Bowl thought they'd try another tactic.

Cal Poly's Kent Kurtz, consultant to the Rose Bowl, had heard about a polyester blanket used to protect the Cleveland Stadium field from the fans at a Michael Jackson concert. Kurtz called up Dave Frey, field manager at Cleveland, and found out the fabric was marketed as Terracover by Warren's Turf.

The Rose Bowl tried 3,000 square feet

of the blanket in the bench areas for the big annual event. Three days after the game, the blanket was removed and the turf came through unharmed without need of overseeding.

"The advantage of the blanket," said Kurtz, "is it allows air to circulate down to the covered turf while it protects it from cleats. Unlike plywood, you can leave it down for days without the turf suffocating or overheating." Kurtz dyed the blanket green to fool television cameras.

Because the fabric is rot and sun resistant, it can be stored and reused upon need. Other facilities utilizing Terracover this year were the Orange Bowl in Miami and Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

GROUP URGES PTA TO TAKE STAND ON FIELDS

The newly created National Sports Turf Research and Education Committee (NSTREC) of the Musser Foundation is doing all it can to get sports field safety on the National Parent Teachers Association list of top issues.

Eliot Roberts, secretary of NSTREC, wrote an article for PTA's most recent magazine on the state of sports turf at schools in the United States. He has discussed the importance of safe sports turf with PTA officials. NSTREC's goal is to be added to a list of topics circulated by the national PTA to all local branches. The local branches use this list for topics of local meetings with parents and teachers.

Currently the list includes drug and alcohol abuse, adolescent sexuality, seat belts, television viewing, cultural arts, and teacher appreciation. Members of NSTREC believe fewer injuries to students from poor fields is equally important.

NSTREC was developed this year to gather all available information on safe sports turf and distribute it to influential organizations or those needing assistance with sports field maintenance information.

PARK INSTITUTE OFFERS SPORTS PROGRAM AT KNOXVILLE

The National Institute on Park and Grounds Management will again offer sports turf as one of three major educational programs during its annual meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn World's Fair, Nov. 3-7, in Knoxville, Tenn.

Sports speakers include Dr. John Street, associate professor of agronomy at Ohio State University; Dr. William Daniel, professor emeritus of turfgrass, Purdue University; Dr. Jack Hall, professor of agronomy, Virginia Polytechnic and State Institute; and Dr. Eliot Roberts of the Lawn Institute.

NIPGM Executive Director Eric Madisen says the sports turf sessions will focus on lower cost turf management under high usage, recognition of disease and pest damage and solutions, fertilization and irrigation.

In addition to the sports turf program, the conference will have sessions on school campuses and parks. For more information contact NIPGM, Box 1936, Appleton, WI 54913.

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