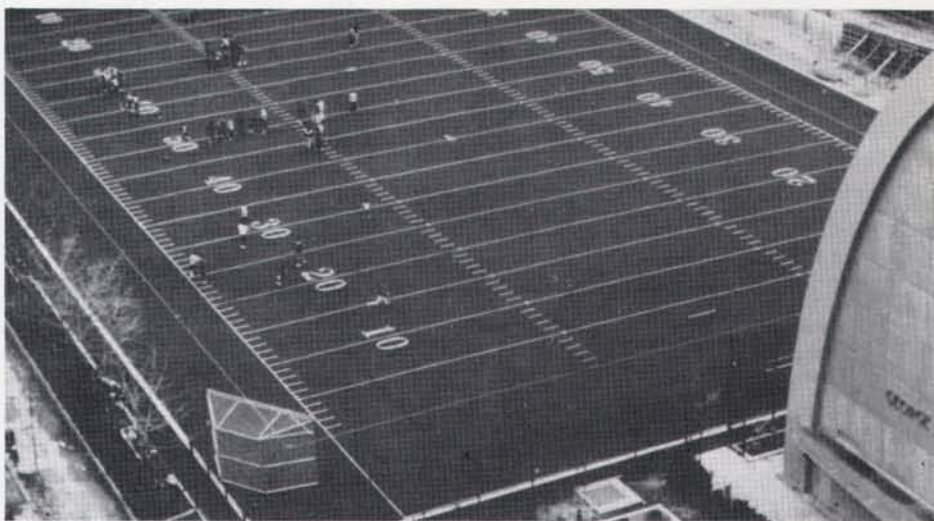


ASPHALT PLANT CONVERTED TO URBAN SPORTS CENTER

The streets of New York City are paved with asphalt, although some say they're paved with gold. Until 1968, much of that asphalt came from a structure shaped like half a barrel between Harlem and one of Manhattan's most affluent residential neighborhoods. Developers couldn't wait to convert the plant and the adjoining store yard into more apartments when the plant closed.

The residents of the area, both poor minorities and the affluent, fought instead for a sports center in a unique display of cooperation. Led by Dr. George Murphy, a professor at Cornell Medical University College, the Asphalt Green Coalition knocked on doors and collected more than 29,000 signatures and nearly \$2 million to demonstrate community interest in a recreational center. Impressed by the spirit and unity of the mixed coalition, the city gave the developers a cold shoulder and jumped on the Asphalt Green band wagon to the tune of \$2.6 million.

The coalition became The Asphalt Green Sports, Arts and Environmental Center with city-sponsored classes for school children and a broad assortment of activities based upon user fees and private memberships. It was clear to Rory Morlos, executive director of the center, that the demand for a field constructed on the site of the asphalt store yard would be tremendous.



Both rich and underprivileged athletes compete on the football field recently constructed on the former site of a New York City asphalt plant.

Surrounded by five-story apartment buildings and exposed to almost constant use, the field was a perfect candidate for an artificial surface. The surface selected and installed was a drain-through asphalt base and Astro-Turf-8 from Monsanto. The field was dedicated last month with the first games played by the Eagle Squadron Touch Football League, consisting of more than 240 teenagers from mixed backgrounds.

"The field has really helped us getting kids of different socio-economic backgrounds playing together," says Morlos. Dr. Murphy also had the wish that the city kids could play on a surface like the one they saw on television. The doctor and the kids got their wish and the Asphalt Green Center serves as a hub to recreational activities in the once segregated community.

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