

"The idea is to select the best performing combinations of root zone and turfgrass from the research plots and use them to construct between two and five football/soccer fields as soon as possible," explains Doherty. "We want our young athletes to play all out on these state-of-the-art fields to show us which is the safest and most durable. Comprehensive data will be kept on each field and made available to the public. Then, for once, we won't have to keep repeating the same mistakes at the expense of our kids' knees, ankles and shoulders."

## CHICAGO TO INSTALL NATURAL TURF AT SOLDIER FIELD

The Chicago Park District has agreed to replace the eight-year-old AstroTurf in Soldier Field with natural turf after repeated requests by the Chicago Bears. Natural turf was considered when the current field was installed in 1979 but lost a price struggle to the artificial surface. Two years ago the Bears asked again for natural turf when it became apparent the resiliency of the pad under the field was failing. General Manager Michael McCaskey has consistently stated that he wants the Bears, "To play on real green grass under the blue sky."

Astroturf Industries has been testing the resiliency of the field every summer. Ken Mrock, supervisor of maintenance for the stadium and six golf courses for the Chicago Park District, explains that gas bubbles originally contained in the pad have ruptured making the field harder. Mrock keeps the field covered most of the time to prevent moisture from getting into the pad and freezing during cold weather. He also blows heated air from Kerosene heaters under the tarp to soften the pad for winter games.

Bears management, especially coach Mike Ditka, have not concealed their intention to build another stadium in the Chicago area. Difficulty finding the right location has delayed the move and the team's lease at Soldier Field extends into the 1990s. Once a site and financing are obtained, it would take three or more years to build. Joe Robbie's success in Miami building a privately-financed stadium has encouraged Bears management.

"The stadium has been renovated and is in good shape except for the field," explains Mrock. It currently seats 66,000 fans and has 65 skyboxes. "There's not a bad seat in the house. It's tough to find a location as good as Soldier Field." The stadium is situated on Lake Michigan near the Loop and McCormick Place.

"I'd like to see natural turf," says Mrock. "It's not my decision to make, but that's my opinion. You can tell the players and

coaches like it better. That should be worth something when you compare the cost of one against the other."

## BOARDWALK AND BASEBALL PREPARES FOR THE ROYALS



Kansas City Royals General Manager John Schuerholz (left) and Boardwalk & Baseball President Dick Howard examine a model of the 6,500-seat stadium to host the Royals for spring training in 1988. The facility is 25 minutes from Orlando, Florida.

# Lawn Maintenance

## The TR Truck Loader System



Use the heavy duty wheeled blower to move large quantities of leaves toward the truck.



The intake hose vacuums leaves piled up around the truck and sends them through the four-bladed steel impeller in the truck loader. By crushing leaves and debris into small particles, the impeller greatly reduces bulk. This allows the truck to hold more debris and prevents operators from having to unload the truck as often.