Warren Morey, architect of Cowboy Stadium in Dallas, TX, has been commissioned to design the stadium which will feature a sand-based field similar to the one at the Coliseum. "The field will definitely be natural turf," says Herrera. "The players like the field at the Coliseum. They like the cushion the sand provides." The team constructed a similar field at its current headquarters and practice facility in El Segundo, CA.

The original 62,000 seat design will be expandable to 70,000 seats, still considerably less than the Coliseum's nearly 100,000. Between 80 and 120 luxury suites will be included. Construction of similar suites at the Coliseum was a major point of contention between the Coliseum and Davis.

The Raiders plan to build a new headquarters, practice facility and Hall of Fame at a site within two miles of the new stadium. The Raiders lease at its current headquarters also expires in 1991.

SUPER BOWL CREW USES AERATOR TO HURRY PREGERMINATED SEED

After 22 years of preparing stadium fields across the country for the National Football League's Super Bowl, George Toma and now his son Chip continue to adapt turf management practices to get the fields ready for the internationally popular event. This January the pair combined solid-tine aeration and overseeding with pregerminated perennial ryegrass to revive thin spots in the field at San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium.

"We wanted to get the roots down two inches into the soil before the game," states Toma. "That would prevent the young turf from tearing loose during the game and halftime show." Toma thought aerating would give the pregerminated nyegrass a head start in growing through the dormant bermudagrass, but he didn't want to collect soil cores or disturb the surface any more than necessary.

On January 1, the day after the Holiday Bowl, Chip began to soak the Ph.D. blend of perennial ryegrass in 12 large drums. As the seed was prepared, the emblems from the Holiday Bowl were brushed off the turf with a revolving plastic brush on the front of a tractor. This was a change from verticutting the paint out of the turf. "It worked great without tearing up the turf," Toma remarks.

The year before George and Chip had experimented with solid tine aeration in the end zones of the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, CA, which had already been verticut to remove the paint from the Rose Bowl game. The pregerminated seed in the core holes grew vigorously and rooted deeply. They thought that an aerifier with solid tines making a dense pattern of holes could be used for an entire field if necessary.

They got their chance in San Diego. A busy schedule of baseball, football and concerts had taken its toll on the overseeded ryegrass. Exceptionally cool weather had prevented the ryegrass from establishing enough to withstand football, especially during rain games. After the Holiday Bowl, more than a third of the turf needed to be reseeded.

Using a Green Care CoreMaster aerator with 3/8 inch solid tines, the Tomas punched more than 70 inch-deep holes per square foot over the entire field. They also used a disc sprigger to make grooves in two directions in the surface. The pregerminated seed was mixed with Milorganite and spread over the field and dragged into the core holes and grooves. Finally they topdressed the field with a mixture of sand and Nitrohumus. After a light application of Subdue fungicide, the field was watered by hand on a daily basis. "We started mowing after ten days and have had to mow every other day since then," says Toma. Core samples showed the roots had penetrated two inches into the sandy soil.

The Tomas have already started working with Dale Sandin, grounds supervisor at the Orange Bowl in Miami, FL, for next year's Super Bowl. "Every year we learn something more and add it to our list of tools. We're happy to share it with other groundskeepers," he concluded.



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