

JACKIE ROBINSON STADIUM UNDERGOES TURF RENOVATION

The infield at Jackie Robinson Stadium on the campus of UCLA in Los Angeles recently underwent complete renovation. The project consisted of two major phases. First, the turf portions of the infield were stripped and regraded, and then the skinned portion of the diamond was replaced and conditioned.

Ten days prior to the arrival of the Sportsfields, Inc., renovation crew the turf was sprayed with Roundup by UCLA Stadium and Grounds Director Laura Adams. The

specialists in natural turf athletic field construction and renovation, who are based in Blue Island, IL, stripped the dead turf and removed it from the site.

The areas to be sodded were tilled and soil was added as required. The ground was fine graded and prepared for sodding. The crew installed 12,750 square feet of Tif-green (Pacific sod) Bermuda, which was watered upon completion of the installation.

Due to the poor condition of the skinned surfaces of the infield, Adams requested that the upper four inches of the existing infield mixture be removed and replaced. Approximately 175 cubic yards of Dodger Baseball Mixture was delivered and

graded. In addition, 14 tons of Turface was incorporated into the Dodger mix, tilled once again, fine graded, and rolled.

The entire renovation took just six days to complete and the field was expected to be ready in less than two months. The cooperation between Sportsfields, Inc., and the maintenance staff at UCLA, including Adams and her supervisor, Kyle Hackett, plus the baseball coach, Gary Adams, made the project a success.

PILOT FIELD RECEIVES DESIGN AWARD

Pilot Field, the new AAA baseball stadium for the Buffalo Bisons, Buffalo, NY, has won the "Excellence in Design" award presented by the Kansas City chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

The ballpark, which is located adjacent to a historical district of downtown Buffalo, was designed by the HOK Sports Facilities Group, Kansas City, MO.

Joseph Spear, the principal designer of the stadium, accepted the award while noting that the chief design challenge involved raising community expectations and perceptions about what a baseball park could become.

"It was necessary to allude to a period when the national pastime was played in ballparks, instead of circular concrete multi-purpose complexes," Spear said.

Despite its capacity of 19,500 seats and all the modern features and amenities, the building is considerate of its neighbors and has become a communal place for the entire community.

Pilot Field was designed with expansion capabilities to 40,000 to suit Major League play.

MORRIS NAMED HEAD GROUNDSKEEPER

Gary Morris has been named head groundskeeper of Joe Robbie Stadium and the Miami Dolphins training camp in Miami, FL, by Glenn Mon, general manager of the stadium.

Morris has had 15 years' experience in turfgrass management. After completing the turf management course at Broward Junior College, he trained under Superintendent Larry Weber at Inverary Country Club and the PGA National Golf Club, in Palm Beach, FL.

He served as golf course superintendent for four years at Emerald Hills Country Club in south Florida, before leaving to help organize the sports turf program for Joe Robbie Stadium and the Dolphins practice fields at the training camp located at St. Thomas University.

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