Batter's Box Repair

by Floyd Perry

At most high school, parks & recreation, and municipal facilities, the number-two repair area (after the pitching mound) is the right-handed batter's box. Conditions below the surface can create uneven hitting surfaces and enormous amounts of material tear out. Innovative, below-ground solutions follow:

• Break up heavy clay materials and interlock with the existing clay surface.
• Strategically position heavy clay blocks where the rear dig-in foot and the front landing foot do the most damage.
• Use sub-surface hitting pads 1-1/2 inches below the ground to prevent extra-deep holes.
• Incorporate a clay polymer into the lower levels of the hitting area to eliminate deep holes.
• The most practical way to prevent holes from occurring during pre-game batting practice is to use hitting pads.
• Artificial turf eliminates surface disruption during batting practice, and it creates an extra-hard, compacted clay using the player's body weight at the same time.

Floyd Perry is author of three books: The Pictorial Guides to Quality Groundskeeping: I - Covering the Bases; II - There Ain't No Rules; and III - Maintain It Easy, Keep It Safe. He also produces two videos: The ABC's of Grounds Maintenance: Vol. 1, Softball; and Vol. 2, Baseball. For more information, call: (800) 227-9381, or visit his web site: http://gms.simplenet.com.