

Editor's note: In our April issue, we ran two "before" photos of the football field at the Switzer District Athletic Complex in Overland Park, KS, rather than one "before" and one "after" photo. Grounds coordinator Jody Gill and his crew at Blue Valley School District did a fantastic job of overcoming winterkill as he described in last month's coverage, which was one of the reasons the field earned

the STMA's 2004 Football Field of the Year honors in the High School/Parks category.

Our sincere apologies to Jody and everyone at Blue Valley for this major mistake. Here we present the correct photos, and also Jody's description of how he handled the winterkill.

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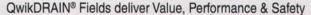
Winterkill 2004

Although we have been growing and transplanting our own Bermudagrass since 1996, we had not suffered significant winterkill until January 2004. We knew we had a major problem when turf areas from the size of a truck to entire fields were not showing signs of greening by mid-May 2004. By early June, it was clear that we had lost more than 20 acres of turf on 31 fields, including about 60% of the SWIDAC field. Turf loss like this would be catastrophic for most organizations, but for our crew, it was just an inconvenience.

Fortunately, our turf farm was healthy and green. Field usage schedules were modified. The crew worked tirelessly, harvesting and hauling some 40,000 bushels of sprigs and planting 2-3 fields per day until we finished in late June. All turf was reestablished and all fields were back in service by late August 2004.

The Switzer District Athletic Complex is not only a shining star for the Blue Valley School District but also a source of pride for the Grounds Services Department.





4 1/2" of rain won't stop the Rugby Tourney

"On May 3,4 of 2003 Stanford University hosted the College National Rugby Championships at Steuber Field. Concerns were high as the fields had been deluged with over 4 1/2" of rain on the two days prior to the match."

This was the true test for the newly reconstructed field because Stanford University opted to stay with native soll and install a new high performance QwikDRAIN® System.

"Indeed, the rain continued heavy up until the time of the first match. We then played eight matches over two days. At the completion of the last game the field showed almost no evidence of any wear

- "Your field at Stanford exceeds the standards we met at World Cup."
- -Douglas Arnot, Pres/CEO, USA Rugby Football Union
- "Since the installation of the system, we have not had to replace any turf on the field. The performance has exceeded our expectations."
- -Dave Rulli, Manager of Stadium Operations, Jefferson County Schools



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