



Endicott College **blasts** new field out of **granite ledge**

By John Dailey

Endicott College, a small liberal arts school on the beautiful North Shore 20 miles above Boston, recently completed work on its new softball facility, which is next to the multi-purpose stadium that was built for football, lacrosse, and soccer, along with intramural and club activities. More than 40 square feet of granite was blasted away to

make room for the field, in turn creating one of the most dramatic stadium backdrops in all of New England.

The new softball stadium is a tribute to a team that has made itself a strong regional and national contender over the past 12 years. Coach Mark Veilleux leads a softball team that has won three consecutive Commonwealth Coast Titles. In 2005, the team earned their first

national ranking, finishing the season at #23 in Division III and #1 in New England.

Director of Athletic Facilities Brian Wylie and Dennis Monaco spearheaded the stadium and field construction.

Wylie says of the 40-foot area of granite rock, "This type of ledge is very common in the area, and is now something the facility can hang its hat on. With the nature of the New England area, especially the North Shore with granite ledge being such a prominent part of the landscape, we had to cut and fill. This left us with a 40-foot backdrop of ledge surrounding left field."

Wylie says the college exported the granite off campus via truck and was paid for it. "We have to blast some of the granite ledge for every construction project we do," says Wylie, who oversees all such projects.

"After this blast, we compacted the area as much as we could so it wouldn't move," he says. "Then we put 6 to 8 feet of stone, followed by 12 inches of sand and soil and put the irrigation system in that."

The field was originally laid with Kentucky bluegrass sod in the outfield, and is complete with a 2-zone irrigation system and new drainage system for both the infield and outfield. Complementing the outfield sod, Wylie chose the Fenway mix for the infield skin layer, which "allowed for the look we really wanted," he says. The stadium also features a Daktronics scoreboard, two bullpens, two custom-made dugouts, and a press box complete with Internet access and a full sound system.

Endicott College was founded in 1939 and began as an all women's, 2-year junior college. It has evolved into one of the finest co-ed Division III institutions in the New England area with 1,700 students, and its campus features 201 acres of land, including private beaches owned by the school.

Recently the Gulls celebrated their 13th anniversary as an NCAA Division III member. In that time, they have captured 26 league or tournament titles and have made 34 post-season appearances.

John Dailey is a Graduate Assistant in the Post Sports Science and Fitness Center at Endicott College. ■



Tested for Toughness In the NFL

TIFSPORT
CERTIFIED BERMUDAGRASS

For Detailed Information and a List of Licensed Growers Visit:
www.tifSPORT.com

Fill in 125 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9140-125>

AerWay®

*AerWay® saves water, nutrient
and chemical costs*

*AerWay® venting
tines can be used all
season to keep the
soil surface open.
Water and nutrient
applications are
more efficient
because they are
absorbed immediate-
ly into the soil
profile.*



for more information call

1-800-457-8310

Advanced Aeration Systems

www.aerway.com email: aerway@aerway.com

Fill in 124 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9140-124>