

Getting prepared for '07 College Cup

Cary, NC and SAS Soccer Park are home to the 2007 College Cup, the NCAA men's soccer championship. Keith Jenkins, CPRP, the athletic facility supervisor for the Town of Cary Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources, and Jimmy Simpson, the

facility expeditor, answered some questions about preparing for this year's tournament:

SportsTurf:

1. How have you changed or will you change your field maintenance schedule for 2007 to prepare for the College Cup in

November? Is your number of events less than last year in leading up to Cup matches?

Simpson and Jenkins: We have been fortunate to host several college cups at SAS Soccer Park, including last year's Women's College Cup. Our field maintenance schedule for the 2007 Men's College Cup will not be



Above: SAS Soccer Park was home to the 2006 Women's College Cup, the NCAA women's soccer championship.



The newly formed USL Division One Carolina Railhawks play all of their home games at SAS.

very different from last year's schedule.

Prior to last season's Women's College Cup, we increased our number of aerifications and topdressings to help facilitate the firming of our playing surface, improve surface drainage, and to also increase both stand density and root density of the turf.

We have had a slight increase in the number of events we are hosting this year. The newly formed USL Division One Carolina Railhawks are now playing all of their home games at SAS, and several international matches have been hosted here in 2007 as well.

SportsTurf: What, if any, consultations have you had with the NCAA regarding the field itself?

Simpson: Currently, the only consultations I have had with the NCAA regarding the field was a conference call during which the committee asked questions about our maintenance practices and efforts to continually improve the playing surface at the park.

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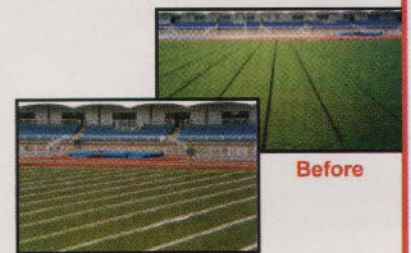
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FACILITY & OPERATIONS



The overall experience for players and spectators is of the highest importance.

SportsTurf: What type of turf is featured at SAS Soccer Park? Drainage system?

Simpson: SAS Soccer park has 419 Bermuda that is overseeded with perennial ryegrass. The field itself is completely flat with a 10-inch sand/peat rootzone and drain lines that are on 15-foot centers. We have a six-zone irrigation system on our stadium field that is fed by an onsite pond. The pond is supported by four wells that pump water into it 12 hours a day.

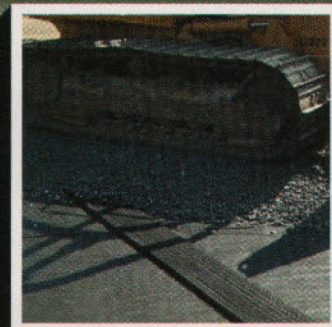
SportsTurf: What would be included on your "recommended checklist" for turf managers who host soccer tournaments?

Simpson: At SAS, we have many weekly tournaments on our outlying fields. Our preparation checklist does not change whether it is a recreation game or international soccer match we are hosting. At the top of my checklist is anything that is related to the safety of players or spectators. Safety is our number one priority, and I feel that it is our responsibility to pro-

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vide a safe, smooth playing surface with anchored goals.

The next thing on the list is the aesthetics of the fields and facility. We strive for an overall consistent and well maintained "look" for all events at SAS. This includes everything from having straight lines on the fields to how the benches are placed on the sidelines. After the fields are complete, we then take our "look" to the entire park. From the parking lot to the restrooms, the overall experience for our players and spectators is of the highest importance.

The final thing on our checklist is to get feedback from players, coaches, officials, and spectators to see where we can improve as a facility. ■



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