

way rainwater does. Remember that if any components of your drainage system, such as swales, have asphalt components, there may be cracking and shrinking that occurs as a result of continued weathering. A deep, hard freeze can cause blockages in pipes; with time and more moderate temperatures, these too should melt.

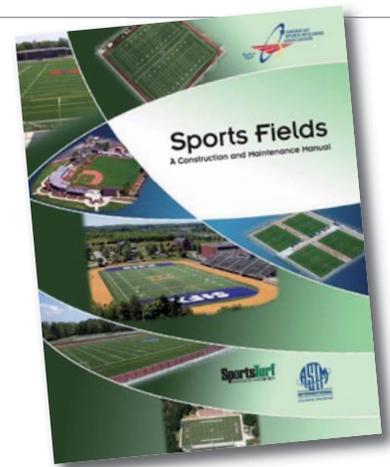
“Most pre-manufactured drainage composites and drain products can withstand extreme weather fluctuations, but always best to verify with the manufacturer to verify any product limitations or installation criteria that may be limited by weather,” says Conway.

Some fields remain open in cold weather while at others, athletes must wait until all moisture, including anything caught in the infill, has melted and migrated downward. If the weather is so cold that your turf is slippery because of ice, and your pipes underneath are blocked (meaning that no drainage is likely to occur anyway), use of the fields isn't recommended. Athlete safety, and the safety of those maintaining the turf, should be the first considerations in making the call on whether to use a field in cold weather.

Because it's under your field rather than on top of it, drainage isn't a glamorous aspect of a facility (the color and design of the turf, the markings, logo, etc. tend to get a lot of attention because they're the visual elements; you don't often hear a spectator say, “Wow, great drainage.”) As a result, when an administration or an owner is looking into cutting expenses in the construction of a new sports field, the temptation may be to cut what can't be seen.

Ideally, good drainage (the kind you invest in and pay attention to throughout the year) will never be seen. That's because it works. On the other hand, inferior drainage either around the perimeter or on the field itself will be seen. It'll be seen by you and your athletes and spectators, in the form of puddles on your turf. It'll be seen when subsurface and surface problems come back to haunt the finished facility long before you've stopped bragging about your new field. Most of all, it'll be seen in the bottom line when costly repairs need to be made.

You will regret cheaping out and not putting in enough ways to move the water off your facility. You'll never regret making



► ASBA's **NEWEST PUBLICATION** deals with issues of field drainage, as well as design, construction and maintenance of both artificial turf and natural grass fields. The book is available through ASBA, www.sportsbuilders.org, or 866-501-ASBA (2722)

the investment of funds in a good system, and of time to keep it functioning well. And in this case, you always get a good return on your investment. ■

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ASBA presents **FIRST GREEN AWARD**

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PAC Center, Rochester, NY has been recognized with the American Sports Builders Association's inaugural Green Award, which recognizes eco-friendly design and construction excellence.

Completed in October 2008, the PAC Center, designed by Concord, MA-based Clough Harbour & Associates, is a 56,000-square foot athletic, fitness and recreational facility on Monroe's Brighton Campus. It accommodates a wide range of uses including health and physical education classes, team sports, intramural leagues, community wellness programs and individual fitness.

And in addition to helping with general wellness, it's healthy for the environment. During the design portion of the facility, the college chose to pursue LEED

Certification, something which added complexity not just to the drawing-board process and the construction phase but to every level of the planning.

Projects are scored individually and anonymously by a committee of ASBA members, based on considerations such as layout and design, site work, drainage, base construction, surface, amenities, innovation and overall impression. Winning entries are those whose cumulative scores meet or exceed the standard.

The PAC Center boasts a wealth of amenities for its users including a field house with a 136' x 220' synthetic turf field (Sportex), two retractable batting cages, a two-lane walking/jogging track surrounding the turf field, an interactive lobby for entry to the campus sports facility, a 3,500 sq. ft. fitness

center with cardio and strength training equipment, 1,800 sq. ft. of training space including hot and cold hydrotherapy pools, locker rooms, a multi-purpose room, a cleat lobby with public rest rooms, office space and equipment storage areas.

Among the center's eco-friendly facilities are:

- A high energy efficient field house
- Energy cost reduction of over 30% from the ASHRAE Standard 90.1, 2004
- 30% reduction in water use from the Energy Policy Act of 1992 Fixture Performance Requirements
- A diversion of over 50% of construction waste away from landfills
- Nearly 40% of all construction materials had recycled content

- More than 10% of all materials were generated within 500 miles of the project.

Even the landscaping of the center was eco-friendly, thanks to the selection of sustainable plants including drought-resistant sedum, as well as picea glauca, nyssa sylvatica, cercis canadensis, syringa reticulata and ilex crenata.

In addition, the location (a former practice field) was eco-friendly, since the project is served by two bus lines within 1/4-mile of the site. Bicycle storage facilities are provided as well, for the convenience of those who are already aware of the need to be eco-friendly, and who are only too glad to be able to exercise in a facility that is as well.-Mary Helen Sprecher ■