



A layer of crushed gravel was laid as a sub-base and topped with 10 to 12 inches of a sand and peat mix.

using...fibers makes sense economically, environmentally and aesthetically. It is very player-friendly and requires low field maintenance," he says.

To ensure optimal performance, the fibers were roto-tilled into the soil at a depth of four inches and at a rate of

one pound per 12 square feet. The field was then laser graded to a smooth crown. The surface grading was adjusted to transition from the natural turf field to the artificial turf perimeter smoothly, ensuring there was no discernible lip between the two.

According to Dixon, "We had to make sure the blend between the artificial turf borders and the natural turf was smooth for both safety and aesthetic reasons."

The field was then row planted and surface broadcasted with sprigs of 419 (Tifway) bermudagrass. Preparation was complete by the spring of 1995,

and the Razorback field was fully grassed by mid-August, in ample time to begin fall practice.

#### A Season Later

The turf required little irrigation during the first season, often going seven to ten days without watering even during the summer heat. In fact, it was in such good condition at the end of the season that it did not require the typical overseeding to maintain stability during the dormant season.

As part of his on-going diagnostic/maintenance contract with UA, Dixon is now waiting to see if turf fibers can solve another long-term problem common to grass surfaces: rhizomes. Rhizomes are the central source of both the blade and roots.

"After two to three years, natural fields typically have a problem where the rhizomes start to come to the surface," he explains. "I want to see if the...fibers help to slow or prevent this from happening. Only time will tell." □



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to the  
root zone.



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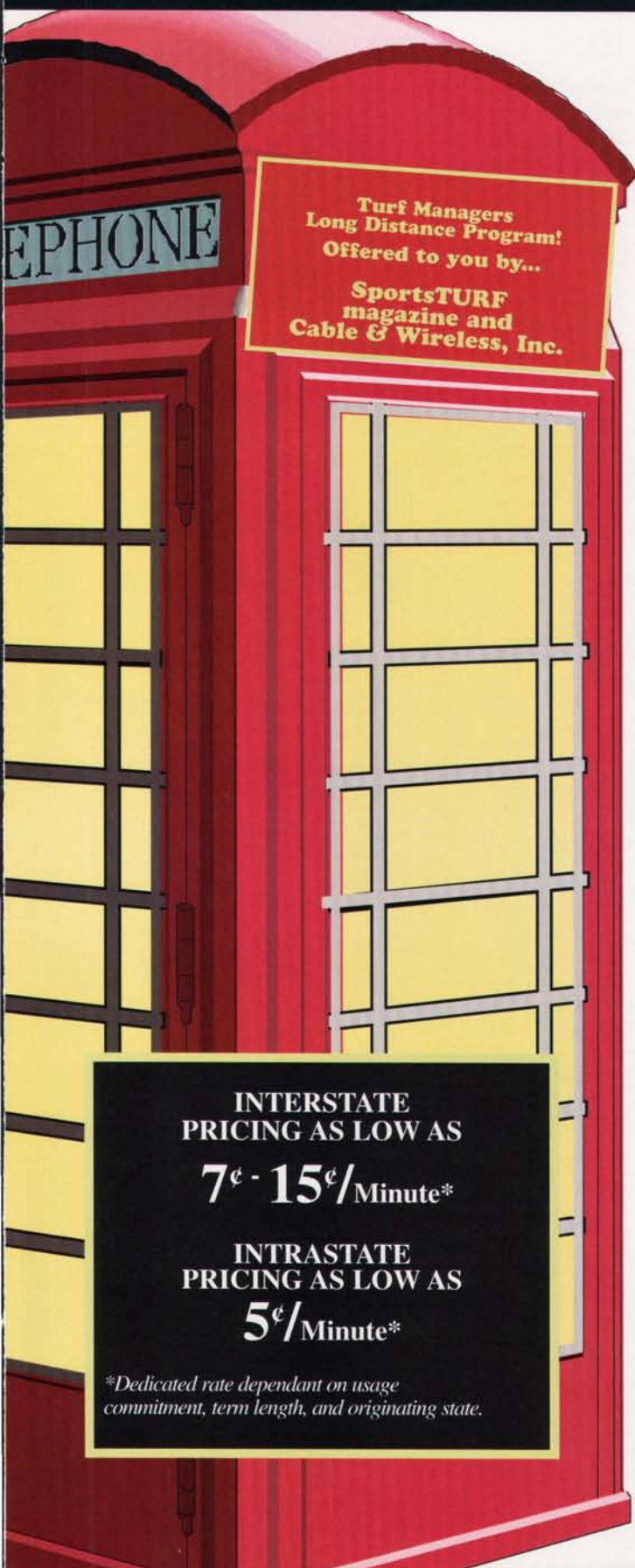
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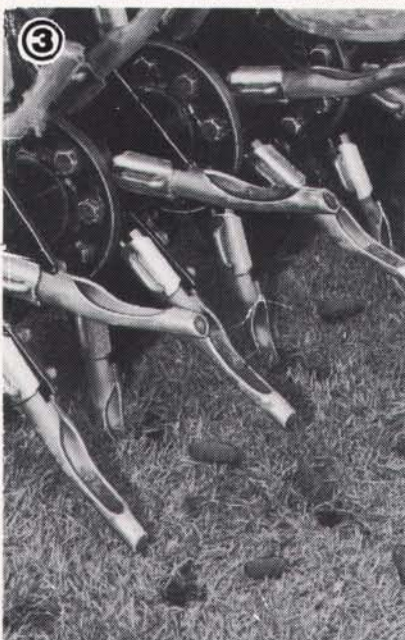
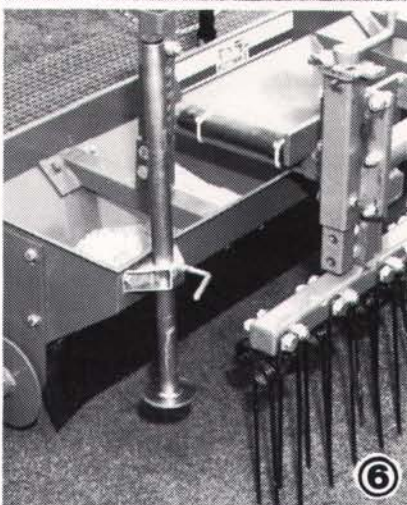
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