



Turface® Has Repeat Performance at Lebanon Valley College

In preparation of Hurricane Ernesto in 2006, Lebanon Valley College (LVC) utilized an application of Turface Field & Fairway as a way to ensure its football field would remain playable throughout the storm. Preventing turf damage on the Sports Turf Managers Association award-winning field was a necessity. Torrential downpours and heavy foot traffic were sure to cause significant trouble on the native soil field. The use of Field & Fairway as a preventive measure barred serious damage and assisted LVC's Director of Grounds, Kevin Yeiser, in keeping the field playable.

"The coaches said the field held up extremely well," said Yeiser. "They were pleased with it. The players were able to concentrate on the game, not the field conditions."

Turface Makes Multiuse Natural Grass Field Possible

In 2009, lacrosse was reintroduced to the college, with both the men's and women's games scheduled to be played on the football field. The transition from a single-use football field to a multi-use facility would create a significant increase in traffic on the field. The grounds crew knew they needed a solution to minimize damage. Learning from their past experience, LVC utilized a DryJect application of the Field & Fairway product over the entire field. The application method, chosen for its effectiveness and immediate playability, was done in December 2009 following the football season.



Lacrosse practices would start early in 2010, allowing for little turf recovery time following the end of the football season.

Before the players could ever take the field, the surface had to be plowed to remove snow from the winter storms. The game field, which had received the Field & Fairway application, proved to be firm and immediately playable – in contrast to the neighboring untreated practice fields which were soggy, and showed heavy wear.



The lacrosse season was in full swing by March of 2010, and over the next two months there would be 30 games and practices on the main field. Following the conclusion of the season was a lineman camp, hosted by the college on June 29. The camp consisted of 2 NFL players from the Saints, coaches, and 200 players beating up the field. Yeiser explained that football foot traffic is more spread out across the field, whereas lacrosse is more intense in terms of concentrated wear areas.



"We did some sod patching and overseeding in advance of the lineman camp, but otherwise, didn't have to do any significant work to prepare for the camp" said Yeiser. "We attribute a lot of that success to the Field & Fairway material. The turf held up well and the footing was safe and consistent."



Turf saves the Game and Makes Season Highlight

Ryan Schmidt, grounds maintenance technician for the LVC field crew noted that the 2010 season was just a warm-up for the conditions that the field would face in 2011, most notably during an April 16 women's lacrosse game where LVC played Widener University.

"The crew went through normal preparation for the game – we knew some rain was coming, but didn't know how heavy it would be," Schmidt explained. "We went out at noon and did a light application of Field & Fairway in the goal mouth and between the hashes as a preventative measure. It was light rain by the start of the game but quickly turned to a heavy downpour by halftime."



Schmidt recalled that they "started to see standing water in the goal mouths, causing footing issues for the goalies. We did another application of Field & Fairway at halftime and that got us almost through the game. But with 5 minutes left in the contest, the referee stopped play and asked for more product to be put down to allow the game to continue."

Lebanon Valley tied the game with a minute left, forcing overtime. The grounds crew did one more application of Field & Fairway before the overtime period.

"LVC ended up winning which made our efforts really worthwhile," Schmidt said. "All told, we endured about 2.5 inches of rain during the game. The amazing thing was that we had to do very little divot repair after the game. Dumping bags and raking the product was enough to prevent significant turf damage and allow the game to be played on solid footing."

Lebanon Valley College's Arnold Field has been recognized with the Pioneer Athletics Field of Excellence Award in recognition of the outstanding quality and maintenance of the natural grass playing surface. Winners are selected among hundreds of entries around the country, and chosen based on the high quality of athletic field upkeep throughout the year.

"We don't have a large staff being at the Division III level, so we have to be smart about our resources," said Yeiser. "In the long run you save time and money on materials and minimize the amount of repair work if you do things right the first time. You always want your fields to be in perfect condition – we feel it is a reflection on us as a crew. You don't want a field's condition to be a factor in the outcome of the game and we feel like Turface Field & Fairway keeps that from happening."