

News Clippings

SOCCER STADIUM PLAN IN THE WORKS FOR TORONTO

The Canadian Soccer Association, bankrolled by a grant of some \$625,000 from FIFA, has started work on plans for a 30,000-seat natural grass soccer stadium in central Toronto.

The FIFA grant money, announced recently, will be used for "design, investigation, economic, business modelling, architectural plans and so on," Kevan Pipe, chief operating officer of the Canadian Soccer Association, said from Ottawa.

"Will it get a shovel put in the ground? No, of course not. You're talking a multi, multimillion-dollar facility. But what it will do is provide all the legwork, all the rationale, all the analyses we are going to be putting together... to eventually see the construction of this facility."

There are still plenty of hurdles. The CSA still needs to arrange funding from three levels of government, plus the private sector and other organizations interested in using the facility.

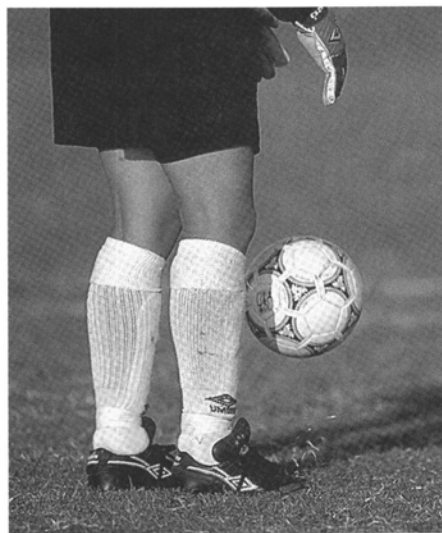
Still the grant is a step forward in the process.

"I'm delighted to hear it," Canadian men's coach Holger Osieck said. "It definitely gives us a good prospectus for the future, that's for sure."

Osieck has long campaigned for a new stadium in Canada's largest city.

"If we don't have it here, where else should we have it?" he asked.

The lack of a suitable facility outside of Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium has long frustrated Canadian soccer officials. And Toronto has been virtually shut



out of the international soccer scene since Varsity Stadium went under the wrecker's ball.

The CSA, in announcing its intention Aug. 30 to go after 2007 women's World Cup, said a new soccer stadium was part of the bid.

The grant was issued under the world governing body of soccer's Goal Program, which benefits soccer associations around the world. It marks Canada's first participation in the program.

"This is one of a series of dominoes that continue to get knocked over," Pipe said of the grant. ♦

— *Canadian Press, The Record,*
November 7, 2002

Editor's Note: Three cheers for the CSA and FIFA for promoting and planning a natural grass stadium!

Seasons Greetings!

*from the Sports
Turf Association*

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Odds and Ends

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Board, Newmarket, ON

Ian Haras
City of Guelph, ON

Quotes of the Month

Loyalty to the absent. One of the most important ways to manifest integrity is to be loyal to those who are not present. In doing so, we build the trust of those who are present. When you defend those who are absent, you retain the trust of those present.

Leadership is communicating people's worth and potential so clearly that they come to see it themselves.

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