

More News Clippings

SOCCER STADIUM IN THE WORKS FOR TORONTO • HEALTHY LAWN TIPS • NFL PLAYERS PREFER NATURAL GRASS

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 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, rationale and 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

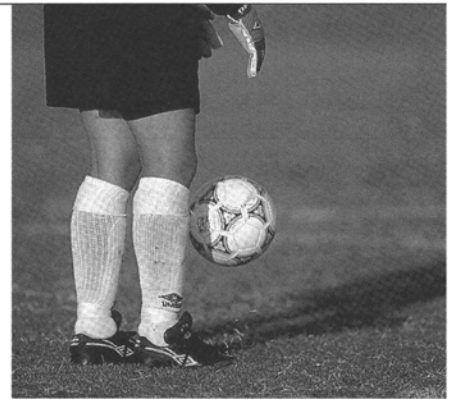
three levels of government, plus the private sector and other organizations interested in using the facility. Still the grant is a step forward in the process.

"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. Toronto has been virtually shut out of international soccer since Varsity Stadium went under the wrecker's ball.

The CSA, in announcing its intention to go after the 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.

— *Canadian Press, The Record, Nov. 7/02*

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In recent years however, pesticide use in urban areas has become an issue for the public. Many citizens have expressed an interest in reducing their use of pest control products. PMRA, in partnership with provincial and territorial governments, is helping to address these concerns through the *Healthy Lawns Strategy for Urban Pesticide Risk Reduction*.

The strategy will help homeowners to reduce reliance on pesticide use for lawn care. The strategy emphasizes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches such as pest prevention, application of pesticides when necessary and use of reduced risk products where possible.

In support of this initiative, PMRA is distributing copies of its *Healthy Lawn Tips* folder to members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The folders will provide homeowners with the basis for making informed choices about managing their lawns and gardens. The folder is also available on the Healthy Lawns web site at www.healthylawns.net.

NFL Players Continue to Prefer Real Grass

WASHINGTON, D.C. Nearly 89% of NFL players greatly prefer grass fields over artificial surfaces. That's the result of the fifth NFL Player's Association



(NFLPA) field survey conducted during the 2002 NFL season. More than 1,300 players, greater than three-quarters of active NFL players, responded.

"This survey clearly demonstrates the increasingly strong preference of NFL players for top-quality natural grass playing surfaces," said Gene Upshaw, NFLPA executive director. "However, with five grass fields ranked among the League's ten worst, this year's survey demonstrates that a grass surface alone is no guarantee of excellence."

More than 95% of players also believe artificial surfaces are more likely to contribute to injury (up from 91% when NFLPA conducted this survey in 2000).♦

— Released January 30, 2003, taken from www.landscapemanagement.net

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2002 TEN "BEST" FIELDS FOR PLAYERS

1. Tampa Bay Buccaneers, *Raymond James Stadium*
2. Arizona Cardinals, *Sun Devil Stadium*
3. Seattle Seahawks, *Seahawk Stadium*
4. Carolina Panthers, *Ericsson Stadium*
5. Jacksonville Jaguars, *Alltel Stadium*
6. Tennessee Titans, *Coliseum*
7. Houston Texans, *Reliant Stadium*
8. Denver Broncos, *Invesco Field at Mile High*
9. Washington Redskins, *Fedex Field*
10. Baltimore Ravens, *Ravens Stadium*

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