

Camden Yards' Hidden Assets

Those lucky enough to have Orioles tickets this summer probably weren't aware that teams played on a \$1 million turf system that took longer to prepare than Camden Yards did to build, according to the *Washington Post*.

The turf—a mixture of three bluegrass varieties—was seeded on six acres at Oakwood Sod Farm in Salisbury, Md. three months before construction began at the \$106 million facility. Oakwood's Alan Wilber said the cultivars—Touchdown and Eclipse—were chosen because of their durability, and Midnight "because it would show well on TV."

The best grass was harvested in 16-by-45-inch strips last November and hauled to the ballpark. Grounds crews laid 2-3/4 acres of sod on a base made

from 9,000 tons of sand and 600 bales of peat moss rest on a heavy-duty plastic liner and more than 2-1/2 miles of drainage pipe.

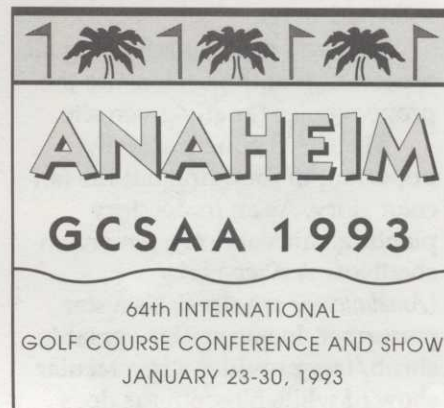
The patented system, Prescription Athletic Turf (PAT) uses vacuum pumps to extract excess water and works in reverse to water grass from beneath.

This system uses surface sensors and a computer that also controls two bullpen levels and a "sod nursery" where replacement grass is grown. Under the right field are three vacuum chambers for rainwater storage to be used for irrigation or piped into the storm system. Surface sprinklers can also be used.

The system is capable of draining up to two inches of rainfall per hour. Play can be resumed within 30 minutes after the rain stops.

We're Proud to Note

The MAAGCS, along with several other chapters, followed the GCSAA's lead in contributing to a hurricane relief effort for golf course employees in south Florida. One victim of the storm has relocated in our area. Russell Felter, the mechanic at Doral, is looking for a job in our area and can be reached at 301-353-0801.



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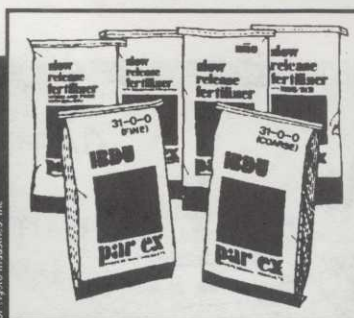
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