

LETTERS

Name Change

To the editor:

Congratulations on the name change for WEEDS TREES & TURF. It is a progressive move for the magazine and shows a keen awareness of changes taking place in the commercial market. The expanded, yet clearer title, also reflects your leadership in the development of editorial content for the publication.

Best wishes.

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G-Max

To the editor:

I read with interest the work on the decelerations experienced by different forms of indenter during impacts with natural and artificial turf ("Safety to the Max," June 1987). As a follow-up to the article, your readers may be interested to hear of research at the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, England, using the Clegg Impact Soil Tester (CIT).

We use the CIT with a 0.5 kg compaction hammer and a drop height of 0.3 meters. This configuration is different from that used by Trey Rogers of Penn State University, an important difference as G-Max is responsive to change in hammer weight particularly on layered media, e.g. a sand root zone overlying a gravel drainage layer or on multi-layered artificial turf.

As part of a project to investigate standards for natural turf playing fields funded by the Sports Council (London, England), we used the CIT to assess the hardness of natural turf soccer pitches immediately prior to matches. Sixty observations of G-Max were made on each pitch; following the soccer matches, questionnaires were distributed to the players.

G-Max values ranged from about 10 g to 100 g, much higher G-Max values on natural turf soccer pitches have been recorded.

Two questions concerned the hardness of the turf as perceived by the player. The first: "Overall, how did the pitch feel for falling/diving onto?" The results from the 416 respondents show that at G-Max values higher than 60, over 40 percent of the players thought that the surface was either "hard" or "unacceptably hard." The majority thought a G-max of 20-60 was "satisfactory."

The second question: "Overall,

how did the pitch feel for running on?" Of the 425 respondents, most considered a natural turf with a G-Max greater than 60 were favoured less and one third of the players who ran on such pitches stated that the surface was "hard" or "unacceptably hard."

There is no evidence to suggest that a soccer pitch with a G-Max greater than 60 is dangerous, but the results do show that British soccer

players would prefer not to run, fall or dive onto a surface that hard.

The test of G-max seems to correlate well with the opinion of players and this offers some hope that we may soon have a rapid assessment for the safety factor of playing surfaces.

Graham Holmes

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