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ATHLETIC TURF

Do homework on sites

Consider several important factors before you begin construction of an athletic field, says Stuart Connock, a designer with Resource Planners, which specializes in athletic field construction.

For example, for what type of sport is the field intended? Do you need to meet the specifications of a governing board? How many spectators do you anticipate accommodating? How will the field be accessed for maintenance?

"These are all basic questions that will give you a better approach to the field," says Connock. He also believes you shouldn't underestimate the value of having soil tests done from the playing field and the areas surrounding it. "Testing the topsoil and subsoil is often side-stepped even though it's relatively inexpensive," says Connock.

As far as field design is concerned, it should lie north-to-south to avoid interference from the rising or setting sun. Make sure parking lots don't drain toward the field, that there is plenty of room for spectators and that they have a good view of the game, he adds.

STMA goes south

The Sports Turf Manager's Association will travel to Houston, Texas, for its second annual convention and trade show. The event will be held at the Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel for three days beginning on Jan. 19, 1990.

"We have an exciting program planned," says STMA president Steve Cockerham. "The trade show is expanded, and the outdoor equipment demonstrations continue to be a valuable part of our show."

Persons interested in attending the conference or in exhibiting at the trade show should contact the STMA, c/o R/K Communications Group, 3376 Eastern Ave., Suite 148, Las Vegas, NV, 89109 or call (702) 735-0000.