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ATHLETIC TURF

Foxboro to natural grass

Installation of a new heated sand-based grass field in Foxboro Stadium, home of the New England Patriots' NFL team, has begun. The natural surface will replace the seven-year-old artificial SuperTurf surface.

"This is a great commitment on behalf of Victor Kiam and the Patriots organization to install a proven natural turf field," says Patriot CEO Sam Jankovich. "This is in the best interest of Patriot players and other players around the NFL. In addition, such a surface is conducive to a better brand of football.

The surface is designed and installed by Randall & Blake Environmental Contractors of Littleton, Colo., which built the Denver Broncos' practice fields in 1989.

The grass surface should be completely installed by May 1, and the field should be ready to play by June 1, according to Dan R. Almond of Randall & Blake.

Mark Altman of Altman & Altman is being retained as turf consultant.

Spring institute grows

California Polytechnic University in Pomona has expanded its eight-year-old spring institute and trade show to include a grounds operations conference.

The Sports Turf Institute and Grounds Operations Conference will be held March 19 this year. Educational sessions are slated for morning hours, followed by lunch and trade show and equipment sessions after noon.

"The new program will offer the latest information on maintaining trees, groundcovers and turf on tight institutional budgets," says conference chairman Dr. Kent Kurtz. "It will stress the basics, such as irrigation, fertilization, pest control, plant selection, water conservation, planning and pruning."

For more information, call Cal Poly's Horticulture Department at (714) 869-2219.

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