



CASE STUDY

PROJECT NAME: Miguel Contreras Learning Complex
PROJECT LOCATION: Los Angeles, California, United States
TURF MANUFACTURER: DOMO Sports Grass
TOTAL AMOUNT: 200,000 sq. feet
BACKING: DOW™ ENFORCER™ Technology

Artificial Turf
Polyurethane Technology:

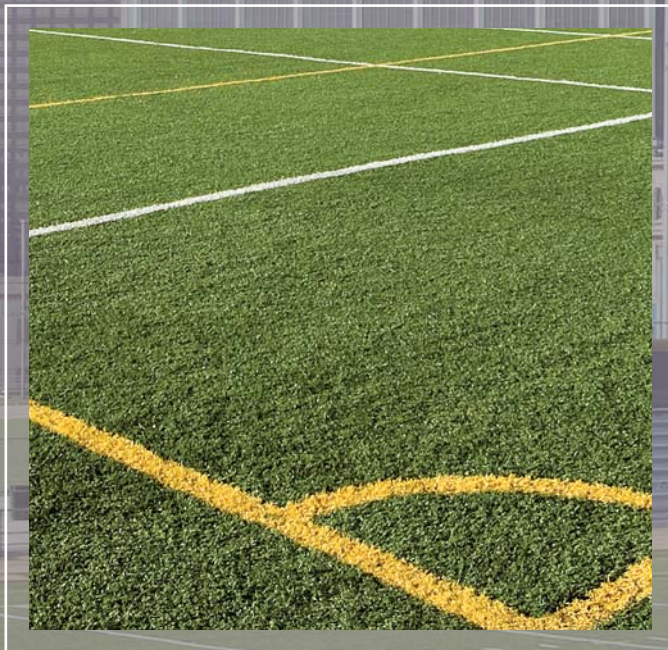


Artificial Turf Offers Foundation for Athletic Success at L.A. School

Set against spectacular views of downtown and the Hollywood Hills is a true field of dreams for Los Angeles high school students. The Miguel Contreras Learning Complex, named after L.A.'s famed labor leader, offers students unique opportunities to not only exercise their minds, but also their bodies. At the feet of these students' sporting success are two state-of-the-art athletic fields, both outfitted with high-tech artificial turf systems.

Opened in September 2006, the Miguel Contreras Learning Complex is a product of LAUSD's historic \$20 billion new construction and modernization effort. The mission of this project is to relieve overcrowding in Los Angeles area schools and eliminate involuntary busing by returning all LAUSD students to neighborhood schools that operate on the traditional two-semester academic calendar. The learning complex was designed as an innovative facility, and the athletic fields were no exception. Both fields – one for soccer and American football and one for baseball and softball – feature artificial turf made with a high-performance polyurethane backing.

Manufactured by Belgium's DOMO Sports Grass, the 200,000-square-foot turf system features VarioSlide Supreme Turf and a 22-ounce secondary backing made with ENFORCER™ Sport polyurethane technology from The Dow Chemical Company. This turf's distinct combination of fibres includes a 100 percent polyethylene "propeller" profile monofilament yarn (85 percent) blended with a 100 percent polyethylene flat slit film tape yarn (15 percent). "The monofilament is very resilient with a superior reflex ability, which the players love. In addition, the slit film helps keep the infill in place, allowing for a superior level of playability," says DOMO Sales Representative Mark Carr.





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"For the secondary backing, polyurethane is the preferred coating because it offers excellent aging characteristics and the fact that it helps in providing an exceptional tuft bind of the fibres when compared to other coatings available." The DOMO Turf system was installed by DOMO's Factory Certified Southern California Installation partner, Park West Sports Systems.

This turf installation was an extremely high-profile project. "Besides being the first of the new LAUSD high schools to install artificial turf on their primary game fields, this facility is situated in a highly visible location," explains Carr. "The school is located just one block from the LAUSD facilities and maintenance office tower. So this project was closely observed by well over 200 school facilities architects, engineers, maintenance and operations personnel." The artificial turf had to stand up to the scrutiny of the school district and its strict requirements for playability, safety and maintenance.

"We chose this particular turf system for its functionality, G-Max Factor, durability, performance and lower maintenance," says Paul Warner, owner/authorized representative, Central Region, New Construction for LAUSD. "With such high daily use, how well the turf would perform was a key factor, but it still needed to meet our maintenance requirements as well. The reality is that this artificial turf requires less maintenance than natural grass. LAUSD maintenance and operations personnel run the maintenance bi-monthly by simply pulling a parker sweeper to pick up small debris. Then they run a pass with the greens groomers over the entire turf area to balance the rubber and sand infill. This allows the synthetic turf fibres to stand up, thus making the turf appear new and refreshed."

The turf also features a new drainage system that allows for regular irrigation. "The irrigation system helps keep the turf cool for athletes on hot days," adds Warner. Luckily, this turf has a one-inch drainage board system with a two-inch crushed aggregate base section over a non-permeable backing system that drains into the perimeter storm drain. The drainage system is designed to withstand constant wet conditions, while still maintaining performance and safety.



This advanced turf system is unlike the artificial turf of the past. "I've been coaching football teams on artificial turf for about 20 years, and this new turf system is really different than what I started out with," says Pete Carrion, head football coach at Miguel Contreras. "This turf is so much softer and easier for the athletes to play on. There are essentially no injuries or rug burns from the turf – we don't have to do the extra taping on our athletes we've done in the past. With the old turf, athletes would often plant their foot, and their knee would not be able to move, which caused lots of injuries. We've had few, if any incidents of this occurring now. Because this turf provides more give, the athletes are also less prone to injuries when they're tackled and fall hard on their shoulders."

As for playability, the turf system offers athletes improved speed, along with a consistent playing surface. "The conditions of this turf are the same from day to day, so our team always knows what to expect," adds Carrion.

Even with all these performance advantages, the fields are much more to the students than just a playing surface. For many Miguel Contreras athletes, this facility is a welcome escape from an often tumultuous home life. "This school and its athletic fields are so beautiful," says Carrion. "They're so much nicer than what many of these inner-city kids have to go home to. At the end of the day, they don't want to leave." It's that spirit, combined with innovation and technology that make this a field of dreams for all the athletes who play here.

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