

Foote gets new turf after being declared unfit

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

While the Pyramids, Leaning Tower of Pisa and Great Wall of China were all built to last, the artificial turf at Foote Field wasn't. After just five years, the University and the Athletics Department were forced to remove the old AstroTurf and install a newer version at a cost of more than \$1.1 million, or risk having the facility shut down because of safety concerns.

"The turf was going to be declared unfit by the football referees association [this year] if we didn't repair it—and it wasn't repairable," Don Hickey, U of A Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) said. "They told us [of the fields status] last year, and [the referees association] understood when we said we couldn't do anything about it at that time. We said that we're looking at it and we're hoping to have it in place for the following year—this year—and they said that's all they were expecting."

While the University didn't expect

to have to replace the turf such a short time after purchasing it in 2000, problems with field's installation and quality became apparent as the field was used. The problems with the surface weren't limited to Foote Field, either; four other fields in Canada have suffered from similar problems and been replaced. Unfortunately for the University and other buyers, AstroTurf—the manufacturer of the original surface—has declared bankruptcy, leaving them unable to replace their products under warranty or seek refunds.

Though the University didn't receive any financial help with the costs of the replacement surface, having to fund the entire project from a reserve fund, they did get a break from the Canada West Athletics Association schedulers. Both the football and field hockey teams opened up their respective seasons on the road, providing some much needed time to finish an installation that took weeks longer than planned and wrapped up only 48 hours before the Bears football home opener.

"We were sweating a lot, there's abso-



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

BREAKIN' HER IN Those feet were made for walking—walking on the sexy new \$1.1 million turf at Foote Field that is.

lutely no question about that," Athletics Director Dale Schula said. "We thought we'd be in really good shape because the weather had been so good throughout the summer, but I guess in perspective we were a little bit luckier than the University of Saskatchewan—they finished putting in their new turf at 3am the morning of their first game, when they played [the Bears] at one."

As with the previous surface, the

new field turf will be home to the Bears football team and Pandas field hockey team, as well as both soccer teams once the grass freezes on the natural-grass side of the facility. In order to provide a surface that's suitable for all of these teams, the new turf isn't the ideal for any one of the sports but is serviceable compromise.

"I don't think that you can say that any of the three sports are 100 per-

cent satisfied," Schula said. "If the field hockey team was just choosing the turf, they would have chosen something different and if soccer and football we're just choosing a turf for themselves, they probably would have chosen something different as well. But, the fact that we're in a multi-sport situation [at Foote], we feel that we've got the best product that the three sports can participate on."

Talk for hours with hot exchange students.
Get unlimited local calling for the entire school year.



Samsung A840
Camera phone

\$0*

3 year contract



LG 8100
Music/TV/Camera/
Video phone

\$49.99*

3 year contract

Student Only

\$40/month†

- Unlimited incoming calls
 - Unlimited night and weekend calling
 - Lots of anytime and Canadian long distance minutes‡
 - Lots of SPARK features including messaging** and Web††
- PLUS, get UNLIMITED local calling for up to 8 months‡‡

TELUS
the future is friendly®

For more details on this great offer, visit your TELUS store, authorized dealer, retailer, telus.com/student or call 1-866-264-2966.

FUTURE SHOP

STAPLES

o&sound

RadioShack

Visions

LONDON DRUGS

BEST BUY

Home Hardware

Zellers

TELUS AUTHORIZED DEALERS
Edmonton - University of Alberta
City Centre
Kingsway Garden Mall
Southgate
West Edmonton Mall

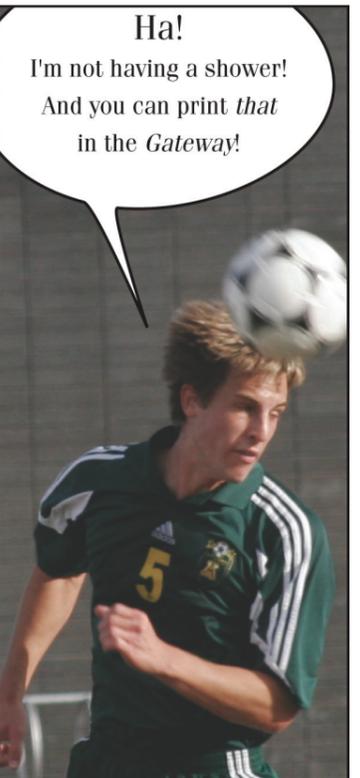
Alberta Mobility
9915 - 108A Ave.
(780) 425-2355
Communications Group
5926 - 99 St.
(780) 436-5566

Edmonton Cellular
10309 - 34 Ave.
(780) 439-3500
Edmonton Wireless
11315 - 104 Ave.
(780) 488-6453

Group Connect
10025 Jasper Ave.
(780) 424-1101
TAC Mobility
4515 Gateway Blvd.
(780) 437-0888

Wireless City
5912 - 104 St.
(780) 432-1100
Xcell Communications
4909 - 99 St.
(780) 430-9000

Offer available until September 30, 2006. Phone availability and prices may vary. *Effective net price based on a 3 year contract after in-store discount or invoice credit on your future TELUS monthly bill. †Taxes, long distance, additional airtime, roaming, pay-per-use charges, monthly system access fee and monthly enhanced 911 service access charges are extra. ‡Up to 100 anytime and 100 long distance minutes within Canada. **Up to 100 text, picture or video messages. Premium messaging not included. ††On sites listed on the TELUS portal, not including selected premium sites. ‡‡Students who sign up with their Student ID until September 30, 2006 on a 1, 2 or 3 year contract will receive 1, 2 or 8 months respectively of unlimited local calling. © 2006 TELUS



**GATEWAY
SPORTS**

Taking things too
literally since 1910

**Teach English
Overseas**



- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Money Back Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

**OXFORD
SEMINARS**
780-428-8700 / 1-800-779-1779
www.oxfordseminars.com