

Innovative infill granules on historical ground

Since June of last year, football is being played in “Stade de Suisse,” the Swiss national stadium, on artificial turf – the stadium was filled in with “Infill Bionic Fibre” granules from Melos.

“The miracle of Bern” is not only a household name in Germany to every football fan. The title of football world champion, which postwar Germany surprisingly won against the overwhelming favorite, Hungary, on July 4, 1954, has remained both a key historical event and myth to this day. Sönke Wortmanns identically named movie was a great success just like the musical in Hamburg that was based on the movie, and personalities like Sepp Herberger, Helmut Rahn, or Fritz Walter are still celebrated today as heroes. The final match of the football world championship was played at that time in the Wankdorf Stadium in Bern on wet, muddy natural turf - however today there is not much left of the conditions from those days. The old stadium was demolished in 2001, and the modern stadium, “Stade de Suisse,” was built on the same land. The new Swiss national stadium and home of Young Boys Bern, the Swiss premier division, offers room for around 31,000 spectators and was equipped with a modern artificial turf in June 2014 by Polytan, which is headquartered in Burgheim. The turf was installed by the company. The “Infill Bionic Fibre” artificial turf granules that were used, are produced by the Melos Company from Melle.

The decision to install artificial turf in Stade de Suisse was made for several reasons. On the one hand, the simplified care and the possibility of increased use for training played a role, and on the other hand concerts are held in the stadium on a regular basis in addition to the sporting events, with artificial turf being substantially easier to protect than natural turf. So, the Young Boys Bern players can always be sure to find a football field in the stadium that is good to play on. This is also facilitated by the use of Infill Bionic Fibre granulates. In contrast to the widespread, conventional EPDM granules, Melos was inspired by nature when it developed its special granules. Infill Bionic Fibre especially stands out by its natural appearance, its organic grain shape, optimal health and environmental characteristics, weather-resistance, and its extremely inviting character for tackling. One of the most important characteristics of an artificial turf sport field is a pleasant, natural appearing playability, and this attribute is especially intensified by this innovative product from Melos. Thanks to its near-natural structure, sporting activities on Infill Bionic Fibre feel almost like natural sports turf. These granules endure for the life of the field and do not have to be replaced. Based on its special structure and composition, it does not wash out either, stays soft, and is anti-bacterial.

Because of the installation of new artificial turf with Infill Bionic Fibre, sporting activities are now feasible year-round in Stade de Suisse, and the Young Boys Bern football players have a football field available where they can have enjoyable and natural football games. Of course, it cannot be predicted whether events that are important to football history will take place again in Bern or not, but the conditions for first-class sports are certainly present.

About Melos GmbH:

Melos GmbH from Melle near Osnabruck in Lower Saxony is one of the internationally leading producers of colored plastic and EPDM rubber granulates. Melos GmbH's products are especially used in processing for running tracks in sport stadiums, as fall protection surfaces for children's playgrounds, as granules on artificial turf fields, as well as for non-slip surfaces in swimming pools. In the 2014 fiscal year, Melos GmbH earned sales of more than 70 million euros. The company presently employs about 180 employees at the Melle company location.

A warehouse, production, a research laboratory, quality assurance, and management are located at the Melle facility on an operating space of 46,000 SQM. National and international projects are found in the reference portfolio. These include the running track in the Berlin Olympic Stadium and the world-wide largest horse race track in Dubai. More information at: <http://www.melos-gmbh.com/>

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