

FIRST ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH IN UK RUGBY LEAGUE



Project info:

Club: Widnes Vikings
Country: UK
Installation: 2011
Product: Desso iDNA

*“This is a first, not just for the Vikings or rugby league but for sport as a whole”
Steve O'Connor, Widnes Vikings Chairman*

Widnes Vikings will make a head start in the next UK Super League season. Their Stobart Stadium Halton will be equipped with Desso iDNA artificial grass. The Vikings will train and play on their so-called 'i-pitch' when they enter Super League next year. The RFL will work with the club and Desso Sports Systems to ensure the pitch meets the required standard for rugby league.

Pioneering playing surface

Steve O'Connor, Vikings Chairman said: *“This is a first, not just for the Vikings or rugby league but for sport as a whole. The i-pitch at Stobart Stadium Halton will modernise the game and create a fantastic match day experience. Our members and visitors will be able to see more games, it will create a pathway for our young players and it will be utilised as a community resource.”*

Keep on the grass

“It is my vision for people to be able to 'keep on the grass' after the game and enjoy community and family/fun activities. It is absolute nonsense to have a stadium and not be able to access the pitch for 90% of the time,” states O'Connor. *“Denis Betts and the team have been training regularly on a similar surface over the last few weeks and we have received some great feedback.”*



Widnes Vikings will train and play on their 'i-pitch'



Widnes will be able to use its stadium to the full

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Only the best is good enough for Oklahoma State University



Project info:

Club: Oklahoma State University
Country: USA
Product: Desso Rugby Pro

"I have seen a lot of these fields in Europe. After eight or nine years of intensive use they still look as good as in the beginning."

Dan Almond, Sports Field Designer

When an alumnus was dissatisfied with the field at Oklahoma State University in the T. Boone Pickens Stadium, people listen. Especially if the person concerned is T. Boone Pickens himself.

After the stadium was named after him in 2003, the legendary oil-magnate T. Boone Pickens wanted to invest in the renovation of the stadium. He only had 1 condition for the field: *"only the best is good enough"*.

Dan Almond, a renowned architect and former student at Oklahoma State University, was given the job. He chose Desso artificial turf: *"This artificial grass is undoubtedly the best of the best. I am overjoyed that my alma mater Oklahoma State University is one of the first in the United States to install this quality artificial grass. It is just more like natural grass, plays more like natural grass and maintains the same quality for years. I have seen a lot of these fields in Europe. After eight or nine years of intensive use they still look as good as in the beginning."*



Matches on the artificial turf of the OSU always attract a lot of spectators.



Technical sporting characteristics of artificial turf are perfect for top matches.

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL

University of Wyoming Artificial turf unaffected by a harsh climate



Project info:

Club: Wyoming Cowboys
Country: USA
Product: Desso Rugby Pro

**"There are no sprinkler heads and unevenness in the artificial turf.
The smooth, even surface keeps my players safe and my trainers happy."**

Joe Glenn, Head Coach Wyoming

The War Memorial Stadium of the University of Wyoming is at 7220 feet above sea level, higher than any other 1st Division American Football field. This does ensure breathtaking views but the height, hard Wyoming winters and early frosts in October make it very difficult to keep a natural grass field in good condition.

Thanks to the installation of Desso artificial turf the field that could only be used for six season competitions and a handful of scrimmages now hosts summer camps and football training all year round. All that traffic does not affect the play on the artificial field.

Joe Glenn, Head Coach Wyoming says: *"The artificial field is fantastic for the intensive footwork of our athletes and has perfect lines. It feels as strong as ordinary grass. Our natural field was respectable but we could only play on it about ten times a year."*

However, Glenn's hobbyhorse is the safety of the artificial turf: *"There are no sprinkler heads and unevenness in the artificial turf. The smooth, even surface keeps my players safe and my trainers happy."*



Artificial field of the Wyoming Cowboys with integrated logo.



Photo courtesy of University of Wyoming.

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