



UConn Men's Soccer Practice Field Storrs, CT

Thomas R Tavella, FASLA was contacted by the University of Connecticut's Athletic Department to assist in the evaluation of the existing men's soccer practice field. Based on evaluation, Tavella found the existing facility to have various drainage problems and an undulating profile from compaction and overuse. Because of the frequent use of the field, the University recognized the need to design and reconstruct the field at a quality equivalent to or better than their game field. Working closely with the University Athletic Department and soccer coach, Tavella developed a number of alternate layouts and grading plans. Utilizing the selected alternatives he engaged the services of Agronomist/Soil Scientist, Dr. William Dest, who provided a soil assessment and report of field and laboratory results and gave recommendations for building the field. The team then developed the contract documents and secured all the required permits for the construction. During the process, Tavella also met with the University maintenance staff to elicit their input on the irrigation system, concerns with the existing field and maintenance. Keeping in line with time constraints, the field was designed, permitted, constructed and ready for play in a six-month time frame.