



TRAINING CENTRE ACQUIRES LATEST-GENERATION ARTIFICIAL TURF

UWE SEELER FOOTBALL PARK IN BAD MALENTE

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The Uwe Seeler Football Park is one of the central educational establishments of the Schleswig-Holstein Football Association for coaches and referees. It is located in Bad Malente in the middle of Holstein Switzerland, between Lübeck and Kiel. Successful football players and coaches have been trained here since 1952. The long-established facility in the beautiful town of Bad Malente hosted the German national team in its preparations for the World Cup in 1974 and 1990.

For this special sports facility, the Schleswig-Holstein Football Association was looking for a partner that had already successfully implemented future-proof and sustainable sports surfacing projects on the market and could provide good references. After brief consultation, the contract was promptly awarded to WEITZEL Sportstättenbau, a company with an over 60-year successful track record. The existing recommendations and its attractive offer spoke volumes.

This is because its artificial turf installed in 2010 had exceeded its service life and posed a high risk in terms of microplastic. The operator wanted an advanced and environmentally friendly solution, so it was necessary to fully remove the existing surface.

Spot-on
 A very tight schedule between contract award and completion of the new playing surface left WEITZEL Sportstättenbau no room for delays. The contract was awarded in

the last week of June 2020, and completion was deadlined for 24 July.

This high-speed process was a real challenge for the team. The old artificial turf had to be removed and recycled, and any repairs to the existing elastic base layer (e.g. stabilising it in areas that had been intensively used) were performed immediately. The production of the artificial turf and delivery of the mineral infill together with the natural cork infill, along with the coordination of all trades, had to work smoothly and within the tight schedule. Thanks to the unrelenting efforts of all parties involved and favourable weather conditions, the deadline was met.

The first game on the new artificial turf, scheduled for the following day, took place as planned. Thanks to the coronavirus-related reduction in VAT and punctual completion, the Schleswig-Holstein Football Association was able to save some of the tax.

1st layer: straight fibres and macro-crimped fibres Traction and adhesion, lasting support of the pile layers, optimisation of torsional resistance, dissipation of static charge
2nd layer: micro-crimped fibres Playing safety, optimal ball rebound
3rd layer: PES glass-fibre-reinforced base fabric Backing: durability and strength, firm fibre anchoring, water permeability

Structure of Edel Soccer Novum

Semi-infill artificial turf system

The artificial turf system newly developed by WEITZEL Sportstättenbau was installed by the company Edel Grass. It ensures optimal functional characteristics even after many years of sports use and is an effective compromise between advanced turf (infill-free system) and the previous cork-sand infill systems.

This new generation of artificial turf is low-maintenance. Depending on use, the pitch should be drag-brushed no more than once a week. A suitable maintenance device was also purchased in connection with the installation of the new artificial turf. The right maintenance is essential for the sports surface's longevity. Owners, users and sports clubs cooperate closely with WEITZEL. After ac-

ceptance of the sports facility, the experts will be available to the management of the Uwe Seeler Football Park for advice and coaching on a partnership basis. Maintenance seminars on artificial turf pitches are planned for early 2021. Preparations are already underway for appropriate training courses by the experts in Bad Malente – and also on site at the desired sports facility at the customer's request.

The Uwe Seeler Football Park is the venue for national and association league matches as well as for third division and various cup final fixtures. Interested parties are invited to inspect the latest generation of artificial turf and consult WEITZEL on their sports facility projects without obligation.