

Press release

investor relations Royal Ten Cate/
Ten Cate Thiolon

Dallas Cowboys give synthetic turf Ten Cate Thiolon the green light

The Dallas Cowboys, a prominent football club in the USA, will be playing their official competition matches in the Texas Stadium on synthetic turf from Royal Ten Cate. This is a breakthrough for sport applications of Ten Cate in the American football market.

The training fields of the Dallas Cowboys have recently been installed on the basis of the synthetic turf system from Ten Cate, which are produced by Ten Cate Polyloom. The company has adapted the synthetic turf fibres to meet the requirements that apply to American football. This sport involves a great deal of physical contact with the field, which increases the risk of injuries. Experiences of players with this synthetic grass have been so favourable that it was decided to install synthetic turf also in the main stadium as early as the new season, which begins now.

American football is one of the oldest sports in America, which is also played on synthetic turf. Experiences with synthetic turf have, however, not always been positive, due to the use of nylon. Acceptance of the synthetic turf developed by Ten Cate Thiolon, which has extremely low sliding resistance, will provide a new opportunity for synthetic grass for official matches in the top American football league.

For the training camp six training and practice fields were developed, designed and installed by Sportfield LLC, in conjunction with the Sports Facility Group™. Sportfield™ installed two temporary outdoor and four temporary fields inside the stadium itself.

Royal Ten Cate's activities in synthetic turf and related products are becoming an increasingly important part of the company as a whole. Polyloom, which was acquired by Royal Ten Cate in 2001, will focus especially on the further acceptance for top sports and multi-sport applications for high-schools in the US.

Ten Cate's policy is aimed at strengthening its position in the synthetic turf market worldwide. This will be achieved through intensive product development, directed at stimulating the use of synthetic turf in the top sports market, and by offering a complete concept, which uses its technological qualities to full advantage. The turnover from synthetic turf activities, which currently amounts to 13% (2001: 11%) of corporate turnover, is expected to increase further in the coming years. In 2002 the production capacity will increase with 30% in total.

Almelo, 18 September 2002

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