



TenCate Thiolon USA

Press Release

NCAA Division I-AA Championship Game Benefits From Synthetic Turf Featuring TenCate Products

Title Game returns to field made with XP Pro Fibers from TenCate Thiolon

(Chattanooga, TN) When Appalachian State University defends its Division I-AA football title against the University of Massachusetts on Friday, December 15, the two teams will play on a state-of-the-art field made with Thiolon synthetic grass fibers and backings from TenCate Grass North America located in nearby Dayton, TN.

This marks the tenth consecutive year that the Division I-AA Championship Game returns to Davenport Field at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga, TN, and the second year that teams will play on a synthetic turf surface featuring Thiolon XP Pro grass fibers.

The synthetic turf surface came about after problems in the 2004 game, when the natural grass surface came apart, handicapping play and having the NCAA consider moving the game to another city. Local sports officials began working with TenCate Thiolon, who coordinated efforts to replace the field with turf produced using Thiolon XP Pro fiber—the same fiber used for the fields of dozens of professional, collegiate, and high school teams.



Finley Stadium in Chattanooga, TN, home of the NCAA Division I-AA Football Championship. The artificial turf field is made of fiber manufactured nearby in Dayton, TN by TenCate Thiolon.

Working with the Greater Chattanooga Sports and Events Committee, UT Chattanooga, and others, TenCate donated key components of the turf system and brought together the team that would complete the manufacture and installation of the new surface. The field has now seen two very successful seasons not just for hosting the championship game, but also serving as the home field for the UT Chattanooga Mocs of the Southern Conference. The stadium has also been able to host numerous other events including local high school football games and soccer tournaments.



Thiolon XP Pro fiber in a finished field.

According to Merrill Eckstein, President of the Greater Chattanooga Sports and Events Committee, “We appreciate the work of TenCate on this project; without their involvement the new field would not have been possible and we would not have kept the Championship game in Chattanooga.”

“It’s been an honor to become involved with this project,” said Heard Smith, President of TenCate Grass North America (and an Appalachian State graduate). “The title game places Finley Stadium in the national spotlight, and its proximity to our manufacturing lets our employees see the impact and value our product can provide. We have taken a lot of pride in the performance of this field as a company, and we’re delighted we could help the City of Chattanooga make the Division I-AA Championship an even more important annual event.”

TenCate is the world’s leading manufacturer of grass fibers for synthetic turf applications. TenCate Thiolon grass fibers have been used for over 20 years in thousands of fields worldwide, and they are the fiber of choice for turf manufacturers throughout North America and around the world. Recognized as the technology leader in grass fibers, TenCate offers a complete range of product choices and more color choices than any other manufacturer.

TenCate, the parent company of TenCate Grass North America, was founded over 300 years ago. TenCate is involved in advanced textile and chemical businesses worldwide, including aerospace, protective fabrics, geosynthetics, and industrial fabrics. The Royal Ten Cate share is listed on Euronext Amsterdam.

Learn more by visiting www.tencate.com or www.thiolon-grass.com.

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