



## DODGING “BEAVER PELTS” AND “TOUPEES” IN THE NFL

*DryJect® aeration technology makes Cincinnati Bengals’ practice fields firmer and safer*

Due to a series of compounding circumstances beginning about five years ago, Cincinnati Bengals football players found themselves practicing on unfavorable turf. The turf was tearing up in large chunks and was described as looking like a field full of “beaver pelts” and “toupees.”

The problem’s solution came from a head groundskeeper who used his expertise to recommend Profile™ Products and DryJect® technology to change unacceptable conditions into quality turf players could rely on.

### PROBLEM

The Bengals’ quest for a consistent, safe playing surface began in 1999 when the Bengals’ home county (Hamilton) board approved funding for two new, sand-based practice fields for the Bengals. One of the challenges in building the new fields was finding a sand-based sod in Ohio that would match the sand root zone. To best address this challenge, officials installed what Darian Daily, the Bengals’ head groundskeeper, described as “a thin cut of heavy clay—almost a muck sod,” for the turf’s surface layer.

“Over a three-year period that sod became anaerobic and would just shear off at the surface break when we had players practicing on it,” said Daily.

The players became extremely frustrated trying to play on an unstable surface. Daily turned to a traditional, core-and-fill aeration system to combat the problem.

“We started off using a very aggressive aeration program,” said Daily. “In 2003, my first year with the Bengals, we aerated the field seven times. We started incorporating a more ‘angled’ type of sand along with Profile’s Greens Grade™ inorganic soil amendment to get us more pore spacing.”

Thirty-two tons of sand were used each of three consecutive years. However, the sand and Greens Grade were incorporated using a traditional mechanical aeration method and the results were not what Daily was looking for. The traditional method didn’t core aerify to the depth Daily preferred to truly “anchor” his turf. Daily was also dissatisfied with the amount of time it took for his players to be allowed back on the field after a traditional aerification application.

## SOLUTION

Daily turned to former Bengals colleague, Joel Eaton, for an alternative aeration solution. Eaton had been the Bengals’ assistant head groundskeeper from 2000 to 2004 but was now a sales representative for Central Farm & Garden in Wooster, Ohio. Eaton informed him of DryJect’s unique functions.

“The key was finding a system that would get the sand and soil amendment down deep enough—about three-and-a-half to four inches—to go through the sod layer to create some space,” said Eaton. “It is also very important that the system fills the entire hole with Profile so it won’t collapse.”

Unlike traditional core aeration systems, the DryJect machine utilizes a high speed, water-based injection system that blasts aeration holes through the root zone to fracture the soil. A patented vacuum technology is used to simultaneously fill the space with high volumes of amendment, which is specifically designed to relieve compaction, increase water filtration, reach the root zone with air space and amend the soil all at the same time.

Daily tested a section of his field using the DryJect technology and determined it would be a helpful solution to his problem.

In the spring of 2005, Daily contracted with DryJect Ohio Valley, located in Louisville, Kentucky, to provide the DryJect service. Nine tons of Profile’s Green Grade was shipped to Cincinnati to be applied during the aerification. The practice fields were aerified using the DryJect system in April and again in June. Because the DryJect service leaves playing surfaces free of plugs and smooth, players were practicing on the fields the next day.

## RESULTS

Daily reported that the turf on the field is now firmer, has a better root system and has no compaction problems.

“Because the DryJect machine is able to proliferate the soil more completely than other aerification methods, it’s an ideal solution for the Bengals’ stressed fields,” said Dwight Johnson, Profile’s Midwest regional sales manager.

Safe, reliable and durable. These are the characteristics of the surface that Daily and the Bengals now depend on.

## DryJect®

DryJect provides a revolutionary approach to soil aeration for golf course greens, tees, fairways, sports fields and landscape areas. The patented technology uses water to fracture the soil while simultaneously injecting large volumes of dry material into the soil. Advantages of the system include:

- Aerating, topdressing and amending in one operation.
- Getting the benefits of core aeration without the cleanup.
- Achieving deep root injection of various materials to change the soil profile.
- Minimal down time, so minimal lost revenue—DryJect leaves a smooth surface that’s playable in one hour.

## Profile™

The combination of Profile Greens Grade or Field and Fairway inorganic soil amendment and DryJect produces the only soil modification system that provides the ease of core-free aerification with the long term agronomic benefits of permanent, balanced soil porosity. Greens Grade’s small-sized particle is ideal for sand-based aeration and is available in two distinct colors—natural and emerald. Greens Grade allows users to improve root zones by:

- Adding pore space, moisture retention and nutrient holding capacity.
- Increasing soil oxygen and drainage.

# DryJect®

21st Century Aeration™

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