

### BMO Field at Toronto

#### TRANSITION FROM SOCCER TO FOOTBALL

Managed by Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment, BMO Field was originally constructed in 2007 as a soccer-specific stadium, serving as the home field of Toronto FC, the first Canadian expansion team of Major League Soccer. From 2014 to 2016, the stadium underwent a series of major renovations, which added an upper deck to the east grandstand, a roof over the seating areas and lengthened the field to make it suitable for hosting Canadian football. The latter allowed for the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League to move to BMO Field beginning with the 2016 CFL season.



Toronto FC head groundskeeper Robert Heggie was tasked with finding the most efficient solution to transition from soccer field to football field. In preparation for this transition, a new Kentucky bluegrass turf field was installed, the third to grace BMO Field since artificial turf was removed in 2010. The CFL end zones, however, remain artificial turf and are covered during soccer games by rows of temporary seats at each end.



Given this heavy equipment configuration, it was determined that approximately 24,000 square feet of drivable turf protection was needed for the end zone areas in which the temporary stadium seating, VIP guests, forklifts, vendor stands, and additional traffic would need to traverse the sensitive turf. BMO Field contacted Matrax looking for an efficient solution.

The Matrax system offers the best in drivability and the size and weight of the pieces allow for a fast and easy installation which accommodates the quick turnaround times needed between games. Matrax's Canadian distributor, Gallo Ground Solutions, managed multiple installations of the system. On average, installation included one 8-hour shift to install 1500+ mats at two separate locations. Setups would sometimes occur immediately following an evening football game and proceed into the following morning to ensure stadium seating could be positioned prior to the proceeding soccer game, to take place a mere 24 hours later. When asked about field performance, JJ Gallo responds, "The Matrax system was easy to install, utilizing a small amount of equipment and requiring smaller crews as opposed to other options." The Matrax system will also support the NHL Winter Classic at BMO Field in 2017.