



SOFTBALL

November 4, 2015

Doug McDaniel
Parks and Recreation Director
City of Hobbs, New Mexico
200 E. Broadway
Hobbs, NM 88240

Mr. McDaniel,

I'm honored that you asked for my opinion concerning the recent resurfacing/renovation of the various athletic field facilities at the Veterans Memorial Complex on East Sanger Street. In one word, "**AWESOME.**"

History – Baker Softball Field was more than 40 years old when I was selected as Head Softball Coach for the University of the Southwest Women's Softball Team in 2004. Without an on-campus softball field, the City of Hobbs graciously granted us permission to use Baker Field. When the new Zia Softball Complex opened, Baker Field went unused for a period of time. I really put a lot of work into bringing Baker Field back to playing condition. Supervisors Dave Brooks, and more recently, Dusty Corley, were extremely helpful in bringing Baker Field back to playing condition. The supervisors assisted by maintaining the irrigation system, the grass, and providing equipment when needed. As a result, for the last several years, Baker Field was used for Opening and Closing Ceremonies, as well as Championship games for many of the local tournaments.

When first approached about the \$5.2 million artificial turf project, I was logically proud of the prior restoration and resultant quality of the infield dirt and outfield grass on Baker Field. Several visiting coaches and teams commented on how "nice" our infield/outfield was. However, after playing on the new SprinTurf surface, I am convinced that it is definitely, "**awesome.**" Dirt and grass maintenance on the former field was eliminated, care of the new surface is minimal, and little time is required to sweep around the pitching plate.

The new field is simply beautiful. On days that it rains, we can safely play within an hour of when the rain stops, even when an inch or more of rain falls. On colder days, when it snows, the snow rapidly disappears. I've had a day when the rain was turning to sleet but the field was *still* playable. In fact, I'm confident to say that during rain, lightning, sleet, and snow conditions, games may be canceled due to inclement weather but not due to the playing surface being deemed "unplayable." Hobbs, NM is absolutely privileged to have the SprinTurf surfacing on their Veterans Memorial Complex. Thank you!

Ron Landschoot
USW Head Softball Coach