

Brock Client Profile

**Boulder Valley School District
Boulder, Colorado**

Monarch High School's newly installed synthetic turf field with Brock Performance Base™ Technology. The Boulder Valley School District relies on Brock for superior drainage and impact absorption.



With over fifty schools serving nearly 28,000 students, Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) is one of Colorado's largest. BVSD's operations department manages the sports and athletic programs for the district's six high schools. Given Colorado's harsh climate with extreme temperature variations and intense sun exposure, field maintenance is one of the biggest challenges for the department. In an effort to reduce long-term maintenance costs and increase usable field playing time, the district is converting many of their natural turf fields to synthetic turf.

The operations department at Boulder Valley understands the value in selecting the appropriate synthetic turf to meet their needs, but also realizes the importance of choosing an effective base system. If the field isn't properly prepared, with appropriate drainage and impact absorption materials, even the best synthetic turf can be rendered unusable. For a recent field installation at Monarch High, BVSD assembled

a complete team of architects, engineers and contractors to review their various options for field preparation and turf underlayment. The team comprehensively researched the available products, including traditional stone bases, e-layers and pads, as well as Brock Performance Base Technology, a relative newcomer to the industry.

After months of testing, review and validation, BVSD chose Brock, a complete base system comprised of resilient polypropylene beads that provides drainage while absorbing impact.

Safety without compromise.

Understandably, one of the district's biggest concerns was the safety of the athletes. According to school district project manager Lou Novak, "Safety is a key factor in our fields, especially since we have both high school and middle school athletes playing on them. The younger players are less experienced and more prone to injury."

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Traditional under turf systems, including e-layers and pads, lower the G-max rating, a commonly used measurement of field safety. This results in a softer and safer field, but inherently makes the field slower and more difficult to run on. Building the field on asphalt or stone raises the G-max and makes the field faster, but significantly decreases the safety of the field.

A unique benefit of Brock is its ability to absorb impact without affecting the speed and performance of the field. Brock improves safety by lowering the G-max only at high impact levels (during tackles or falls) without sacrificing speed and performance during regular play. This results in faster, more natural feeling play along with softer landings. For Novak, this was key. "With Brock, having a resilient layer below the turf means more constant G-max ratings, giving us a field that plays fast but meets the safety requirements of our multi-use fields."

Faster install. Lower cost.

For the majority of field installations, schedules and deadlines are as tight as the budget. Most projects have to be completed over the summer, when school is out of session. For this reason, BVSD relied on Brock's quick and easy installation. Since Brock provides rapid water drainage both vertically and laterally, it actually drains water faster than the turf itself. So, in many cases, a simpler, less expensive drainage system can be used. Brock's 4'x 4' mechanically interlocking panels are easy to

install, providing a completely flat and secure foundation for the turf. The final field profile is around four to five inches including the turf; so much less material has to be removed during excavation.

According to Novak, "Using Brock allowed us to go to less of a drainage structure which translated into cost savings. We also saved time. Traditional e-layers take about five days to lay and eight to ten days to cure. With Brock, there's no cure time. Brock can be installed at the same time as the turf, so we decreased our installation time from 15-18 days down to 2-3 days."

Successful outcomes.

The synthetic field conversion at Monarch High proved to be an exercise in success for the Boulder Valley School District. During the height of the installation, the Denver/Boulder area received record rainfall that would normally have delayed the project for days. However, with Brock's ability to transfer air and water throughout the material, allowing for all-weather installation, the project was completed ahead of schedule. Novak stated, "Brock helped us meet our original goals of saving construction time and creating a field that plays fast but meets our safety requirements. Everyone is very satisfied with the end result. I even heard one coach who was stepping on the field for the first time remark, 'This is just like my first date!'" If the Coyotes yet undefeated season on their new field is any indication of the positive results, they will be cheering victory at Monarch for years to come.



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