



The 13<sup>th</sup> International Turfgrass  
Research Conference



## 13<sup>th</sup> ITRC Technical Tour Information Sheet

### Red Bull Arena



Red Bull Arena (<http://www.newyorkredbulls.com/redbullarena>), located in Harrison NJ, is a soccer specific stadium that is home to the New York Red Bulls of Major League Soccer (MLS). Construction of the stadium began in 2008, and was ready for play in 2010, at an estimated cost of \$200 million. The stadium design includes a partial translucent roof extending just beyond the touchlines of the field, typical of European styled football (soccer) stadiums. Seating capacity of the stadium is approximately 25,000, including 30 luxury skyboxes and 1000 premium club seats.

The soccer club was a founding member of MLS (1996), but were originally known as the New York/New Jersey MetroStars through 1997, the MetroStars from 1998 through 2005, and finally the New York Red Bulls beginning in 2006. The team reached the finals of the MLS Cup in 2008, and won the MLS Supporters' Shield (best regular season record) in 2013 and 2015. Throughout its' history, the team has signed both American and international soccer stars including Tim Howard, Tony Meola, Tab Ramos, Alexi Lalas, Clint Mathis, Jozy Altidore, Michael Bradley, Claudio Reyna, Juan Pablo Ángel, Thierry Henry, Bradley Wright-Phillips, and Tim Cahill.

The design and location of the stadium have presented some interesting challenges for managing the natural grass field. This includes light issues related to the partial roof and stadium orientation, heat stress due to poor air circulation and the urban location, and irrigation water quality issues. These challenges and associated solutions will be part of the discussion during the technical tour of the facility.

### **Meet the Turf Manager:**

Dan Shemesh is director of Grounds, Stadium and Training Facilities for the New York Red Bulls. Prior to working with the New York Red Bulls, Mr. Shemesh worked at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., with the New England Patriots football team (NFL), as well as seven years as assistant groundskeeper and then sports field director with the Philadelphia Eagles (NFL). Mr. Shemesh is a graduate of the Turfgrass Management Program at Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.