



**EISENHOWER  
KNIGHTS  
FOOTBALL**  
Head Coach – Jim Penley Jr.

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### **The EISENHOWER Turf Plan**

Written by Jim Penley

Consultation by

Penn State Extension Turf Specialist Jerry Fowler – Venango County Office

**\*\*This is the original plan with Specialist recommendations. Bold Items are Opinions of the turf specialist, both concerns or advice.**

### **Game Field**

- 1) Sub Soil. Meeting set up to discuss with Conservation district specialist next week.
  - **Sub soil will work, but scared what top damage may happen that would not harm field, but just look bad.**
  - **advises we do a technique that will help turf growth & drainage. He advises we do the following:**
    - **Aerate the whole field, making many of passes (35 plugs pulled per square foot.) It should “scare” you how chewed up it is.**
    - **In the future, get a deep turf Aerator that will put 10 inch holes in the turf. Not as many hole with this, though.**
- 2) Finish Drain for visitor side possibilities.
  - **advises simple drain that lead to existing water trench on visitor side. 20 inches deep, 10 feet long, put in every 10 yards. Black drain pipe, covered by 10 inch pea gravel, then covered last ten inches with top soil.**
- 3) Rotor till Middle bad spots of field- Seed the ground.
  - **He agrees with rotor tilling the bad spots, and do it 1st. With the seeding he advises we, after we Aerate, follow the following order:**
    - **Spread compost on the field 3/8 of an inch thick with a spreader.**
    - **Seed whole field with a 80/20 mix of Perennial Rye & Kentucky Blue Grass.**
    - **Use a mat drag to move compost, seed, dirt plug mixture back in the holes.**
    - **We will have grass starting in 4 days, with solid overall growth in 20 days.**
    - **NEVER ROLL an ATHLETIC FIELD.**

- 4) Put 2 tons of lime and 150 pounds of fertilizer on field.
  - **Sounds right and will help a lot. Will not need to fertilize with the compost.**
- 5) Proper Weekly care.
  - **Must be mown at 3 inches for a 2 inch cut. NEVER take more then 1/3 of the grass at a time. With our compost technique, says we will probably need to mow up to two times a week at first. Never rolled.**
  - **Seed after every varsity game lightly with 100% perennial rye to build back turf quick (1 week).**
  - **After last home game, Aerate like stated earlier, along with 2 tons lime and 100 pounds fertilizer.**

### **Practice Fields**

- 1) Sub Soil.
  - **Yes it will defiantly work for drainage, and he is interested to see us use it as a guinea pig as to how well it will work, and how much or little damage it may do as far as looks. He wants to know when we do it so he can follow the result of how it works throughout the season. Seamed very excited possibilities of it.**
- 2) Rotor till Middle bad spots of field- Seed the ground.
  - **He agrees with rotor tilling the bad spots, and do it 1st. With the seeding he advises we, after we Aerate, we follow the following order:**
    - **Seed whole field with a 80/20 mix of Perennial Rye & Kentucky Blue Grass.**
    - **Spread hay chaff ovetop of the seed, and make sure it is watered.**
    - **We will have grass starting in 10 days, with solid overall growth in 30 days.**
- 3) Put 1 tons of lime and 75 pounds of fertilizer on each field.
  - **Sounds right and will help a lot.**
- 4) Proper Weekly care.
  - **Must be mown at 3 inches for a 2 inch cut. NEVER take more then 1/3 of the grass at a time. Never rolled.**
  - **After season, if possible, Aerate like stated earlier, along with 2 tons lime and 100 pounds fertilizer. If too wet, do it ASAP in the spring.**

**Overall, Mr. Fowler was very interested to see how these techniques work for us. He thought the sub soiling idea was different, but creative, and was interested to see how it works on our practice fields before he advises doing it to a game field. He is fully behind the plan.**

**Needs and Costs**  
**For the usage of Policy 5210**

**1) Sub Soil.**

Farmer (Tim Ludwick) may be able to do it for us for a minimal cost to practice fields.

**2) Aerate**

SD has Aerator, would do it.

**3) Finish Drain for visitor side possibilities.**

School district can get the pipe and pea gravel.

**4) Rotor till Middle bad spots of field - Seed the ground.**

SD has both the rotor tiller and the tractor.

Boosters would pay for the grass seed, and spread it. COST \$687/ 458 pounds

Boosters can get the spreader and spread compost.

SD had mat drag, and could drag the field.

Boosters would get hay cover and spread on practice fields.

**5) Put 2 tons of lime and 150 pounds of fertilizer on field. (with practice field, 4 tons and 300 pounds fertilizer.)**

1 ton lime cost \$31, 50 pounds Fertilizer cost \$13. We would need a spreader.

Total cost for Game & practice fields: **\$224 est. per year**

Boosters would get the spreader and apply.

**6) Proper Weekly care.**

- **Must be mown at 3 inches for a 2 inch cut. NEVER take more than 1/3 of the grass at a time. Never rolled.**

- **Seed after every varsity game lightly with 100% perennial rye to build back turf quick (1 week).**

Coaches would do this on Saturday Mornings after game.

- **After last home game, Aerate like stated earlier, along with 2 tons lime and 100 pounds fertilizer.**

SD could do this, with seed, lime and fertilizer purchased by the boosters.