GLADIATOR EMBANKMENT SEATING SYSTEM PROVES TO BE A FAN FAVORITE

Grassy knoll transformed into stadium seating in only five working days!

The Challenge

Carmel College is an all-girls secondary school in Auckland, New Zealand. The school’s main sports field featured a grass embankment that was a popular location for students and spectators to watch sports events and gather socially. Unfortunately, spectators were left with no choice other than to sit or stand on the grass, which was often damp, uncomfortable and slippery. The lack of formal bleacher seating was compounded by a minimal shade covering that was badly in need of repair or total replacement. The use of aluminum or steel bleacher seating was unfeasible on the existing embankment gradient, so school leaders sought an economical seating solution.

The Solution

The nearby school of Birkenhead College had successfully installed two Gladiator® Embankment Seating System seating areas on existing grassed-earth embankments overlooking sports fields. Carmel College leaders visited the site and decided to invest in a similar embankment seating system.

The Gladiator system is a perfect fit for the college’s needs. It fit directly onto the existing embankment gradient with minimal need for earthworks.

Catherine Brown
Watershed Group Project Manager

The Gladiator Embankment Seating System consists of two modular masonry concrete blocks laid onto a 4-inch (100mm) mesh reinforced concrete bearing slab, which is poured directly onto a prepared earth embankment. Unlike aluminum or steel bleacher seating systems, which require continuous maintenance and safety inspections, the Gladiator seating is virtually maintenance free for a lifetime, requiring only the occasional washing and or sweeping. The design included a 100-seat capacity system accessed by steps with aisles on either side of the seating. The seating and steps fit on a 775 sq. ft. (72 m²) existing earth embankment.

PROJECT:
Carmel College Stadium

LOCATION:
Auckland, New Zealand

PRODUCTS:
Gladiator® Embankment Seating System

QUANTITY:
100 seats & aisles on a 775 sq. ft. (72 m²) existing earth embankment

PROJECT MANAGER:
Watershed Group, Ltd.

SEATING INSTALLATION:
By Design Concrete and Paving, Ltd.

OVERHEAD SHADE COVERING:
Shade Systems, Ltd.
the top/back of the seats. To literally “top off” the design, a new cantilevered shade was added to protect spectators from the elements. The project was completed from start to finish in only five working days.

The Results

Carmel College students, families and fans have raved about the new seating, and college leaders see it as a great investment. “The Gladiator system is a perfect fit for the college’s needs,” said Catherine Brown, Watershed Group, project manager representing Carmel College. “It fit directly onto the existing embankment gradient with minimal need for earthworks. Sporting event spectators are enjoying having a nice seating option, and we’ve yet to spend anything on maintenance.”

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The Process

The Gladiator Embankment Seating System is a unique masonry concrete system that allows rapid facility design and construction, making it a cost-effective spectator seating solution compared to traditional concrete seating methodologies. The system is particularly advantageous where an earth embankment already exists.

Overview: To install the Gladiator spectator seating solution, masonry manufactured block units are laid on a 4-inch (100mm) mesh-reinforced concrete base poured onto a sloped embankment. If an earth embankment does not already exist, one will need to be created. Grassed topsoil should be removed when building into an existing embankment, and the slope should be trimmed to create the required gradient prior to the concrete base slab being prepared and poured. The following example outlines a typical 5-day construction schedule.

Day 1: Any existing overhead shade or structures are removed, and the embankment is created or prepared.

Day 2: The base slab is prepared, including steel mesh and footing reinforcements. If a roof system is required, shade system footings are also prepared.

Day 3: Concrete is poured for the slab, footing and any needed roofing columns.

Day 4: Gladiator masonry blocks are delivered to site, and block laying commences. Approximately 100 seats including step-aisles can be completed in a single day.

Day 5: Mortar joints (mowing strips) and walkways are poured to lock the Gladiator seating system in place. If part of the design, the prefabricated shade system can be bolted down on this day. Topsoil and grassing can also be done around the outside of the completed seating system to create a smooth visual transition into the surrounding grassed embankment.

About Belgard

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