[No. 5] An MLS Field Experiment

This item tracks the win-loss record of the New England Revolution in reference to the type of playing surface and other conditions, as reported by *The Boston Globe* or TV commentators.


02. Revolution (0) v. Fire (4) at Chicago, Toyota Park. Natural grass. April 1, 2008. According to Matt Reis, the Revolution goalkeeper, “This was their home opener; we beat them the last three years and knocked them out of the playoffs, plus the weather and field conditions, and some inexperience on our part led to some mistakes.” Frank Dell’Apa, “Revolution get burned early,” in *The Boston Globe*, April 2, 2008, Sports section, page E2, available at [http://www.boston.com/sports/articles/2008/04/04/revolution_get_burned_early/](http://www.boston.com/sports/articles/2008/04/04/revolution_get_burned_early/).

03. Revolution (3) v. Wizards (1) at Kansas City, Community America Ballpark. Natural grass. April 9, 2008. According to news reports, “The game was played at high tempo, a cold rain making the filed slick.” The Rev coach, Steve Nicol is quoted as saying, “The field was really fast and it was difficult for the players to control the ball.” Frank Dell’Apa, “Revolution back on attack,” in *The Boston Globe*, April 10, 2008, Sports section, page C2, available at [http://www.boston.com/sports/articles/2008/04/10/revolution_back_on_attack](http://www.boston.com/sports/articles/2008/04/10/revolution_back_on_attack).

04. Colorado Rapids (1) v. Revolution (0) at New England, Gillette Field. Artificial turf. April 12, 2008. It rained heavily during the first half of play. According to the broadcast comment on Boston’s Channel 38, “the slick field wreaked havoc with the passing game.”

06. Revolution (1) at FC Dallas (0), Pizza Hut Park. Natural grass. April 24, 2008. No mention of field conditions or affect on play.

07. Chicago Fire (3) at Revolution (0), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. May 3, 2008. No mention of field conditions. It rained during the day on Saturday, May 3.


09. San Jose Earthquakes (0) at Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. May 17, 2008. No mention of field being a factor. The weather was warm, no rain.

10. Revolution (1) at Columbus Crew (0), Crew Stadium, Natural grass. May 24, 2008. No mention of field conditions being a factor.

11. DC United (2) at Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. May 29, 2008. No mention of field conditions being a factor.

12. RFC Dallas (1) at Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Natural grass (converted from artificial turf because of Brazil-Venezuela friendly), June 6, 2008. No mention of field conditions. It drizzled early on in the day and a day before it was a rainy day.

13. Revolution (2) at Houston Dynamo (0), Robertson Stadium. Natural grass, June 12, 2008.


15. Revolution (1) at Real Salt Lake (2), Rice-Eccles Stadium. Artificial turf, June 21, 2008. No mention of field or weather conditions.

16. Toronto FC (1) at Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf, June 28, 2008. No mention of field conditions or weather/rain.

17. Revolution (2) at Los Angeles Galaxy (1), Home Depot Center. Natural grass, July 4, 2008. No mention of field conditions or weather.

18. Chicago Fire (2) at New England Revolution (1) at Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf, August 9, 2008. No mention of field conditions or weather.

19. New England Revolution (0) at San Jose Earthquakes (4), Buck Shaw Stadium. Natural Grass. August 16, 2008. Two goals for San Jose were scored by O’Brien: the commentators on Channel 38 TV (Boston-based) said of him that he did not like playing on artificial turf when he was at Toronto.


23. Revolution (0) at Columbus Crew (4), Crew Stadium. Natural grass. September 6, 2008. I watched the game on Channel 38 TV in Newton and the field at time looked so even and nice that I thought it was artificial turf, but it was not when the camera zoomed in onto the surface toward the end of the game. I need to research this and make sure that the surface was indeed natural grass.


Playoffs:

Chicago Fire (0) at New England Revolution (0), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. October 30, 2008.

New England Revolution (0) at , Chicago Fire (3) at Toyota Park. Natural grass. November 6, 2008.