H-E-B Park Edinburg, Texas

PROJECT OVERVIEW:
In Edinburg, Texas, the Rio Grande FC Toros have a new stadium and playing field. H-E-B Park consists of a 9,700-seat professional soccer stadium, an outdoor amphitheater, three practice fields for youth soccer, a playground, and picnic areas. The entire site, including landscaped areas in the parking lot and surrounding the stadium, use Rain Bird commercial and drip irrigation products.

CHALLENGE:
Turf quality is the top concern for players and team management. For Robert Evans, Aqua Tech's owner and the contractor who installed the project, it is important to run multiple stations at the same time to meet tight watering windows, even on a large site using rotors with high flow demand. Evans, who provides ongoing irrigation management, also needs to be able to adjust the irrigation schedules from his office or smartphone when he is on the road.

RESULTS:
The soccer stadium uses a Rain Bird CLP variable drive pump and ESP-LXD Series Two-Wire controller with IQ-Cloud v. 3.0 for remote water management. When Evans needs to adjust the schedules or manually stop or start a program or zone, he can do so on his office computer or smartphone. Flow sensors are installed on each system to measure flow at the stadium, practice fields and surrounding landscape. The sensors send accurate flow data to IQ to enable the flow management feature. IQ manages the irrigation schedules based on the flow capacity and demand. Doing so enables more efficient use of the pump, which can run continuously without having to cycle on and off, and helps complete the watering in a short period of time.

For the practice fields as well as the professional field, Rain Bird's Falcon 6504 rotors with Rain Curtain™ Technology provide even, consistent coverage to achieve a high-quality playing surface. “The original plan was to keep the existing rotors on the practice fields, but it was time for an upgrade,” Evans said. “The Rain Curtain nozzles result in consistently even turf, and I recommended them for large playing surfaces.”

The landscape surrounding the stadium and the parking lot islands uses 53,000 linear feet of XF On-Surface and XFS Subsurface dripline with Drip Control Zone kits for pressure regulation and filtration. The property also uses 1800 sprays and 5000 rotors to irrigate the play and picnic areas.

“There is not a day that goes by that I don’t use IQ to manage the system. It’s pretty cool that I can make changes to schedules to accommodate my customer right from my phone.”

Robert Evans
Aqua Tech owner