Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem:
Low spot on turf void of grass encircling field

Turfgrass Area:
High school football field

Location: Hollywood, FL

Grass Variety: 419 Bermudagrass

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on page 41

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

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The low spot was void of grass and encircled a high school football field. At first glance it would appear to be a newly installed irrigation line; however it is actually a one personal running trail. This high school is in dense urban area of South Florida and nearby residents use the school facilities for various activities after normal school events have ended. This particular running trail was caused by an unusually dedicated runner who refused to run on the running track but instead opted for running directly on the turf. He always ran in the exact same place and eventually caused this "cow trail." The maintenance staff urged the school board to lock the facility during non-school events and the neighbors claimed they were taxpayers and had every right to it. I am not sure how much softer the ground was after this dedicated runner caused this path and continued to use it daily.

Photo submitted by Ed Birch, retired Maintenance Supervisor for Broward County School Board, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Story told by Lanny Dixon, CPO, Grounds Division, Broward County School Board.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of SportsTurf magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.

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