Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Brown spots
Turfgrass Area: Stadium football field
Location: Jacksonville, FL
Grass Variety: 419 bermudagrass

Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on Page 25
John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

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wrote Johnson Bowie, Associate AD, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

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This photo might be easy to guess for those of you with football practices on your fields, but I think it is worth printing the photo. The brown squares on this football stadium field are the result of the dreaded ladder drill. This fine training ritual involves putting a rope ladder on the turf and having players perform various footwork drills between the rungs of the ladder. The brown marks are a result of the wear and tear on the turf. This particular college held a summer football camp in which the entire camp of over 150 players performed the drill several times without moving the ladders. Since this drill was performed on the actual playing field instead of the practice fields, and the fact that they performed the drills near the center field also aggravated the sports turf manager. Often, strength and conditioning coaches fail to understand the importance of moving practice drills around from one area to another. During the playing season, it is hard if not impossible to get areas near the center of the field of play to recover due to the increased stress on the turf. 

Photo submitted by Justin P. Newell, former director of facilities and operations at Jacksonville University, who is now at Tulane University. Andy Sorrow is sports turf manager at Jacksonville University.

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.