

Background illustration courtesy of istockphoto.com



# JOHN MASCARO'S PHOTO QUIZ

*John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International*

*Can you identify this sports turf problem?*

**Problem:** Cracks in field

**Turfgrass Area:** Soccer stadium

**Location:** Denver, CO

**Grass Variety:** Kentucky bluegrass

**Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on Page 31**

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# JOHN MASCARO'S PHOTO QUIZ

## Answers from page 17

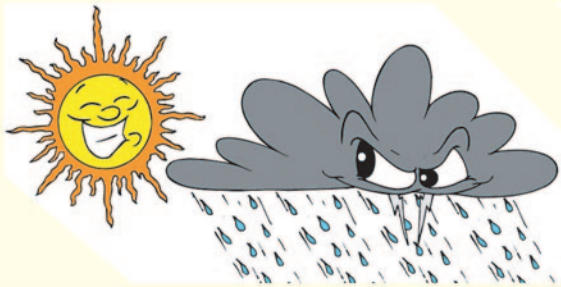
**T**his 4-year-old, state of the art soccer stadium is located in Denver. It is a sand-based field that also includes a forced air moisture removal system throughout their drainage lines. In addition to being able to remove water from the profile, the fans can be run in reverse and used to control the rootzone temperature by warming the turf in the winter and cooling the bluegrass in the summer.

Since this winter was one of the coldest on record, the Sports Turf Manager had never seen this Major league soccer complex field frozen this deep before. He turned on the forced air system to warm the soil from the pump room and was watching the fields thawing progress. After about 5 minutes he noticed this dark ring of soil on top of the snow and instantly shut the system off. As it turns out, the soil was frozen solid down to a depth of about 5 inches and since the air had no place to go, it built up in the gravel layer of the drainage system and then found this weak spot and the field cracked open, expelling some soil and built up air. The Sports Turf Manager allowed the field to thaw out on its own and then rolled the turf back down. The first game was held a little over a month later in March and the field was in perfect shape for the event.

*Photo submitted by Bret Baird, Head Turf Manager at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Denver, home of the Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids.*

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 call (850) 580-4026 or email to [john@turf-tec.com](mailto: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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