Can you identify this sports turf problem?

**Problem:** Brown turf across the end zones of four fields on a 25-field complex

**Turfgrass area:** College intramural practice fields

**Location:** Amherst, MA

**Grass Variety:** Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass mix

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**Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 33**

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wrote **Ross Kurcab**, Turf Manager, Denver Broncos Football Club, Denver, CO

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THE REASON for the brown turf in the end zone of these four fields might surprise you. This 25-field sports complex is located on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus. Located approximately 6 to 8 feet below the playing surface is the university's main steam tunnel. The steam pressure that courses through this tunnel is used to generate electricity, which supplies the energy needs of the campus, and then the steam is piped to buildings on campus, where it is used for heating and cooling. This steam not only creates heat for the university in the wintertime but the steam pressure also is used to drive the air conditioning compressors in the summertime. The extreme heat generated in the soil above the tunnels heats up and dries out the soil, causing this brown area to appear each summer. Conversely, in the wintertime the soil temperatures in January can reach 90 degrees which melts the snow cover in that area and it's the only spot on campus they can grow grass on in the wintertime.

Photo submitted by Ryan McGillivray, a junior in Turfgrass Management at UMass Amherst and part time grounds crew worker for the University Landscape Management Department under the direction of Gary Glazier.