**John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz**

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

**Can you identify this sports turf problem?**

**Problem:** Dark green turf around mound
**Turfgrass area:** High school baseball field
**Location:** Murfreesboro, TN
**Grass Variety:** 419 bermudagrass overseeded with perennial ryegrass

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

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Background illustration courtesy of istockphoto.com
THE DARK GREEN TURF around mound is actually artificial turf. The coaches at this high school baseball field did not like the worn keyhole in front of the mound. They also did not like re-sodding the front of the mound because it is a difficult area to keep grass growing during the season. So the coach wanted to try something different and heard that artificial turf might be a good solution to their problem. The baseball infield is bermudagrass and in the fall it is overseeded with perennial ryegrass for the early spring games. The artificial turf was installed in a strip around the mound and in a square in the landing area directly in front of the mound. The artificial turf was then filled in with sand and rubber, leaving about a half inch of blades showing. There were concerns about keeping the clay out of the material but it went through the spring pretty well. The contractor reports that this was the first install they had done of this type but the coach seems pretty happy with the results so far.

Photo submitted by Sam King, part-time grounds crew member for Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., Columbia, TN and sports turf student at Middle Tennessee State University.