Problem: Missing mower operator
Turfgrass area: Industrial complex
Location: Eastern United States
Grass Variety: Centipede grass

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 33
The mower operator is missing because he fell off the mower. A new sidewalk as well as a retaining wall was being installed at the bottom of this steep hill. After the forms for the wall were removed, a 3-foot gap was left directly behind the wall. During the night a rainfall occurred, making the clay hillside very slippery and when the mower operator was mowing the area, the mower slid down the slippery clay and into the crevice, ejecting the mower operator onto the newly poured sidewalk. The mower operator's only serious injury was to his pride; however a valuable lesson should have been learned here. If you look closely at the picture, you will notice the mowers rollover prevention system is in the down position. If the mower had gone over the retaining wall, it would have likely landed on top of the mower operator, causing very serious if not fatal injuries. This photo should be a lesson that all ROPS systems should not be attached with pins that can be removed. Instead they should be bolted securely to prevent tampering with in the event of an accident.

Photo submitted by anonymously.

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. 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.