

JOHN MASCARO'S PHOTO QUIZ

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

Can you identify this sports turf problem?

- Problem:** Worn turf with plastic mesh
- Turfgrass area:** High school football field
- Location:** Southern United States
- Grass Variety:** 419 bermudagrass and bahiagrass

Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on Page 33



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Answers from page 17

THE PLASTIC MESH is a result of several compounding problems. When this football field was constructed a few years ago, new soil was brought in and then large roll 419 Bermudagrass was installed. An inexperienced contractor laid the sod without removing the plastic netting that was backing the sod to keep it together during transit. The plastic netting is sometimes left on the back of sod when it is installed on hills or sloped areas but should **never** be left on the back of sod when the sod is laid on a sports field.

This field was then subjected to several years of minimal maintenance and fell into a state of disrepair with volunteer bahiagrass taking over almost 50% of the playing surface. As high school students practiced and played football on the under-fertilized turf, the bermudagrass began to wear away and the football cleats dug down to the underlying net, pulling it up to the surface and causing two different players to twist their ankles over 1 month. The net began appearing in so many wear areas that parents were out on the field with scissors trimming the net off. I suggested they pad lock the gate closed and rebuild the field immediately to prevent any further injury.

Photo submitted 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.

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