Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Brown line on field in January
Turfgrass area: Soccer Stadium
Location: Cary, North Carolina
Grass Variety: 419 Bermudagrass

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 33

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written by Chip Baker, Asst. Baseball Coach,
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Answers from page 17

The brown line in early January on this field is the result of a growth cover that separated. (You did not overthink the reason for this line I hope.) Since this part of North Carolina is in the transition zone, many bermudagrass fields in this area are overseeded. Since this soccer stadium had no late play and did not have a match until April 1 however, the Sports Turf Manager felt like they had plenty of time to get the bermudagrass green for the first match. The crew put covers on the field at the end of November and left them down until 2 days before the match. They did remove the covers in late January to put out an application of pre-emergent herbicide and that is when this area was discovered. They actually caught the cover separation with plenty of time and covered it back up prior to the event. Standing on top of the spot you could slightly see the line but you could not see it from the stands and the field played very well for the event.

Photo submitted by Jimmy Simpson, CSFM, facility works expeditor for the Town of Cary, Cary, NC.