Can you identify this sports turf problem?

**Problem:** Brown “X” shaped area  
**Turfgrass area:** Football practice fields  
**Location:** Cincinnati, OH  
**Grass Variety:** Patriot bermudagrass overseeded with ryegrass

---

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 33
These photos are from the Cincinnati Bengals practice facility. The brown "X" shaped mark is the result of a conditioning drill the rehabilitation guys do. Apparently, this newly conceived method of exercise combines strength training and torture. During this activity, the players swing large heavy ropes that are attached to a heavy center weight around in circles. After enough repetition, the rope abrasion on the grass causes damage. The sports turf manager reports that these areas recover naturally after about 4 days without any additional efforts. I asked if this was the most destructive drill that they perform and he said that they have one drill that he does dread much more than this one. It encompasses some team members lifting large 60-pound rocks over the players head for one minute and then they drop them on the field. This drill produces large divots and is despised by the grounds crew.

Photo submitted by Darian Daily, head groundskeeper at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati.