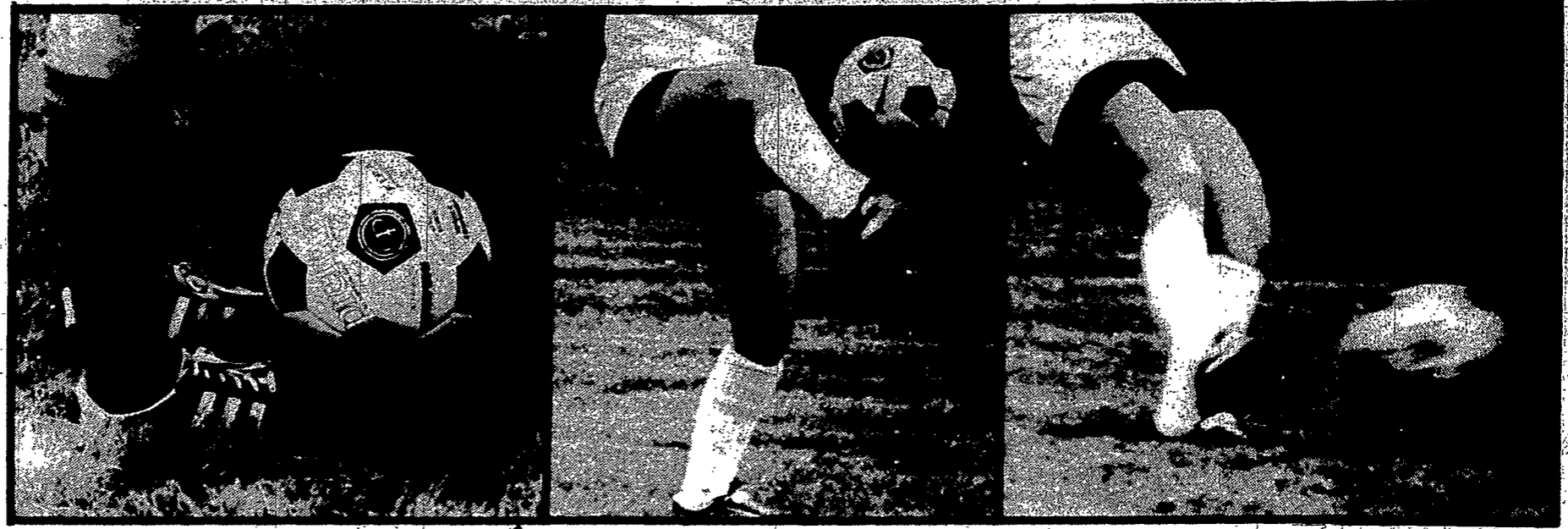


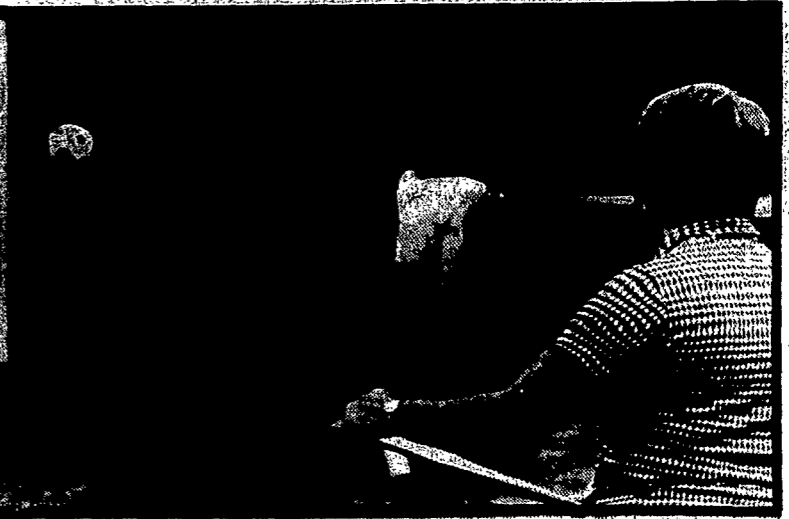
Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around

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Photos by Susan McKinney

Leg strength as well as expert foot work are a must in soccer. Above are examples of the mobility needed to handle the fast changing situations which occur in the game.



At right, Kathy LaForce shows the agility necessary in maintaining your balance as well as maneuvering a ball towards goal. Above Sister Cathy watches a perspective player execute a shot on goal. Sister received her physical education degree from Ithaca College and did her graduate at Brockport State University.

Soccer a Going Sport at Mercy

By JOAN M. SMITH

Hot, humid weather didn't stop 70 Mercians from participating in soccer tryouts last week. The trials were conducted by Sister Cathy Pfleger and consisted of what she called, "a battery of five skills" — a 50 yard dash; slalom dribbling; standing shots on goal; dribbling shots on goal; throwing for distance and accuracy.

Mercy has fielded a soccer team for five years and Sister, who is in her 11th year as the school's physical education instructor, says the game has come a long way with its systems of defense and intricate attacks.

"We used to put out a five man line," she said, "and whoever had the ball went with it."

She credits the game's growing popularity to media publicity, World Cup play and bringing such athletes as Pele to the U.S. to play. She also classifies soccer as a mania

explaining, "Once people try it they love it."

And the aspiring Mercy soccer players agreed. Junior Kathy LaForce noted the tremendous increase in the number of girls interested in playing soccer. "I think once they see how the game is played they tryout the following year," she said.

Kathy has played soccer since freshman year and is always learning as much as she can about game techniques. She would watch her favorite player, Pele, and evaluate his style kick and throw, claiming this helped with her own game.

Kathy plays softball and though she enjoys the sport, pointed out that soccer is a faster game where everyone is moving at once.

Fellow classmate Gail Bileschi also has noted the increase in girls' participation in athletics especially soccer. She said it was because they want to play in as many different sports as they can



Gail Bileschi takes a standing shot on goal. Though she plays softball and field hockey she insists that soccer is the up and coming sport.

Senior Michelle DeLorm, another soccer enthusiast, reasons that its popularity is due to the game's great competition and that it's a team sport.

Freshmen like Sheila Green, Debbie Shane, Renee Wierszew and Mary Beth Ashe came to the tryouts with game experience. They had all played in the Rush-Henrietta summer soccer program. Mary Beth, however, attributed her initial interest in the sport to her brother Peter

and the neighborhood youngsters, indicating that soccer has joined the sandlot scene.

The young athletes described the differences between the boys' and girls' games which involve blocking, throws (girls are allowed a side throw boys are only allowed an overhead throw) and time limits. This year the Mercy team will play 18 minute quarters instead of the 10 minute quarters played last year.

Of the 70 girls who tried out, 20 will be chosen for the varsity (facing a 17 game schedule) and the junior varsity (which faces a 15 games season).

Sister will be coaching the varsity but JV coaching duties will be handled by Elaine Larson. Mercy's game record last year was 9-4-5. And what does this season look like? "A good one," admitted sister adding, "You have to start out optimistically."

JOAN M. SMITH, Editor