

To Kick or not to Kick

By Barry Schulhofer

Since the beginning of time, man has found the kick a basic part of his daily routine. Be it plunking a charging animal with a well-placed toe or pounding that final piece of pyramid into place, the kick has become an integral facet of life.

Thus, it became only natural that some form of recreation would soon integrate the kick into its rules. The Egyptians and Greeks both participated in a sport which required booting a round object, the roots of the pastime known to the world today as soccer.

Considered the most popular sport in the world, soccer is just beginning to ride the surge of popularity in America predicted some years ago. With the World Cup (the World Series of soccer) scheduled to be in the U.S. in 1994, that interest should continue to peak.

The basic object of the game is simple-- to use any portion of the body, other than the arms or hands, to propel the ball into one of the two goals located at each end of the field. Games range in length up to 90 minutes and play is continuous.

Each squad consists of 11 players. The goalkeeper is the final line of defense, the only player allowed to put his hands on the ball. But, he can only use his hands in the penalty area. It is his responsibility to keep opponents from scoring and to start his team's attack by putting the ball into play after stopping a shot or after a shot sails out of bounds.

The defenders have many names-- fullbacks, sweepers, and stoppers. They stay within close range of the goal during much of the game, and look to keep opponents from going one-on-one with the goalkeeper. When their team is on the attack, they run upfield to assist their teammates.

The midfielders are a link between the offense and defense. They must be skilled at starting plays as well as stopping them. The midfielders are the workaholics of the team. They drop back into their own goal area when the opponent is on the move and go deep into opposing territory when their team is attacking.

The forwards, also known as strikers and wings, have the task of scoring. They also help in the outer defense when the opponent has possession of the ball. They must be skilled ball-handlers and shooters, and must be able to pass well.

Corner kick: A direct free kick that is taken from the corner area by a member of the attacking team. The ball must have been propelled out-of-bounds across the goal line by the defense for a corner kick to occur.

Direct free kick: A free kick that can score a goal direct-

ly. A direct free kick is called only after certain fouls or violations.

Dribbling: Using the feet to control and move the ball without help from teammates.

Free kick: Either direct or indirect, a free kick is granted after a violation. Opponents must stand at least 10 yards away until the ball

is kicked, unless they are on their own goal line and between the goalposts.

Goal kick: A kick taken from the goal area by a defensive player after the ball is sent over the goal line and out-of-bounds by the offense or after a goal. All opponents must stay outside the goal area until the ball is kicked.

Offside: A player is offside if he is between his opponent's goal line and the ball at the moment the ball is played, unless 1) he is in his half of the field; 2) there are at least two opponents between him and the goal line; or 3) he received the ball directly from a corner kick, goal kick, or throw-in.

Tackle: Trying to steal the ball by using the feet or by a shoulder charge.

Throw-in: Method of putting the ball in play after the ball goes out-of-bounds over the touchline. The ball must be thrown with both hands over the head, and some part of both feet must touch the ground.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Styron. Chaskelis, Martin, and Roebuck are newcomers to the Gardner-Webb stage, with Reger and Roebuck members of the community. Mr. John Brock is the director, Melissa Whitlow A.D., and Barry Whitfield technical director.

Says actress Ren Chaskelis of the play, "It's funny. It's hysterical." Production dates are set for October 14, 15, 16, and 17 in the Kathleen I. Dover Theatre. All performances will be at 8:00 p.m. with the exception of the 16th, which will be a 2:30 p.m. matinee.

