

Goalie Martin Trimble

Bumped, bruised and a little eccentric

By BILL FIELDS  
Staff Writer

Soccer goalkeepers have it rough. While their teammates are considered phenoms if they score one out of five tries, goalkeepers are told to pack it up if they allow such a percentage of scores against them.

But UNC goalkeeper Martin Trimble never has had to worry about losing his job because of letting too many soccer balls get past him.

Trimble has been an All-ACC selection at goalie since he began playing Tar Heel soccer three years ago, and the Philadelphia native comes into this season as a key player on a competitive Carolina team.

The bearded, muscular Trimble has been tending the goal, but he just as easily could have been a leading scorer for Carolina — had he not wanted to play with the older kids.

"I wanted to play with the older guys when I was in junior high," Trimble says, "and the only way I could do that was to play goalie."

"Hardly anyone wanted to take the abuse that goes with being a goalkeeper.



Goalie was the only position that the big guys would let us try," Trimble says.

Trimble is a big guy now, standing 6 feet and weighing 185 pounds. But he still takes abuse as a goalkeeper.

"You get a lot of bumps and bruises playing the goal, and you have to be eccentric to play the position. I guess I'm eccentric," Trimble said.

So from his beginnings in soccer as a younger kid playing with the big boys, Trimble has improved his play and is now the ACC's premier goalkeeper and a possible All-American selection.

But soccer in North Carolina is just starting to catch on and Trimble has received less recognition during his career than a player in another region of the country might have received.

Trimble said that not receiving the

Sports

Soccer at home vs. Atlantic Christian (exhibition), 5 p.m.

publicity of top players in basketball or football has been frustrating, but that he really plays for the love of the game.

"I do play for self-satisfaction," he said. "Even though players in this region of the country don't receive the attention of the other areas, I'm proud to play here."

"The game becomes empty if you play just to see your name in a newspaper. Seeing 1,000 people in the Fetzer Field stands cheering for something the team does well is what it's all about," Trimble said.

But Carolina soccer is starting to attract attention, mostly because the caliber of play is improving. UNC finished the season 14-3-1 last year under Coach Anson Dorrance, and Trimble, a team captain, thinks there is high potential for this season.

"We've got three goals for the year," Trimble said. "Being the best team in North Carolina, getting an NCAA tournament bid and beating Clemson for the ACC title."

If the Tar Heels reach those goals this season, the play of Martin Trimble should be a big reason. He had nine shutouts last season, including games against Appalachian State and Maryland. Dorrance says that Trimble didn't get to show his ability last year because he didn't handle that many shots. Still, Trimble has allowed under one goal per game.

"Martin was one reason we were able to be competitive against the super teams last year," Dorrance said. "He knows where to play around the goal and is the team leader."

Trimble thinks that leadership on the field is his biggest strength. "I call out a lot of directions to the other players," he said. "I can see the whole field from where I play."

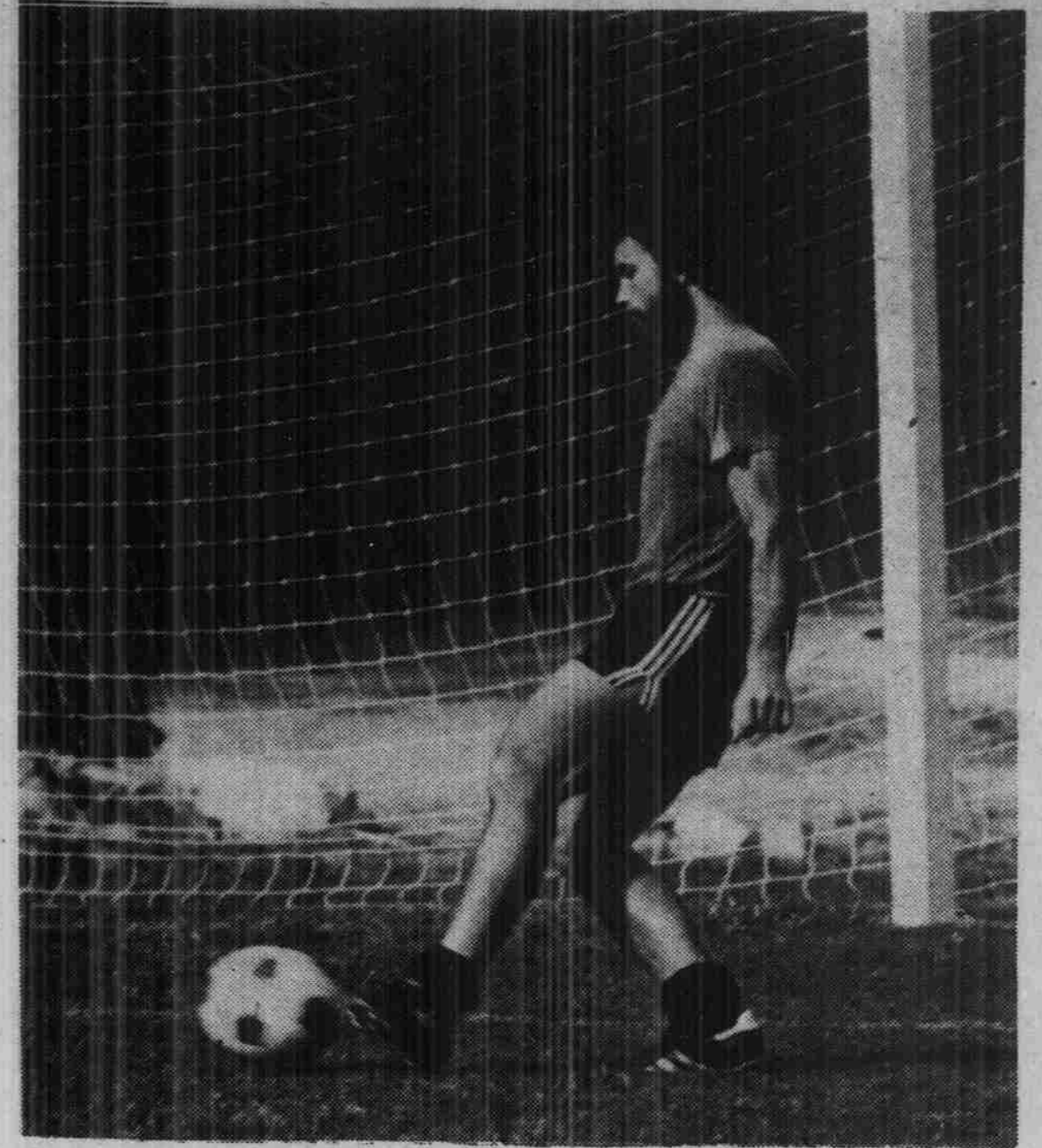
Trimble doesn't plan on quitting soccer when he leaves Carolina.

"I am going to give professional soccer a try," he said. "It's something that I've thought about for a long time."

"I don't want to be 65 and ask myself why I didn't give it a shot. I want to play pro for two years, and if I succeed, fine. But I'll have to be ready to meet failure, too."

Carolina plays 10 home games this fall at Fetzer Field. And Trimble will be the man wearing black, standing alone at one end of the field one moment, then fending off a series of head shots and kicks the next.

It's the same thing he's been doing for several years now, and he loves every minute of it. "The game is a real passion for me," he said.



Tar Heel soccer goalie Martin Trimble ... 'the game is a real passion for me'

Big Four finals on TV

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — The championship game of the Big Four basketball tournament is expected to be televised this year for the first time ever. Dr. Gene Hooks, athletic director at Wake Forest University and chairperson of the tournament, said this week it is a

"relative certainty" the final game of the tournament will be telecast Dec. 2 from the Greensboro Coliseum.

The two-day tournament, a sellout in recent years, features North Carolina, North Carolina State, Duke and Wake Forest.

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7:30 FM -PG- 3  
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Return this ballot to enter "The First Annual Name-Your-Own Late Show Contest"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Choices: 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Contest begins 9/1  
Ends 9/30  
2. Only one entry per person, please  
3. All winners will be notified by phone on or before Oct. 4.  
4. Decision of judges is final.  
5. Winning passes are non-transferable.

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