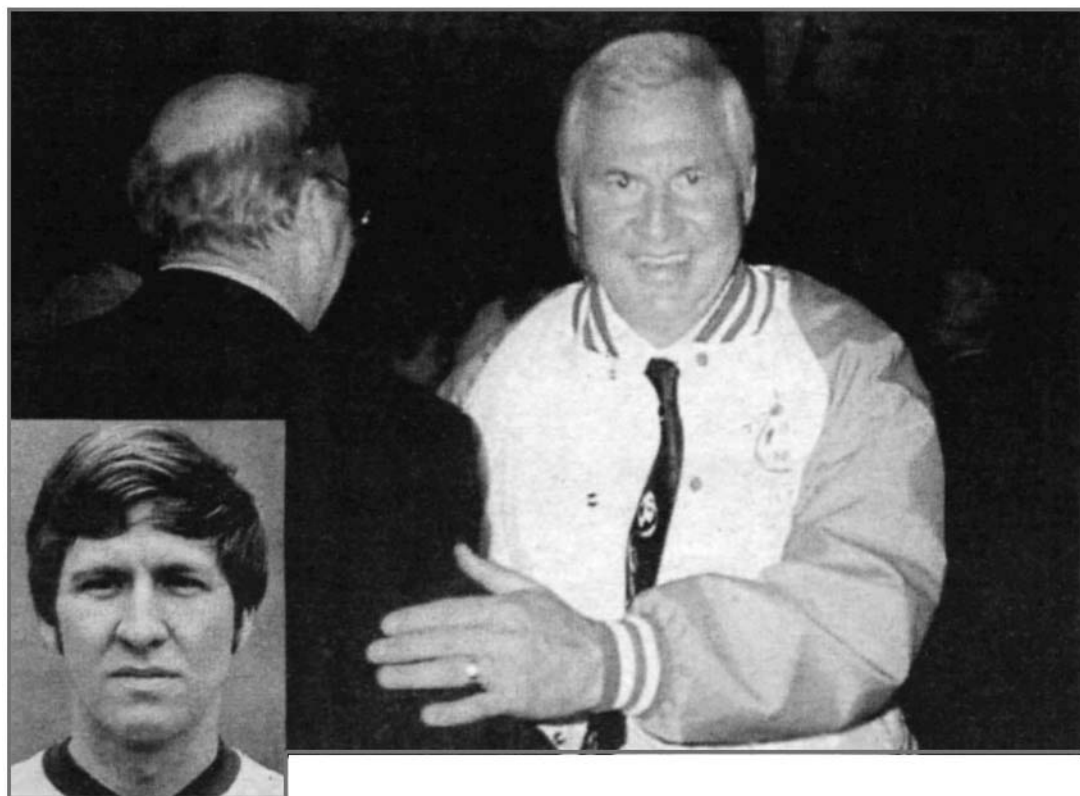


Flood proves blessing in disguise for Trost



Al Trost won two Hermann Trophies and two national championships with Saint Louis University (1969-70), helped the United States qualify for the 1972 Olympics and was one of the first Americans to star in the NASL. He now teaches and coaches soccer at Parkway South High School outside St. Louis. He lives with his wife, Elna, and has three children: Tim, 25, Eric, 23, and Emily, 19.

SOCCER AMERICA: Could you bring us up to date on what you've been doing?

AL TROST: Not a whole lot of enlightening information here, but I found out my real love was in education when I got out of college at Saint Louis U [in 1971]. I went through the pro seasons for [eight] years and came back to St. Louis to coach the Steamers. When I was finished with the Steamers, I started my own indoor soccer complex out in Chesterfield, Mo. I had that going from about '83 to '93, and I got flooded out in the flood of '93.

SA: Oh, no!

AT: I was in it with a number of other partners, but since I had probably the biggest investment in it, I lost pretty much everything. So I started all over. I went back to education, and that's where I've been ever since.

The facility was nice, but in terms of the family, I wasn't home a whole lot. So in a roundabout way, I guess it was a blessing in disguise. The flood happened so fast, we couldn't really salvage anything. We didn't have any flood insurance, so financially it was a disaster for me, but it was eventually reopened under different ownership, but

recently it just turned into a business warehouse.

SA: So tell me about teaching ...

AT: I teach social studies, mostly freshman American history classes and I've found that's kind of my niche. I coach the varsity boys in the fall and the varsity girls in the spring. I like it on this level ... I'm happy where I'm at.

SA: What about St. Louis, do you still see the team?

AT: Oh, yes, I still support the program. I have a former student from South who plays there, so I try to make as many games as I can. ... The facility is so unbelievable now down there compared to when I was playing there. They've just done great things with the campus.

SA: Is there any difference for you with all the children living away from home?

AT: It's nice and quiet. [Laughs] When they were all here this summer, it was almost like, "Gosh, when are you all leaving again?" But really, we enjoy spending time with them.

— Will Kuhns



backline

ONLINE

U.S. fans who want to keep track of the Hexagonal opposition have lots of choices.

Soccer site Mundosoccer (www.futbolmundial.com.mx) is an excellent source of Mexican national team and club information.

Costa Rican daily *La Nacion* (www.nacion.co.cr) has launched a special Hexagonal section for Tico fans to follow World Cup qualifying.

Homeview has launched more than a dozen country-specific sites for Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Its Trinidad & Tobago (www.homeviewtnt.com) and Jamaica (www.homeviewjamaica.com) sites have soccer sections with updates on the Soca Warriors and Reggae Boyz.

• La Nacion



For English-speaking surfers. Project Honduras, a U.S.-based organization dedicated to promoting Honduras, has a Honduran Soccer 101 section (www.projecthonduras.com/soccer101.htm) that's a hidden gem.

A Hondurans Abroad section provides the latest news on *Catrachos* in Austria and Uruguay. (Headline: "Honduran Players Abroad Struggling with New Diets.")

A fan poll on the top Honduran player has attracted more than 3,000 responses. (Carlos Pavon leads with 43 percent of the votes.)

There's even a section on the nicknames of the Honduran national team players: Milton "Tyson" Nunez, Amado "El Lobo" ("The Wolf") Guevara, Luis "El Chinito" ("The Little Chinese") Reyes and Milton "Chocolate" Flores. They're coached, of course, by Ramon "El Primitivo" ("The Caveman") Maradiaga.

Honduran Soccer 101 author Marco Cacaes notes that Hondurans have a good sense of humor and usually take their nicknames gracefully.

• Honduras Soccer 101

