



An enthusiastic and better-than-average player, the Aga gives soccer most of his extracurricular time.



No playboy, Karim denies any romance, but dates have included French starlet Ann-Marie Mersen (above), Mexican beauty Sylvia Casablancas (far left), and English heiress Patricia Rawlings (left).

school that prepares young girls for marriage.

One Friday last Fall, Karim flew to London for a whirlwind week-end date with Sylvia. He drove her to the historic Woburn Abbey, home of the Duke of Bedford and Karim's aunt, the Duchess, where the young couple spent most of the week end. By the time Karim returned to classes at Harvard on Monday, rumors were flying that he had chosen Sylvia to be his Begum. Karim had said the woman he marries would have to be a Moslem but Sylvia could be converted to the faith, if necessary.

The other day, however, Karim insisted: "I do not have any matrimonial plans. Every time I talk to a pretty girl, they claim I am engaged."

Still, he confesses that a wife would be nice to have around to help him carry out his social duties.

One naïve lady reporter, trying to delve into his private life, recently asked him: "Are you planning to have a harem?"

"Oh, come now!" Karim laughed. The question had actually startled him.

His taste in girl friends, significantly, reflects the true cosmopolite he is. Karim is half-English (through his mother); one-quarter Italian (through his paternal grandmother) and one-quarter Persian. Born in Paris, he is being educated in America. He speaks Urdu, literary Arabic, and several Hindu dialects. Basically he remains an aristocratic Englishman.

NOT WOMEN but sports appear to be his major interest, next to his job as the Aga Khan.

"I can't imagine myself without athletics," he once declared. Referring especially to soccer, he said: "We push, shove, laugh, cry out for a goal, and everyone knows a sense of life. After all that, you think better."

At prep schools in Europe he was an all-around athlete, at hockey, tennis, track, crew, and skiing. Rowing, he won several cups in international races, but at Harvard in his sophomore year he failed to make the crew. This Winter he'll probably try out for indoor crew. He'd like to ski but doubts whether he'll go out on the slopes. "The good skiing in

Vermont," he says, "is too far away. I don't have the time, and besides, I have no car."

At soccer last Fall, Karim made the varsity first team after starting the season as a substitute. "He's been a big help to us," said the captain the day I watched practice. "For the time he has played, K has scored more than anyone else in the line-up." Against M.I.T., for example, Karim made two of Harvard's four goals, booting the winning goal with only four minutes to go.

"Karim is a wonderful kid, one of the most enthusiastic soccer players we've ever had," Coach J. Bruce Monroe told me. "He never misses practice. I remember the first time he came to the field—his face lit up as if this was the one place where he could be one of the boys."

The Aga was sometimes unnecessarily roughed up, particularly in the Brown game when he was dumped six times. Karim never complained, either to his opponents or his coach. For a week, when he was out with a strained thigh muscle, he was impatient to get back into the line. "Soccer," he once said, "is sacred to me."

Outside of soccer, Karim indulges in little or no other extracurricular activities at Harvard. He is a member of the famed Hasty Pudding Club, the Signet (its members chosen for "intelligence and wit," not for wealth or family background), and the Delphic, whose members are known as "gassers." Karim now considers the "gassing" social clubs a waste of his valuable time.

As the Aga Khan (Honorable Chief) and Imam (Spiritual Leader) of the Ismailis, he spends at least two hours each day and sometimes 10 hours a day on week ends working with Mme. Beguel on problems that arise. He is a king without a temporal kingdom, a sovereign without subjects, for Ismaili communities are spread throughout India, East Africa, Malaya, Pakistan, Burma, Madagascar, and other countries, including Red China and Soviet Russia.

Members, usually well-to-do merchants, contribute from 2½ to 10 percent of their income to the Aga Khan, who turns back most of it in the form of welfare projects, schools, hospitals, and

loans. Thus the Harvard senior is a combination of father confessor, financial adviser, and social worker to his followers.

To him come regular firsthand reports from the far-flung Ismaili communities, dealing with everything from integration of religious education into secular schools to the planning of maternity homes. Final decisions are up to the Aga. Letters also pour in from individual Ismailis. One recent day's batch included the following typical pleas:

"My father is senile. Shall I still support him?"

"My wife is very sick. What shall I do about it?"

"The house our people gave me in a suburb of Zanzibar leaks in a heavy rain. To whom shall I present myself to repair the house?"

Every letter, no matter how trivial, is answered. Do the heavy responsibilities to his 20,000,000 followers ever frighten him?

"Yes, sometimes," says Karim. "I definitely feel the seriousness of my job. There's so much to do. At Harvard, I am getting a very good preparation in the various fields which are important. There is especially a need for more education among my following to gain the levels of Christian learning. It is my duty to see that schools are built."

What he is learning at Harvard about the ways of the Western world—particularly about problems of health and social organization—he hopes to translate into good works for his people. Always, in the back of his mind, Karim recalls a statement in his grandfather's will:

"In view of the fundamentally altered conditions of the world, I am convinced that I should be succeeded by a young man who has been brought up and developed in the midst of the new age."

It has long been the custom, at Ismaili jubilees every ten years, for the Aga Khan to be weighed in public, and for devoted followers to donate diamonds, platinum, and gold equal to his weight. Through the Aga, the tribute goes back into community work.

"I am determined," says Karim, "eventually to be worth my weight in diamonds."

Listening to Harvard's dedicated Student Prince, you know he'll boot his way to that goal.