

In the greater soccer world, the Major League Soccer trading and draft windows have yielded new additions to rosters, traded some players and loaned some to European clubs.

Most notably, the LA Galaxy has loaned David Beckham to AC Milan and Landon Donovan to Bayern Munich. Both are expected to return in March but there is plenty of speculation that Beckham will stay in Italy and Donovan may finally be successful in Germany and agree to stay. Beckham has told the press that he is happy to be back playing at the top of the game but continues to insist that he is only trying to stay game fit to keep his spot on the English National Team. Galaxy coach, Bruce Arena, continues the chess game by announcing that he expects Beckham back for the opening of the season.

Donovan is well-acquainted with Bayern Munich's coach, Jurgen Klinsmann, who spent plenty of time with the US team learning about the USA's fitness program. Klinsmann successfully transplanted the fitness program to Germany's national team prior to the 2006 World Cup. Donovan has had couple of chances with German clubs in the past but was never happy playing there. This may be different.

The US Men's National Team will be training for some World Cup Qualifiers this spring and summer. The team defeated Sweden last Saturday 3-2 in a friendly. With a roster of MLS players, many quite young, Coach Bob Bradley was able to judge new talent against the known quantities he has playing in Europe. Next on the list is a qualifier with Mexico on February 11, live on ESPN2 at 5:00 PM MST.

On a local level, Stevens High School Boys team is in need of a coach for the fall season. This is a group of talented players who nearly won it all under Coach Randy McKee last fall. Submit your resume to Rushmore Soccer Club, PO Box 34, Rapid City SD 57709. This team has great parent support and some excellent assistant coaches who could make up a solid staff.

The South Dakota State High School Activities Association has pushed the vote on sanctioning high school soccer out a couple of years leaving South Dakota as the only state not sanctioning the sport. The good news is the association asked to form a committee to make this happen and included members of South Dakota State Soccer. It makes sense to talk to the people who have made this work well for more than a decade.