

Congratulations again to the St. Thomas More/RC Christian young women who topped the high school "A" tournament on Saturday. Coach Doug Noyes and his staff continue to do an excellent job.

It was exciting to see the way the tournament shook out in the "AA" as the Stevens women's team nailed down a third place finish to the season and the Stevens men pushed nearly over the top to end the season at second. Terrific game. Coaches Troy Anderson and Randy McKee along with their assistants have been outstanding in their support and encouragement of their players.

Rapid City Youth Soccer League opens the indoor sessions on November 1. The parents' meeting is scheduled for October 23, at 6:30 PM in the Stevens High School gym. Players will receive rosters and schedules at this time. The purpose of this 6-week session is fun and skill improvement.

Players from U8 through U19 have to change their game as they must keep the ball contained inside a field the size of a basketball court. It is 5 versus 5 with a goalie, substitution is on the fly and teams from U12 and older are co-ed. The schedule terminates in mid-December. Some players will re-form as teams for the indoor tournament season and others will wait for the spring.

RCYSL will offer a 3 V 3 tournament October 24-26 at Sioux Park. There are divisions for nearly everyone and it promises to be a fun tournament to cap the fall season. With adult divisions, it will be a great chance for kids to stand on the sidelines and encourage their parents. If they repeat what they have been hearing, we may be concerned.

Considerable thought and discussion is taking place within the local and national soccer community on the value of increased demands (pressure) on kids in sports. When should kids be traveling to tournaments? What is an appropriate age for tryouts and selection processes? Should players under the age of 10 be in competitions that rank teams in first, second, etc?

What is the best environment for kids to enter the sport, learn the skills, and develop the understanding of the game itself? Important questions and an equally important conversation.

Rapid City Youth Soccer League has been working on an outline for player development that addresses many of these issues. It will be coming to the board of directors for discussion and adoption in the weeks to come. It appears to lean heavily on skill development in the early years with a transition to tactics and strategy after age 12 linking it strongly to the basics of child development. It will be a good guide for player development in the coming years. Coach Brian Pitts is leading this project.