

On Monday, Padraic Duffy explained the status of high school soccer as the South Dakota High School Activities Association plans to meet on November 5 to decide such issues as when soccer seasons will be played, etc. Duffy did explain that sanctioning the sport did not automatically move it into the schools. Schools would have to add it at an estimated cost of \$20,000 per team. That will mean some difficult choices in the months ahead.

It is not an option (at least not at present) to leave things as they are and just sanction the sport. Teams that are not under the school's umbrella cannot play the teams that are. Without some really sharp pencil work – or other creative solutions – high school soccer may be sanctioned but few teams will participate.

- This weekend offers some interesting and fun soccer for families. Rapid City Youth Soccer League's fall 3V3 tournament added adult divisions this year. Kids can "coach" their parents from the sidelines. All the action is at Sioux Park and the weather promises to be nice. Take it in.
- Indoor soccer begins tonight with the Parents and Players meeting at Stevens High School gym starting at 6:30 PM. Players will begin games November 1 at both South and West Community gyms.
- Major League Soccer is almost into playoff season. The remaining slots will be decided this weekend. Teams already securing playoff berths are Columbus, Chicago, New England, Houston and Chivas USA. Chicago and New York meet tonight. New England takes on Kansas City while Colorado battles Real Salt Lake on Saturday. Columbus plays DC United on Sunday. It may well come down to tie-breakers like goals scored, etc. to pick some of these.
- Sometimes the rookie makes history. Last Saturday evening, New York Red Bulls rookie goalkeeper, Danny Cepero, made his debut in a critical game against Columbus Crew. He'd been called in because the regular keeper, Jon Conway, had been placed on a 10-week suspension for "performance enhancing substances". Cepero became the first goalkeeper in MLS history to score a goal. He slipped an 81-yard free kick behind the

Crew's keeper...and made a couple crucial saves to hand the Red Bulls a 3-1 victory, keeping the playoff hopes alive. Try one of those in the NFL.