

One of the lessons that we hope our children learn in sports is how to respond to adversity. When things go wrong on the playing field, what options can they find? How can we help them to choose those options that enrich their lives and the lives of those around them?

For the kids that were on Kelly Lane's soccer teams some years ago, those lessons were gently taught by a strong, soft-spoken man who encouraged his players to find their best. Kelly, a Douglas school teacher until he retired in 2001, has been battling Parkinson's disease. His recent surgical procedure has relieved a large measure of symptoms and he is experiencing significant relief.

Lane is exactly the type of person you hope your child receives as a teacher or coach because he chose to set his personal limits aside while he made more opportunity for kids. He has demonstrated in his life that it isn't so much what happens to you but what you do with it that matters. The good news of his much-improved condition will allow him to encourage more kids to kayak, hike, bike, and make the most of all their opportunities.

Today Major League Soccer begins the playoff process. The games will be televised on ESPN2, Fox Soccer Channel, Telefutera, ESPN Deportes, and Galavision. You can start tonight on ESPN2 with the expansion team, Seattle Sounders hosting the Houston Dynamo at 8:00 p.m.

Seattle is the league leader in attendance with sell-out games despite weather, day of the week or competition. The Sounders won the Open Cup last month and have had an exciting inaugural season in the noisiest stadium in sports. Houston has had a daunting schedule of games in the CONCACAF Champions league as well as strong competition within the Western Conference of the MLS.

Fans were often critical of David Beckham's return to Los Angeles Galaxy in July but his half-season performance in tandem with Landon Donovan has put LA on top of the West. He received a standing ovation when he was subbed out late in the game last weekend. The Galaxy meets Chivas USA, their area rivals, on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. on ESPN2. There is no home field advantage as both teams call the Home Depot Center home.

The Eastern Conference games on Saturday see Columbus at Salt Lake at 4:00 p.m. and Chicago at New England at 2:00 p.m. This marks the eighth time that Chicago and New England have faced each other in the playoffs. New England has won 4 of the last 7 contests.

The second game series begins November 5 with Salt Lake at Columbus (ESPN2 at 6:00 p.m.) New England travels to Chicago on November 7 for the game at 6:30 p.m. on FSC. In addition on November 8, Seattle will be in Houston at 1:00 p.m. (Telefutera) and Chivas meets LA again at 5:30 p.m. on ESPN2.

Conference champions will be decided November 12 (ESPN2 and Deportes) and November 14 (FSC) with the MLS Cup at 6:30 p.m. on November 22 on ESPN and Galavision.