

Area high school teams begin quarterfinal tournament play this morning in Aberdeen. Sturgis boys, with one loss finished at second place and Custer in fourth sending both teams east. In the boys' AA division, Stevens locked in 7th place and Pierre is in second which puts them together in game one.

On the girls' side, St. Thomas More/RC Christian will meet Sturgis in their opening game. Belle Fourche takes on Groton. In the AA, Rapid City Stevens meets Brookings this morning. The Lady Govs play Yankton. Semi-finals are tomorrow and the finals and consolation games end the tournament on Saturday.

A decade ago, all teams went to the state high school tournament but with the growth of soccer across the state, the top 8 teams compete. The AA Division includes 14 teams and the A is made up of 10. 2009 will mark the end of this tournament as the South Dakota High School Activities Association's sanction of soccer begins in 2010.

Sometimes, youth coaches are criticized for coaching too much; not letting the kids play but always demonstrating or teaching. Paul Giovanopoulos, a boys' coach from Pennsylvania, presented an argument recently in which he explained that American kids don't see enough soccer by either attending games or watching television to get more of an idea of how the game is played. They watch lots of baseball and football but soccer has only recently become more available on television and MLS teams are concentrated in large market areas. If kids see more games, they need less demonstration and explanation time, Giovanopoulos argues.

Many adults are only familiar with the kids' game and could use some viewing time as well. This weekend, you can sit down with your kids and watch the US play Cuba in a World Cup qualifying game. You can tune in at 5:00 PM MDT on ESPN Classic or Galavision to watch the game. We are moving into MLS playoff season so there are professional games available on Saturdays. The European leagues are carried by Fox Soccer and ESPN. South American games are offered by Galavision (mute the sound if you don't want Spanish commentary).

Help your child play better soccer while you learn more about the game in an activity you both could enjoy...watching television.