

The South Dakota State Soccer Association held the Annual General Membership Meeting last weekend in Fort Pierre. The blizzard cut some Friday meetings out of the schedule but the Saturday awards banquet was well-attended and Rapid City soccer was well-recognized.

Rapid City Youth Soccer was awarded the "Team Builder Award" for the second year. This recognizes the soccer organization that has had the most growth over the past year. In addition, Mike Cole was chosen as the South Dakota Competitive Girls Coach of the Year and Dana Messmer was recognized as the South Dakota Recreation Soccer Coach of the Year. Congratulations to these fine gentlemen and their families for this gift to our young people

SDSSA recognizes the contributions of parents as well. John Sabrowski, an RCYSL Challenge team coach, was chosen as the Parent of the Year. Sabrowski is unselfish in his work for the kids and the competitions. Congratulations to John, his family, and his team.

Soccer also has a Hall of Fame to honor individuals who have been important in the development and growth of the game across the state. Rapid City's Bill Herbst was selected by the SDSSA for inclusion this year.

The late Bill Herbst died a few years ago but his contributions to Rapid City soccer will continue for years. He fell in love with the game when his kids were small and he coached their teams and then others since 1980. He won or contested for championships in tournaments here and around the area from 1982. The list is as long as your arm. As one of his nominators, Kurt Whitsell who coached with him for years said "...Bill wouldn't be proud of all his tournament wins, money and time donated, or boards served on. Bill would be proud of the childrens' lives he touched and truly made a difference in. He was ALWAYS in it for the kids and what was best for them.

Bill's wonderful wife, Joyce, and her family are equally honored in this award. Joyce opened her home for team meetings and parties, spent hours helping with details, traveled to games and supported players long after her own children had graduated and moved out of soccer. The

Herbst family is an extraordinary group of people who carry on their father's example of investing in kids, their community, and each other. Soccer and Rapid City are very grateful.