

Belle Fourche High School and Rushmore Soccer Club are sharing some holiday joy this week. One of their graduates, Kirsten Goeringer, has been named an All-American soccer player in the National Junior College Athletic Association. Goeringer is a student at Rochester Community and Technological College in Minnesota.

Next weekend, December 20-21, marks the start of the indoor tournament season. The first tournament of the season is the Sturgis Christmas Classic hosted by the Sturgis Soccer Association. Teams will come from the wide area from Pierre to Gillette for these games.

Here's how the indoor tournament season works in Rapid City Youth Soccer League. A coach puts together a roster of 10 players for the 5 v 5 format, registers through the league website or office and the rest is up to the coach. Teams can practice (if space is located) or not and there are plenty of tournaments to keep players sharp through the winter. Spearfish Holiday Classic is January 9-11. Rushmore Soccer hosts a competition January 23-25. Back to Spearfish in February, 13-15 and Gillette the 20-22 followed by Pierre on February 27 to March 1. The season caps with the Rushmore President's Cup, March 6-8. It is a busy schedule.

Rushmore Soccer Club rosters are already set and coaches are in place to begin the indoor season. These players will be seriously training as their outdoor season can begin as early as a February tournament in the southwest.

Indoor soccer is a fast-growing version of the outdoor game that was developed in the YMCA program in South America. Soccer is a fixture in the sports culture there and YMCA program leaders were looking for a way to bring kids into the Y. They modified the game for play on the gym's basketball court and kids fell in love with it. Ronaldhino credits his indoor experience for much of his incredible skill with a ball. American kids have taken to the game with a similar fervor.

Outdoors the game favors the player with a powerful kick but indoor soccer showcases the player who can pass crisply, receive surely, and keep the ball under control so time is not lost chasing a loose ball. The clock does not stop for a ball out or for substitutions. Subs change "on the fly". It is a very fast game, promoting top physical fitness.

In the hustle and bustle of shopping, take a minute to support one of the organizations that will make a child's holiday special this year. With the economy slipping and families worrying about the months to come, we can all share a little to help kids have a special gift this season. The Salvation Army, Cornerstone Mission, Toys for Tots, various churches or other groups can use your help...and you can use the good feeling you'll get.