

Professional soccer teams make big deals and the David Beckham saga is beyond big deals. Beckham, who expressed excitement at playing for Los Angeles Galaxy just over a year ago, now is announcing openly to the media that he hopes to exchange his loan status with AC Milan to a permanent spot on their roster. The standoff negotiation may take a unique turn if the details can be worked out.

The new rumor is that Beckham could be loaned back and forth allowing him to stay in Milan until June when their season ends, return to LA for 5 months of the MLS season, then return to Milan for the first part of their next season. For the 33 year old Beckham, it would mean constant play, and if you include the possible spot on the England national team for the 2010 World Cup, it would be playing on 3 teams on two continents. But then, we are talking about Beckham, the Super Hero who would single-handedly bring MLS soccer to the world stage. Stay tuned.

The US Women's National Team is currently defending their title at the Algarve Cup in southern Portugal. The US is in the group with Denmark, Norway, and Iceland, hardly a cakewalk. A win this year will make 3 in a row for the US. Games are available at www.ussoccer.com on Match Tracker.

The final indoor tournament for area players is this weekend as Rushmore Soccer Club hosts the Presidents' Cup. In cooperation with South Dakota Adult Soccer Association, Rushmore is offering an open division for co-ed teams 18 and older. This has proven to be a very popular addition and is very interesting soccer. Games begin tomorrow at the Civic Center, South, and West Community gyms.

There is a referee re-certification class scheduled for March 14 at the RCYSL Office, 306 Main next to the Heart and Hearth Shoppe. If you have questions, check with Chad Landis at rapidcitysoccerrefs@yahoo.com for answers.

The soccer community would like to extend sympathy and thanks to the family of Aileen Kinder who passed away earlier this week. Aileen gave so much of her time and talent to the growth of youth soccer in Rapid City. Her willingness to manage tee shirt sales, keep the books, pay the bills and never miss one of her kids' or grandkids' games has meant a lot to soccer. She was quite the soccer mom.

