

It may seem like a long time until fall but it is not. Just as the Halloween Candy appears on the shelves in August, registration for the fall season appears early. If your child is going to play soccer in the fall, you have 2 weeks to complete the registration. July 18 is the last day for guaranteed placement on a previous team.

Rushmore Soccer Club holds the second of their tryouts next Monday and Tuesday, July 14 and 15. The U11 and U12 boys and girls candidates should arrive at Sioux Park at 5:00 PM (earlier is better), wearing a white shirt, soccer shorts and equipment, with lots of water and big spray. The welcome moisture had added mosquitoes to these events.

Challenge coaches will hold the second tryout for their team rosters on July 21-22 beginning at 5:00 PM at the Upper and Lower Valley fields. You can complete the registration online if you have not already done so.

Congratulations to Britiany Oehlerking, Annie Bloom, and Mikayla Anderson. These outstanding young women were awarded the Bill Herbst Soccer Scholarships for 2008. All three will be playing in college next fall. This continuing tradition begun by the Herbst family to honor their husband and father rewards players who desire to continue to play at the college level.

High school soccer remains under the Rushmore Soccer Club umbrella for another year. If you missed the first tryout on Tuesday, be certain to be at the July 15 session beginning at 5:00 PM at Sioux Park. This is for players looking for spots on either Central or Stevens teams. St. Thomas More and Douglas hold their tryouts independently.

The high school season opens on August 22 in order to get in the 6 week season prior to October. The length of the season is mandated by the SDHSAA and has to conclude prior to the opening of pheasant season in order to have motel rooms available in east river communities where the tournament is held.

Nearly 12 years ago, when the tournament began, it was a small tournament and South Dakota State Soccer Association decided to award this one to smaller venues. Now, the tournament has grown and the need for the hospitality requirements is much greater. There is little pheasant hunting in West River so it might make more sense to move it to West River. If the split season (boys in fall, girls in spring) becomes the law of the land, it will return to being a small tournament and the location will be moot.

Any coach interested in the "D" license should plan to spend a couple of weekends in Aberdeen. The course is being offered on two weekends, July 25-27 and August 1/3. You can get more information at the SDSSA website, www.southdakotasoccer.com and follow the link.

South Dakota United is a team based in Pierre but comprised of top players from around the state, some from Rapid City and the Hills area. This club has a boys U19 team that is nationally ranked at 31 at www.gotsoccer.com. These boys have made a significant sacrifice to travel longer distances for practices and tournaments but they are doing very well. Congratulations to all.

The Women's Professional Soccer league has announced the schedule for allocation of players from the national team and the international players draft. These steps will be taken in September, after the Olympics and will precede the open tryouts for the new teams. The first games for the new league are scheduled for April 2009.

