

Congratulations to Rushmore Soccer Club on an excellent tournament. Ruth Jensen and Greg Stone (among many, many others) did a terrific job and provided a special experience for players, coaches and parents at the Rushmore Cup.

Just a few years ago, Rapid City Youth Soccer League was approached by Bill Herbst with his offer to develop a mid-level competitive division for players wanting to play soccer more intensively than recreational teams but still being able to devote time to other sports. Out of this discussion came the Challenge Division and it took off.

Sadly, Bill died in an automobile accident returning from the eastern part of the state to coach his team. His family donated college scholarships in his memory and, along with RCYSL, created the "Bill Herbst Sportsmanship Award", a traveling trophy awarded to Challenge teams chosen by referees, coaches, and players at the annual Classic Cup in May. The first recipients are "Destiny", a U12 girls' team, setting the standard for the future.

Bill Herbst insisted his players practice good sportsmanship as much as they practiced dribbling or shooting. He would be pleased that his name was now attached to such an award. His family is grateful for the partnership with Rapid City Youth Soccer to offer this important award.

Rapid City Youth Soccer League will hold the semi-annual general membership meeting next week, July 8, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be at the City/School Administration Center and is open to all members. If your child is registered to play in RCYSL, you are a member.

Next week is the first round of tryouts for Rushmore Soccer Club and the Central or Stevens High School teams. Monday, July 7 is scheduled for Under 11 and 12, both boys and girls. July 8 will showcase the U13 and 14 players. Wear a white shirt, usual soccer stuff, bring lots of water and bug spray to Sioux Park at 5:00 PM. You can check for more details online, www.rushmoresoccerclub.com.

Players wishing to try out for either Central or Stevens High School teams should be at Sioux Park, July 8 at 5:00 PM prepared to show their skills. Plan to be at both July 8 and July 15 sessions to give yourself the best chance. Warmer weather dictates more water...and a 12 ounce bottle is not nearly enough. Bring a gallon and plan to drink most of it throughout the session.

You can still register your kids for British Soccer Camp, July 21-25. This is available to players from U6 through U19 and is great fun. Register online at www.rcysl.com.

If you missed the Euro 2008 Championship game on Sunday, pitting Spain against Germany, you missed a jewel. The Spaniards were magic; passing crisply with one-touch, drawing the Germans out of their bunker defense time and time again, and in the 33rd minute, Fernando Torres, on a breakaway, chipped a shot over the keeper and scored. From that point on, the Spanish team was deadly serious and, with few exceptions, controlled the game. It was beautiful to watch. This is the first major tournament win for Spain in 44 years and the feuding factions within the country are all celebrating.