

This is tryout week for high school soccer. Players are in competition to gain selection to the varsity or junior varsity rosters for their high school division teams. Because soccer is not yet a part of the sanctioned sports offered through local public schools, these teams will need financial support as players must shoulder their own travel and equipment expenses for the 8 week season that opens August 22.

Soccer programs are offered as a "club" activity through the city public high schools. St. Thomas More/Rapid City Christian supports a combined team of their students and offers the sport as part of their extra-curricular activities. The Rapid City high schools have not yet explained how soccer will be incorporated into their activity programs or where the funds will come from to do this.

High school player selection takes place at the end of the week and those players will become the staff of the camp offered on Saturday. Your child can attend if you go to either www.rcysl.com or www.rushmoresoccerclub.com and download the form. The fees are \$35 for U6 and U8 or \$50 for older players. Let Lorre Buhler know you want to bring your kids. Call her at 415-7394 or email, lrubler@hotmail.com.

The camp is open to U6 through U14 players and includes Pizza Hut lunch. U6 and U8 divisions will finish at 12:00 and will need to be picked up at that time. Kids must remember to bring plenty of water and a soccer ball.

This is a terrific way to get your kids back into soccer for the fall, provide a fun, healthy activity, and also support the high school players through this important fundraiser. The Rapid City high school soccer program has been very successful in placing graduates into college soccer programs and deserves your support.

In the Olympics, group play has ended. The quarterfinals begin tomorrow for the women and the men's side on Saturday. The USA provided two big surprises last week with the women's loss to Norway (2-0) and the men tying the Netherlands (2-2), and nearly beating them. The women recovered to defeat both Japan and New Zealand.

Play now moves to the "knock-out" round where you must win to continue playing. There is wonderful soccer to watch on the NBC cluster of channels and even the re-play games are good if you don't want to watch at 3:00 AM.

If you are one of the wonderful parents who has volunteered to coach your child's soccer team and now are asking yourself, "What was I thinking?"; here's some help. Rapid City Youth Soccer League is offering the "E" license course August 23-24 here in Rapid City. This is an 18 hour course that will teach you how to teach soccer. If you are interested, contact RCYSL's training coordinator at www.training@rcysl.com for all the details.

Fall soccer begins September 6 for Rapid City Youth Soccer League. If you've been in the frazzle of summer activities and neglected to register your child, go directly to www.rcysl.com and do it today. You can still get on a team but the guarantee for placement on last year's team has passed. Don't miss the season just because you might change teams. Your child benefits from continued play and you meet new friends.