

Although both Central and Stevens High School teams will open on the road in Sioux Falls this weekend, they will be at home August 28 and 29 against Lincoln and O’Gorman. Both boys and girls teams will compete at Sioux Park fields.

St. Thomas More also opens August 28 and 29 in games at Sioux Park. The girls meet West Central and Huron. The boys take on Huron and the Christian Vikings. Full season schedules are available online at www.southdakotasoccer.com. Click on the RSpportz link and follow the prompts.

If you have a soccer player in the U12 and older group, make it a point to attend some of the high school games. The quality of play is very good and your young player may decide that wearing the uniform of a high school team would be a goal worth working toward. Rapid City teams consistently place in the top 5 across the state with the St. Thomas More girls hauling in more hardware annually. Go watch some games.

Women’s Professional Soccer will play the first championship game on Saturday. The Los Angeles “Sol” with Brazilian star Marta will take the field against an opponent determined on Wednesday. The game will be live at 1:30 PM MDT on Fox Soccer.

WPS will showcase the leagues stars on August 30 with an All Star contest on Fox Soccer at 3:30 MDT.

Last week the US Men’s Team traveled to Mexico for a World Cup qualifying match that left most US fans wondering who was coaching the midfield. The US opened the scoring but could not hold the lead and the game ended in a 2-1 loss for the USA. The US has never defeated Mexico in Azteca Stadium and the loss was especially bitter after the drubbing suffered at the hands of the Tri-Colores in the finals of the Gold Cup. USA star, Landon Donovan, was diagnosed the day prior with Swine Flu but played the 90 minutes regardless. That may have had something to do with a less than stellar performance. Unless someone can unlock the secrets of holding the midfield and defending a lead, the US may be watching the World Cup without a representative in the tournament.

There are renewed calls for “goal line technology” in England after a couple of un-credited goals in English Premier League games last week. After awarding a goal kick when the ball crossed the line but bounced back from a goal support in a game, the center referee and linesman involved have been suspended for two weeks for their personal safety.

Goal line technology would enable a clear decision on balls that fully cross the line but bounce out. FIFA, the international governing board of soccer, shut off a league-wide possible trial that had been designed last year for the EPL. Referees are beginning to speak favorably of the prospect as it would end the arguments in these situations but would not slow the game as a video replay might.