

The high school teams are about a half-dozen games into the season. The St. Thomas More girls varsity is on top of the A Division with the boys varsity at 11 with Sturgis on top and Custer close behind. Only 3 points separate Hot Springs from the top. West river teams are holding well.

In the A Division, RC Stevens girls are ranked number one and the boys sit at number 9. Central Cobblers girls are at 12 and the boys hold number 13. The Spearfish Spartans boys team holds number 7 with just over 6 points separating them from first. The Spearfish girls are holding down 4th place with about 5 points out of first.

The annual cross-town game between Stevens and Central is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15 with the junior varsity games beginning at 4:00 PM in Sioux Park. The varsity games will begin at 6:00 PM with the girls game followed at 8:00 by the boys. These games are always exciting and often bear no resemblance to the current standings. Admission is free and the concessions are wonderful. Plan to make it a family event.

This is the time when soccer honors the seniors on the rosters. It is also a time when these players honor their parents. These players know exactly how much parental support has meant because these parents do it all. They provide the uniforms, the travel, equipment, and moral support to make soccer possible for their kids. It is wonderful to see the young players take time to say "thanks" publicly. Take your young players to see this.

On Saturday, the PeeWees take the field. If you are feeling the least bit down, drop by the Sioux Park fields in the morning or early afternoon to see the youngest players take the field. They will be in new RCYSL shirts that often extend to the tops of their socks and they will be excited. If you can watch them for half an hour and not feel optimistic about the world, you are in serious trouble.

Please remember that soccer games are going on all over town. Be patient in the parking areas at the valley fields and do not park in the storage facility to the east. At Minnesota and Campbell, please do not park in driveway spaces. In Sioux Park, be extra careful to watch for kids running between cars. When you are attending games at Omaha field, consider taking a right turn when you leave for safety's sake.

Many families want to bring their dogs to the game. If you must do this, please be careful to clean up any reminders your pet might leave. Consider that this is a busy, noisy environment for your pet with many strangers extending hands to pet your dog. There is even the possibility of other dogs in proximity. It is not a comfortable environment for most dogs. If you bring your dog, please keep him on a short leash and position yourselves away from the sideline groups for everyone's safety.

World Cup Qualifiers continue next month. The USA meets Honduras on October 10 with Costa Rica to follow on the 14th. Prior to last night's game with Honduras, the two teams were tied on points. Mexico was holding 3rd place only a point behind those two.