

One of the ways we humans learn is by watching. Soccer kids who watch skilled and creative players, learn about innovation and control of the game and decide to try some of what they see. That is the reason you need to attend the Colorado Rapids vs. South Dakota United game on Saturday.

Sioux Park stadium hosts the games beginning with local teams at 5:00 p.m. with the big semi-professional contest at 7:00. Plan for cool weather and cool soccer. Your kids will love it.

Recreation league spring soccer culminates in the Kohl's American Cup beginning June 6 here in Rapid City. The tournament was moved here this spring due to a shortage of motel rooms in Sioux Falls. The enrollment of teams is significantly lower than in years past due, no doubt, to projected \$4.00 a gallon fuel.

This economic impact on youth competition is but one of several indicators of coming change in the way things will work. Perhaps SDSSA will have to consider both East and West River competitions without an opportunity to select a statewide winner.

In addition to the Kohl's American Cup, Rapid City is hosting the Classic Cup, May 30 to June 1. The Classic Cup is for Challenge (Recreation A, Classic, or D-II club teams). This tournament is new and offers competition for teams that previously played in the "A" division of the Kohl's American Cup. Competitive level teams not playing in the premier bracket may also participate as well as recreation level teams that want this level of competition for a "state" championship.

The South Dakota State Club Cup competition is also on May 30 through June 1. This tournament is for premier bracket teams such as Rushmore Soccer Gold teams who are competing for a chance to represent South Dakota at the Region II tournament, June 20-25 in Rockford, Illinois. Teams must commit to Region II in the prior fall season by sending the registration money.

In preparation for tournament competition, Rapid City Youth Soccer League is offering the Scheel's Cup May 15-18 for recreation level teams. The registration deadline is today and can be done online. This

promises to inaugurate a fun, energetic competition for local teams planning for Kohl's American Cup tournaments. RCYSL is planning to make this especially fun for kids U10 and older.

With a few weeks of soccer left in the spring season, it may seem absurd to be thinking about July soccer camp but it is not. Challenger British Soccer returns to Rapid City July 21-25. You should go immediately to www.rcysl.com and register your players. This is a top-notch soccer camp for recreation players and club players will benefit also.

The camp is staffed by coaches from Great Britain and Australia. These people are chosen for their ability to demonstrate soccer skills as well as their ability to relate well with kids. The staff creates and participates in a string of activities designed to make your children laugh and learn. British or Aussie accents fascinate Americans and trading slang expressions is a special experience. Your kids will enjoy this week and benefit from the instruction in soccer and culture.