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Swapping Florida sun for football fun

By The Gaffer

What would possess someone to leave Miami to come to watch our Blackburn boys? Well, find out as 'The Gaffer' who runs a popular Premiership website for Stateside soccer fans explains

why he is so excited at coming to Ewood for the Spurs game...

It's a long journey from Miami to Blackburn, but as a huge football fan, Sunday's visit to Blackburn's Ewood Park is a dream come true for me.

Being one of the founding members of The Football League and one of the most famous sides in northern football, Blackburn Rovers has always been a club I've respected. Although I'm not from Lancashire, I was born and bred in Wales and have lived in the States for more than 20 years. Not surprisingly I admire Blackburn's Mark Hughes and Brad Friedel for the incredible work they've done at the club.

Sunday's visit to Ewood Park is one of five Premiership grounds I'm visiting during the next ten days. I'll be sharing my experiences with football fans from America and around the world through my web site (EPL Talk) by providing podcasts, blogs and an online slideshow of photographs from my travels.

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Focusing on the match, it's a battle between two very inconsistent sides right now. The last league win for Rovers was over one month ago, and Mark Hughes's side desperately needs three points. Depending on the results of the clubs currently beneath Blackburn, Rovers could find themselves in the bottom four if they lose against Spurs.

However, Blackburn fans will be relieved to know that Tottenham Hotspur's away record this season is terrible, scoring only one away goal since August.

It's going to be a very close match, but I believe Blackburn has what it takes to win the match this weekend. Spurs is still trying to find its form and they've so far been unable to establish a consistent striker partnership.

After travelling more than 4,500 miles from Miami, I'm eager to visit Ewood Park and find my seat in the Blackburn End. I'm expecting to hear boisterous support for Rovers on what will probably be a cold and wet night in Lancashire.

The Gaffer's prediction:

Blackburn 1-0 Tottenham Hotspur

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- Look out for The Gaffer's match report for BBC Lancashire on the Spurs game!

last updated: 17/11/06

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Would you come from Florida to Ewood Park? Have you gone to great lengths to support your team?

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