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## How ESPN Deportes Saved My Life

By Nick Smith

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I never knew the relationship I would develop with ESPN deportes would grow so strong. Who knew that a Spanish sports channel could do so much for a kid who grew up in Boise...

Anybody that has ever been to Boise, Idaho, knows that the city's nickname, "City of Trees," only applies to a 100 foot-wide section that follows the Boise River through the middle of the city. The rest of the city looks more like the set of a John Wayne movie - dry, sage-brush covered, and dry. So I felt right at home in the high mountain desert of Puebla, Mexico, where I lived for two years. Although I love being back in America, there are a few things I miss about Mexico. Here are four things I miss and a few of the things that make me feel better.**ESPN Deportes**

Growing up playing soccer, I thought I was pretty hot stuff. In Mexico, I was mediocre at best. It was a pretty humbling experience the first time I played with a group of 12-year-olds and they literally ran circles around me. I'll never forget the rush of standing in the middle of 45,000 ecstatic soccer fans singing in unison to support their team, which happened to be ranked last place in the entire country. You just can't get soccer like that in America. In fact, you can hardly get any soccer at all. To watch the World Cup I had to wake up at 2:00am every morning, but I counted myself lucky because they were actually showing soccer on TV. For any soccer fans out there who are disappointed with regular TV's offering of soccer games, you've got to check out ESPN deportes. Even if you don't speak Spanish, the soccer coverage is worth it.**Mariachi Bands**

I lived in a town of only a couple thousand people, so everybody knew everybody. When someone got married, turned 15 years old, or had a new baby, the whole town was invited to the party. The colors, the music, and the sense of community are still vivid memories I won't soon forget. My birthday party at Olive Garden with a few friends seems completely lame in comparison to even the smallest party I went to in Mexico. The town also had their annual celebration to venerate their favorite Saint, revolutionary hero, or Pope - and the food was always incredible.**Real Mexican Food**

Since I moved back to America I have only had one meal that was close enough to authentic Mexican food that I could close my eyes and imagine I was still there. (In case you are wondering, it was not at

Taco Bell.) Every tour book and travel agent will tell you to avoid eating food from street vendors when you're in Mexico because you will most likely get sick. I would trade a week of Montezuma's revenge

for one good Taco al Pastor any time; and what I wouldn't give to have a quesadilla not made from cheddar cheese. Unfortunately, state health departments regulate restaurants too closely to allow for any really good Mexican food here in America, so I'll have to bide my time until I can afford a plane ticket back.

Good soccer, good food, good music, and good times. I grew up American through and through, but spending a few years in Mexico made me think that had I been born south of the border, I would have fit in just fine.

Nick Smith is a client account specialist with

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## **EPL Broadcasts in Hong Kong**

**By Dale James Caffrey**

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Having spoken to many English Premier League fans in Hong Kong, there seems to be some confusion over how they are going to get to see the new season 2004/2005 games 'Live' on TV.

For the past few years, i-Cable have been showing the EPL games via ESPN/Star Sports as part of their broadcasts. However, as of 17th August 2004, ESPN/Star Sports will be shifting to Now Broadband TV – and this is where the confusion lies.

i-Cable (who have won the bidding for the broadcast of EPL games for Hong Kong) will still be showing these games, but the feed will be directly from the UK.

Even though ESPN/Star will still be broadcasting the EPL games out of Singapore, their footprint does not include Hong Kong and the footie that ESPN/Star will be showing in Hong Kong is the European Champions League, the FA Cup, the League Cup and selected England games (if i am informed correctly).

Therefore, EPL footie fans in Hong Kong, don't go and sign up for NOW BBTv and cancel your i-Cable

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subscription, otherwise you will be in for a big shock!

If you want to see the 'live' EPL games you will need i-Cable and if you want to watch ECL, FA Cup, League Cup and England games, you will need NOW BBTV.

So, if you are like me, you need to subscribe to both! yes, it will be a little bit more expensive but at least you'll get to see all of those fantastic games at your leisure.

Don't say that you weren't warned!

The author is one of the owner operators of [www.3lionssport.com](http://www.3lionssport.com)

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