

Who be dis?

Dis be Will Rivard, Spurs supporter and creator of Tottenham Hotspur World website/blog

How did you come to be a Tottenham Hotspur fan?

I grew up playing soccer (among other sports) but only became a Spurs fan about 4 years ago. I love the attacking style of play Tottenham employ. In [this video](#), every Spurs player touches the ball in the lead up to the goal.

I also like how they seem to be one big band of brothers, [Dele Alli and Eric Dier](#) in particular are hilarious when they get together and if the way [Heung-Min Son](#) plays the game doesn't give you joy then you might not be human.

The way that Tottenham have built the current team (promoting from the youth ranks, wise financial decisions, not spending ridiculous amounts of money like the Manchester clubs and Chelsea) is really refreshing, I feel like they don't just buy players, but develop them as well. For instance, Harry Kane was actually let go by arch rivals Arsenal before he was 10 years old, and then came over to Spurs, and I bet they regret that every-time he bangs in a goal against them.

How long have you been running your site?

I have been running my site since January of 2018

Do you do podcasts or any other media outlets?

I don't personally have a podcast that I produce, but I have been fortunate enough to appear on several podcasts including: Bros Talking Soccer, LADS (Loud Americans Discussing Soccer), Two Foot Talk, and Top Class Finish

If not, might you?

At some point I would love to start my own podcast, but I don't have any plans in place at this time

Is this the first incarnation of your Tottenham site?

I have changed the appearance of my site a few times since its inception but have kept the format relatively similar throughout

What blogging platform or content management tool do you use?

I use BlueHost as far as the web hosting aspect of the site. The blogging platform I currently use is WordPress. I have been very satisfied with both.

Your site looks better than mine. I shake my fist at you. (I know this isn't a question, but you may still respond. Or not. You've seen my shenanigans.)

(Enters the shenanigans) I'll see your shaking fist and take a bow for that humble praise... Seriously though it took much trial and error to get it to look the way it is, and honestly there are some days that I want to change the appearance completely (that's probably the perfectionist in me)

What is your background in soccer in general?

I've been playing the beautiful game since I was six years old. At my highest point I was the backup goalkeeper and Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. Unfortunately I only made one appearance for the first team in my lone season there. Funny story about that game: I actually dislocated my pinky finger in warmups but since I hadn't played all year I decided I wouldn't tell the coach and play anyways (It didn't matter as we won rather easily 3-0, I don't think I had to make but a couple of stops)

After graduating from Auburn University I actually coached one year of High School Soccer at Opelika High School (Opelika, AL). We only won 5 games, but apparently that was 4 more than they won the season before.

I enjoy watching Tottenham, Celtic, and the U.S. Men's National Team play. I've actually seen the USMNT play 3 times in person and got to watch Spurs play Manchester City in Nashville, TN a few years ago (actually got to meet the entire Spurs team the day before at training, pretty cool stuff) I am the one in the white jersey, the other guy just crashed my photo with Harry Kane.



What podcasts or other soccer media things do you enjoy?

I can honestly say that all the podcasts I've appeared on I really enjoy to listen to and try to catch them every week. Though you are still hung up on the whole Henry Percer thing I do find your blog both entertaining and refreshing, a nice break from all the transfer gossip etc in the English papers. Two additional pods I really enjoy (both are Tottenham podcasts based in London) are (1) The Fighting Cock and (2) The Extra Inch

Why is the club named for an historical traitor?

So, from the research I've done (which isn't much, mind you) what I can concur is that it has more to do with the speed of attack that Henry Percy's forces attacked with as well as his willingness to bravely rush into the thickest part of battle, with spurs on. It didn't hurt that he had his family owned a significant amount of land in Tottenham as well.

Fun fact though, Sol Campbell is often referred to as a traitor by Spurs supporters. Prior to Campbell's contract expiring Campbell promised Spurs supporters he would stay. Instead of staying Sol instead

joined Spurs arch-enemy Arsenal (he could've avoided the situation entirely by either signing a new deal or going to Barcelona or Inter Milan)

What all teams and other facets of the Tottenham organization/culture/life do you cover on your site? So just like the name of the site Tottenham Hotspur World, I aim to cover the entire World of Spurs. The Tottenham teams I cover on my site include the Mens: U18, U23. UEFA Youth League, and of course the First Team, I also cover the Spurs Ladies (who are currently at the top of the table in the FA Women's Championship). In addition to all the teams I have started interviewing Spurs supporters from all over the World for my [Spurs Supporters Spotlight](#) series. Finally, for the new Spurs (or soccer/football) fans I've been working on a [Premier League Terminology](#) Series. The series is in alphabetical order, beginning with terms starting with the letter "A" and it will conclude with "Z." I've been able to incorporate several of the excellent videos courtesy of The Soccer Tavern in those articles.

How often do you post, in and out of season?

I post on average 2-3 times per week in and out of season. During the summer it might be more focused on transfers, spotlighting young players, and covering Spurs players participating in competitions with their national teams.

You've offered to take part in this interview. In the context of knowing Noob is anti-Spurs, why? Personally, I really like your sense of humor and site, so it was a no-brainer... besides what better way to change your mind than answering your questions (The More You Know...)

So you hope to convert Noob to being a Spurs fan?

Slowly but surely... I'll settle for Noob not being anti-Spurs for now, but before you know it... You too will be a [One Hotspur Member](#) (but who knows?)

You seem to "get" Noobstradamus. I'm not sure much anyone else does. How is this possible? So, while I haven't spent time in a Turkish prison or appeared in a LEGO movie like Noobstradamus, I still feel like I "get" him. He adds another element to your blog that you honestly can't get anywhere else, I mean who doesn't like an ancient prognosticator... especially one who claims that Josh Onomah has some goals in him. Secretly, I think you don't want to admit this, and it will be tough to take...but maybe Noobstradamus is a Spurs supporter (or maybe not, he's a tough one to get a read on?)

What is COY?

I think you mean COYS? COYS means Come On You Spurs and basically is our rallying cry.

Is there other jargon Noob or actual potential Spurs fans should know?

There are several things, but most importantly WE DON'T WEAR RED (the color of arch rivals Arsenal) and you can't root for the other London clubs, they are our sworn enemies. As far as other things to know about Spurs, [this article from Cartilage Free Captain](#) gives a good rundown over everything.

What is your favorite thing about Spurs culture, supporters?

Tough question, so difficult to only pick one. I will say, one thing I really love is that when I am watching Spurs play an away match on TV and hear the supporters chanting..it just gives me chills. The supporters really are some of the best in the world, I've had so many conversations with fellow Spurs fans on Twitter from all over the world, and we may all come from different places/walks of

life/beliefs, etc. but if we ever have any differences we can put them all aside for Tottenham. A good example is Moussa Sissoko, for the first season or so he has been with Tottenham he was underwhelming to say the least, and the supporters were all over him (sad to say but I was guilty of giving the Frenchman a tough time too). However, over the past few games he looks like a new man and has been one of our more reliable players, so much so that the fans were chanting his name after we defeated London rivals Crystal Palace recently...what a difference a few good performances makes.

Where does Tottenham fall in overall level of Premier League, general success, compared to other teams?

Spurs are definitely a successful club, one of the "Top 6" (along with Manchester City, Liverpool, Chelsea, Arsenal, and Manchester United). While much of the talk around Spurs at the moment centers around needing to win something, Spurs have historically been a rather successful club, and you can find a list of their accomplishments [here](#).

Remaining based in their current home, would Spurs win both the MLS Supporters Shield and MLS Cup running away? Would they lose a match?

Very creative question...the MLS is growing as a league and becoming more competitive every year. However, I think if Spurs were playing solely in the MLS (and didn't have to worry about the Champions League, FA Cup, etc.) they would likely win both the Supporters Shield and MLS Cup (though I could probably say the same for the other "Top 6" Premier League Clubs. It's hard to go undefeated in any league so I'll defer to Noobstradamus on that one.

Who should I know from Spurs? Feel free to Tottenham-for-Dummies me in any way related to this question.

From the current team I would say Harry Kane, Dele Alli, and Christian Eriksen are three of the most recognizable Tottenham players. Kane is obviously one of the best strikers on the planet, and Christian Eriksen is the Spurs player who can unlock even the most difficult of opposition. Dele Alli is full of flicks and tricks (he never passes up a chance to nutmeg someone, whether it's during a match or even in practice against his own teammates) and the runs he makes off the ball are not only underrated, but help free up his teammates.

There are several Spurs players throughout history that definitely should be mentioned. Jimmy Greaves leads not only Tottenham in goals scored (266), but is also the highest goal scorer in the top flight in England (357), he played at Spurs from 1961-1970.

Before Jurgen Klinsmann was the coach of Germany and later the USMNT, he was a cult hero at Tottenham. Though he only spent one season at Spurs (1994-1995) he was loved by supporters selling over 150,000 shirts and scoring 30 goals that year.

Who are Spurs chief rivals?

The fellow London Clubs: Arsenal, Chelsea, West Ham, Crystal Palace

Should Noob do a podcast? (I think you could, or should. Such good content, so specific and yet accessible.) Would you argue with me about Spurs on a podcast, yours or mine?

Stupid question...Noob should definitely do a podcast, I think it would be wildly entertaining and I imagine you can count Dave Knittel and myself down as people that would definitely tune in. I would gladly argue, discuss, "banter" Spurs or anything else on either your pod or mine.

Can we be best friends?

Hmmm...You are going to have start to come around on Tottenham and get over the whole traitor thing first

Do you have a theme song?

I do not, but that's a good idea, maybe if things really take off we go "Mo Money Mo Problems" by Notorious B.I.G.

What suggestions do you have for Noob?

(This can relate to the league and tournament-focused angle towards new fans, or Noobstradamus, sandwich reviews, the Quest for Number B, the possibility of a "stolen mail bag" feature where I answer questions people asked someone else about soccer or whatever, Isle of Sodor Premier League coverage. I promise not hijacking the interview and switching the focus away from your site. Have faith :))

So the content on your site is really good, I have no complaints on that, but I do have some suggestions that could help improve your site:

1. I don't see anywhere someone can subscribe to your site (you know, where they can get notifications via email every time you make a post). I think if you add that it will generate more traffic, but also give people who aren't on Twitter a heads up whenever you post something.
2. This is just my personal preference (so do with it what you will) but I am a big fan of having a menu at the top of the page (in addition to the menu in the right column), to me it just makes it a little easier to navigate websites?
3. I like the stolen mail bag idea, and maybe take it one step further: I think it would be funny/cool/intriguing to let people ask Noobstradamus questions (could announce it on Twitter, then maybe once a week let Noobstradamus "write" an article)
4. The Sandwich reviews could be cool too. You already do a great job previewing matches from all over the planet, why not do a once weekly sandwich review of certain matches? Could start with the worst (bologna sandwich) and work your way up to the best (prime rib) and have anything in between (grilled cheese, sloppy joe, hardees thickburger, etc. etc.)
5. You could think about putting a comment section under each article as well?

Anyways, those are just my thoughts, you can obviously take them or leave them but the site is really good.