



# How Thailand Changed My “Sporting Life”

*Becoming an international fan*

**Target Audience:** Individuals and couples in North America interested in living overseas.

**Article Length:** 1,500 - 2,000 words

**Synopsis:** This article has two main themes. First, I’ll reveal how Americans can remain engaged with their favorite US sports leagues and continue to support their teams even if they live halfway around the world.

The main focus of the story is how my sports appreciation and fandom has expanded to embrace some international sports most Americans have never considered and some they have never heard of. I’m spotlighting yet another advantage of a diverse expat community as well as another way to connect to your host country.

**Tuesday morning football** - AKA, “Monday Night Football” is an American tradition that is honored in a different way in Asia. Instead of hot wings and beer at the bar, we do Bloody Marys and breakfast at the beach. A photo of my personal “go to” spot to watch football is sure to be included.

I’ll briefly tell you how to find places to watch all the major American sports. (A good Bangkok New Year’s Day story is included)

**Discovering New Passions** - An unexpected advantage of living in a diverse expat community is discovering the national pastimes and passions of other countries.

- I learned the history and rules of Rugby from an English neighbor and took a trip to Hong Kong to attend the “Rugby Sevens”. A sports memory I’ll never forget.
- Another neighbor introduced me to Australian Rules Football and now I’m a rabid Collingwood Magpies fan. A trip there is in my future.
- Cricket isn’t nearly as boring as you think. I’ll tell you how I learned about it on a visa run to Malaysia

**Women’s sporting events? Me?** - Since moving to Thailand I’ve attended LPGA events, gone to the sports bar specifically to watch the Thailand’s women’s volleyball team beat the Chinese, and celebrated Thailand’s Olympic Tae Kwon Do champion. I’ll explain how that happened and why its important.

**Sports I never expected** - Since moving to Thailand, I’ve attended polo matches held in East Pattaya, learned how to properly play badminton in Chiang Mai, and won money at Muay Thai fights in Bangkok.