



Eloy,

If we had to compare our program's current state I would unashamedly say Southampton. There is no shame in admitting it, but it's true; both teams have hit rock bottom this season with Miami having its least amount of wins in team history, and Southampton on track to have the least amount of points in EPL history.

Just because we are at rock bottom now, doesn't mean we are done yet. It means we are in the first step of our comeback story; something both the University of Miami and Southampton have done many times in their teams' history.

Let's take a deeper look into how those parallels reflect the history of both teams and their current outlooks.

Starting with Southampton: they've always been a staple of English football, not always a powerhouse but always a respectable team with a rich history and tradition.

This team has always shown flashes of what they can be, but has never put together a long string of successful runs. Their FA cup win in 1976 is their single title victory, the sole piece of hardware that fans can cling onto and believe that this team has the potential to hang with the best. Since that trophy, they've produced world class talent such as Gareth Bale, Virgil van Dijk, and Sadio Mané. They've reached the Europa League and reached the FA cup finals once again, but never kept these talents long enough to make several sustained runs at the peak of English and European football.

Over the last few years Southampton has been the definition of a "yo-yo club", promoted, relegated, then promoted again; never staying in the top flight long enough to generate consistent top-half finishes.

This is their story: potential, promise, and success... just never all at once.

As for Miami, in the 2020's all the way to the 2030's the Hurricanes were a very successful program winning the ACC, making three Final Four appearances, and winning it all in 2039.

But just as quickly it started to collapse. Starting in 2041 Miami went 3–28, 4–27, 2–33, and for three decades this was the new normal: terrible seasons accompanied by flashes, but the cycle was relentless. The recruiting trail dried up, there was constant coaching turnover, and

postseason dreams became distant memories.

Over the years Miami has teased a return to form with sporadic NT berths and contention in the ACC. But just like Southampton making it back to the Premier League only to be relegated, Miami would surge, then sink.

Then came the 2060's and 2070's where it seems like The U of old was revived with Miami clawing its way back into relevancy. Winning seasons returned, NT appearances resumed, and we even won another ACC championship. With a couple Sweet Sixteen runs and a Final Four berth, fans thought that the U might finally be back.

But now, we've come full circle.

Another stretch of seasons with 6, 4, 8, and most recently 1 measly win has us searching for our identity once again. Just like Southampton, we know what it feels like to reach the top just to fall, to live in cycles of hope and heartbreak.

But also like Southampton, our fans are still fighting. Still believing. Still loyal.

Nowadays for Southampton and Miami, there are only a couple bright spots on their rosters. For Miami it's Dan Webb who is a great sharpshooter and has a great basketball IQ. For Southampton it's their young tandem of Southampton's striker Cameron Archer, and midfielder Mateus Fernandes.

There are several parallels we can draw from Webb and yourself and the two young sparks for this Southampton team looking towards the future.

Dan Webb at this point in his career is someone who embodies a level of experience and leadership which is unprecedented for someone heading into their junior year of college. Webb embodies leadership, resilience, and is an overall gritty player. Webb gives his all offensively and defensively whether he is pressing the defense, setting screens, and showing off his intangibles to draw good switches on offense and make smart plays on defense.

In contrast, Cameron Archer is still young at age 23, but has shown glimpses of his potential to become a dynamic forward. Archer is a natural athlete and is still in the stages of refining his game. His raw speed and his unrelenting effort when pressing are great, which makes him a significant threat on the counter attack. Although his drive hasn't resulted in the goals he would like to see, his work ethic is second to none and as he gains more experience there is no doubt he will be an influential forward for this team. With his continued development Archer could unlock this team's offense with the potential to lead them in goals and create opportunities for his teammates on the attack.

Webb and Archer are close parallels for both teams, with their gritty, hard-working playstyles reflecting their resilience. Their contributions have been key in anchoring their respective teams' rebuilding efforts.

As for yourself, I can see you slotting into a type of role that Mateus Fernandes plays for Southampton.

When comparing the two of you, Fernandes is just 20 years old and has much to prove but is similar to you in a sense as he is a smart passer always looking to make a play. In addition Fernandes' deep volleys and through balls setting up counter attacks are akin to your three point shooting ability and court vision leading to outlet passes.

You bring order to chaos; exactly the kind of leader Miami needs. Your mentality on the court mirrors a midfielder like Fernandes; who is composed with impressive vision, but still has room to grow in decision-making, passing ability, and consistency in his play.

While you would inject stability into Miami's system, Fernandes is still finding his feet. But both of you share a crucial trait: your ability to connect the team by understanding the flow of the game and facilitating opportunities for your teammates.

Rooting for Miami and Southampton means being part of something real: a comeback rooted in belief and passion. Here at Miami, you could be our version of Gareth Bale: a dynamic playmaker and scorer who sparks a return to greatness.

Eloy, come to Miami and you won't just witness a revival, you'll help lead it.

As a Southampton fan, you will embrace determination and loyalty.

At Miami, you could be the spark that brings The U back.

Two comebacks. One legacy. Come be part of both.