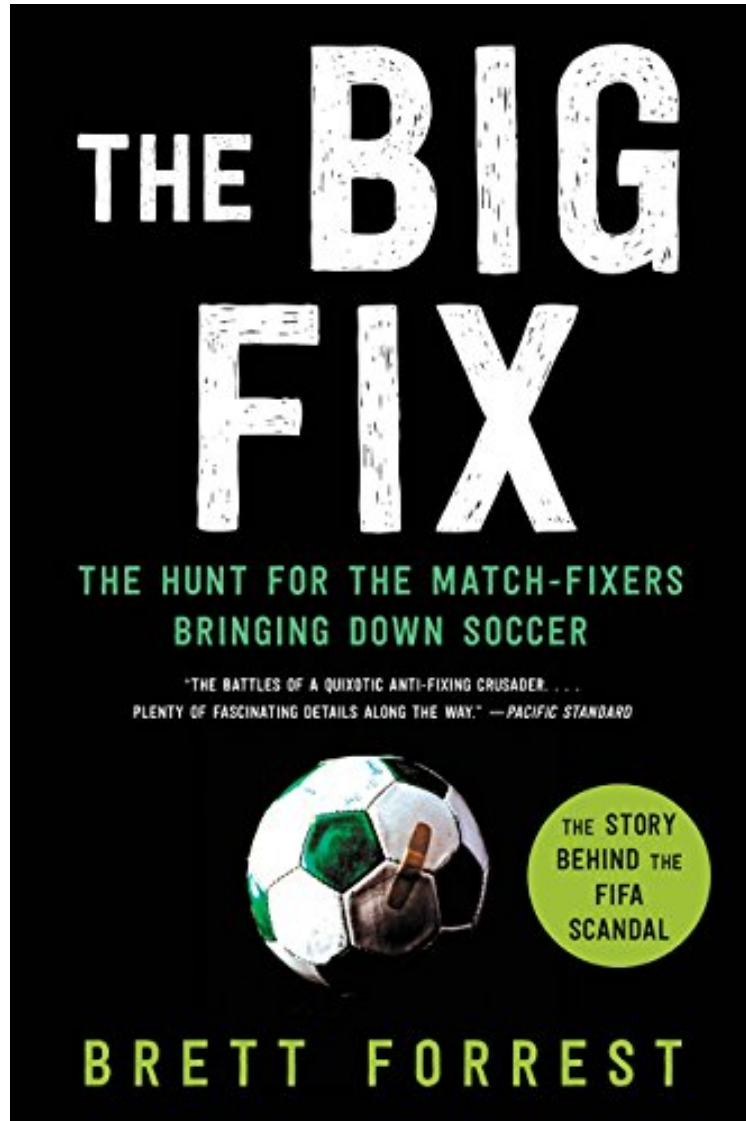


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The Big Fix: The Hunt for the Match-Fixers Bringing Down Soccer

Brett Forrest

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Brett Forrest : The Big Fix: The Hunt for the Match-Fixers Bringing Down Soccer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Big Fix: The Hunt for the Match-Fixers Bringing Down Soccer:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Inconclusive, disappointing ... but maybe that was the point.By Miller.I found myself at Square Two after wading through the book's 280 pages. There should probably be at least another two squares, maybe a half dozen more to reach the end of the journey if, in fact, there is one. One of the book's characters, the real "good guy," alludes to what may be the author's conclusion: that the problem will always be with

us, that there is no end to match-fixing. If the whole idea may be to write a sequel which wraps up the criminal activity associated with the world's most popular sport, I will await other reviewers commentary before I buy it. I was expecting a lot more from this book. If you don't already have a good handle on betting, odds-making and gambling terminology in general, this book is likely to leave you wondering what you just read and whether it was worth the time it took to read it. Unfortunately, I fit both categories since I've never been a gambler or associated with any. If you already know a lot about basket weaving, I suggest you spend the hours you might have spent with this book reading more about basket weaving.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating cat-and-mouse tale of fixers and hunters features excellent third thread about Sportradar, Betradar software

By Andy Orrock This excellent piece of investigatory journalism from ESPN The Magazine's Senior Writer Brett Forrest takes us inside the shocking world of international football (i.e., soccer) match-fixing. There are two main threads of the story: that of the main chaser, Chris Eaton, one-time Melbourne cop turned Interpol sleuth; and that of the most notorious of the fixers, Wilson Raj Perumal, Singapore's "Kelong King." Though Forrest came to the story by way of Eaton (who, post-Interpol, did a stint with FIFA as its chief security officer and now sets up office at the Qatar-based International Centre for Sport Security), what's notable about the book is his access to Perumal, whom Forrest tracks down in Hungary. In his Acknowledgements, Forrest notes that "Perumal earns my gratefulness for his courteous recollections."

Beyond the cat-and-mouse aspects of the book, Forrest's work is notable for its descriptions of how the spectre of match-fixing permeated the game's highest levels. It's a perfect storm of the ascendancy of Chinese wealth (a country of serious gamblers), the rise of Internet bookmaking sites (creating market-making and transborder cash flow) and strapped international federations hungry for cash.

My favorite passages of the book weren't directly related to either Eaton or Perumal. They involved Carsten Koerl, founder of Bet to Win, later renamed to Bwin, one of the foremost Internet bookers (and coincidentally a prominent sponsor of many top-flight clubs). Koerl went on to found Sportradar (and later Betradar), whose speciality is in spotting games whose betting action -- as compared to expectations -- made them outliers and possible fraud cases.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read, great investigation

By aForrest goes deep on this one, from the Middle East to Singapore, SA to Europe to Australia, to get a story that is less about soccer and more about the realities of the trillion-dollar business of sports betting. He gets right in the crux of the Triads sitting atop Asian based gambling, who operate more or less freely between the cracks of national jurisdictions. This is the story that will, sooner or later, be the driver that either changes FIFA or brings it down. Very impressed by Forrest's ability not only to get the story (and get out), but to create such a readable book based on a sport that I could care less about researching.

Game of Shadows meets Among the Thugs in this revelatory true-to-life crime thriller and expose involving greed, corruption, an Asian crime syndicate, and the fixing of international soccer matches at the highest levels of the game, including the UEFA Champions League and the World Cup.

In February 2013, the director of Europol, the European Union's law enforcement agency, made the shocking announcement that 700 international soccer matches had been fixed since 2008, including World Cup qualifying and exhibition matches, with a Chinese criminal syndicate pulling the strings. For the first time, investigative journalist Brett Forrest takes us inside the underworld of one of organized crime's most profitable businesses a \$1 trillion annual international betting market, of which soccer comprises 70 percent. Forrest uncovered a web of nefarious dealings across the world, even on U.S. soil. As he found, no match is safe not even the World Cup tournament and law enforcement officials lack the resources to stop it. But one man has taken this criminal enterprise on: Chris Eaton, former head of security for FIFA. Now with the International Center for Sports Security in Qatar, this rough and tumble Australian and longtime Interpol cop has tracked down some of the biggest fixers and their financial backers and continues his mission to clean up the world's most popular sport. Filled with headline making revelations, *The Big Fix* is must reading for soccer fans and true crime aficionados.

From the Back Cover Can the most beloved sport in the world beat the corruption that threatens to tear it apart? Known as the "beautiful game," soccer is the world's most popular sport, crossing borders and language barriers to entertain billions. But underneath it all is a scandal that threatens to make soccer the ugliest sport in the world. An underworld of international gambling rings, corrupt players and officials, and shadowy figures preys on the far-flung edges of the game, making match-fixing in soccer one of organized crime's most profitable businesses. In *The Big Fix*, journalist Brett Forrest pulls back the curtain, exposing a web of nefarious dealings across the world, even on U.S. soil. One man has taken on this criminal enterprise: Chris Eaton, a hardheaded Australian, longtime Interpol director, and the former head of security for FIFA. Forrest follows Eaton's journey from local beat cop to FIFA's security chief for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, where Eaton first grasped the extent of match-fixing and the threat it posed to the game. Eaton made it his mission to track down the elusive perpetrators: fixers who crisscross borders, targeting players and clubs on behalf of international criminal syndicates. *The Big Fix* takes us inside Chris Eaton's hunt for the world's boldest fixers and their backers and the fight to save the beautiful game.

About the Author Brett Forrest is a senior writer for ESPN The Magazine and has written for Vanity Fair, National Geographic, The Atlantic, and the New York Times

Magazine. He has lived in Russia, Ukraine, and Brazil.