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*To Mum, for teaching “never give up”  
even when my team was losing 8-0.*



*Note about Language*

*Introduction The Birds of Prey* 1

**PART I ASIA: THE STORM CLOUDS**

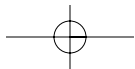
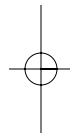
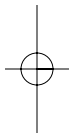
	P	11
1	C L	13
2	H D ? D ?	24
3	E B	34
4	M B B	45
5	K	54
6	M , R	65
7	C B L	75

**PART II EUROPE: A NORMAL WAY OF BUSINESS**

	P	89
8	A L	91
9	G A	101
10	F N F ?	115
11	H F G	134
12	M B	151
13	G F	172
14	N P G O	179

**PART III THE WORLD CUP**

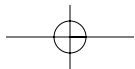
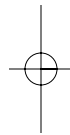
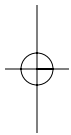
	P	193
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## NOTE ABOUT LANGUAGE

Examples of the use of the word "E" in the text are given in the following table. The examples are taken from the text and are arranged in the order in which they appear. The examples are arranged in the order in which they appear in the text. The examples are arranged in the order in which they appear in the text.



*This story is about the battle between good and evil that is at the heart of international soccer.*

*Emmanuel Am B ~~000~~nal02, Wj)0)0 Cup-wnal0nnaln02(n)0hT @000r*

this story, the authorities sentenced him to thirty-three years in jail, but no one, not the

detectives listened to thousands of hours of covertly recorded telephone conversations. They placed dozens of people under surveillance and worked around the clock to try to uncover the true extent of the fixing network. After more than a year of this work, at exactly 6:24 a.m., on a cold November morning in 2009, hundreds of policemen across Europe moved in and arrested dozens of suspects. Over the next few days, they announced the preliminary findings of their work: two hundred suspicious matches across nine countries, and one hundred different players, referees, coaches, league officials, and gangsters were suspected of being involved. Over the ensuing weeks, the number of suspicious games and players involved climbed. It was a new type of globalized corruption that stretched across countries and continents: a fixer living in Germany, allegedly controlling players living in Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States.

ST/1528209/2005, there is a sheet of paper with the Belgian fixer's phone number and the name of a well-known fixed match written on it. I want to stress that this is not a well-ordered criminal conspiracy. They do not have a strict hierarchy and clear structure. There is no Capo or boss of bosses ordering the rest of them around. It is simply a group of criminals and alleged criminals doing what they do: sometimes colluding, sometimes competing with each other, but always looking for the next chance to profit by fixing a soccer game.

Here is a second headline, and this strangely has not yet motivated a major police investigation: a similar gang of fixers has been operating at every single major international soccer tournament for at least the last twenty years. As you will read in this book, their record has been confirmed by dozens of different players, coaches, and senior sporting officials. These fixers have been present at the Under-17 World Cup, the Under-20 World Cup, the Olympic soccer tournament, the Women's World Cup, and the Men's World Cups. I believe they have successfully fixed matches at a very high level of international soccer.

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When *The Fix* was first published in September 2008, there was a big push-back against my findings. Much of that push-back was innocent. Many fans simply did not want to know bad news. It is like a patient hearing from a doctor that they have cancer. It is easier, in some cases, to deny reality than to admit what is actually going on. Now that the European police investigation is confirming much of what is written in this book, some fans are proceeding from denial to resignation, without going through combat. They are saying things like, "Well, it is only the small games in small leagues from small countries that are involved." This is the attitude of the deliberately blind. It also avoids the question, What happens in five years? Star players do not emerge fully grown from the ground. Many players on big teams in the big leagues come from the very teams and leagues that have now been shown to be corrupt.

Strangely the attitude of deliberate ignorance does not stop with ordinary soccer fans; the push-back goes all the way to many top-level soccer officials. This is why I wrote earlier of the two greatest scandals in the sports world today. The first scandal is that gangs of criminals have been so successful at destroying so many soccer leagues and tournaments. The second scandal is that many sports officials, in charge of running those tournaments, have known of the presence of these fixers and chosen to take very little effective action against them. I am not saying that all games in all leagues should be suspected, nor am I saying that all sports officials are corrupt or have chosen to be complicit with corruption. The world of international sports organizations is a house with many rooms: most people in most of those rooms are hard-working, honest, decent people. However, many officials simply do not want to know what is really going on.

This may seem extraordinary to a reader. Surely, everyone connected would want to stop corruption? However, some of the very top officials, the ones in charge of leading the organizations have some very odd backgrounds. There is, for example, Grigori







## *INTRODUCTION*

Havelange, then head of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). He had been named in 1998 by a Brazilian district attorney for his connections with “the country’s most notorious capo,” one Castor de Andrade, the head of an illegal gambling network estimated at \$2.5 billion. A man who also had, according to Brazilian law enforcement, connections with top Colombian drug gangs. Near to him sat Vyacheslav Koloskov, then president of the Russian Football Union, an organization plagued by the problem of mafiya contract killings. Juan José Bellini, the president of the Colombian Football Federation, was not there. He could not make it that afternoon: one of the players on the Colombian team had been gunned down soon after returning from the World Cup. A year later, Bellini would be convicted of “illegal enrichment” and money laundering for the Cali cartel. FIFA is the world organization that runs soccer. All of these men were either members of FIFA or were guests at the biggest showcase of soccer in the world.

I met Anzor Kikalishvili in a Georgian restaurant in Moscow in the winter of 1998. He told me the story of how he had enjoyed watching the 1998 World Cup Final and how he loved sports, particularly soccer. I was there as an associate producer on a television documentary for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation 5 1354) TjET BT 101

and stopping three feet from the restaurant door. A very large, muscular guard in a designer suit stood in front of the door. Two more men were in the tiny hallway. I know this because when I got up to go outside and check on our driver, they would not let me leave without

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who knew the essential structure of the story, but even he was dazzled by the thought of meeting, albeit indirectly, a top player. It made me realize the power and ability of sports players to airbrush the i

up at the start of new seasons ready to enjoy my half-hour of soccer heaven. So I do not have racks of medals or trophies. But I do have good memories and great friends given to me by the beautiful game. It is for those memories and loves that I decided to use my investigative skills to give back something to the game that has given me so much.

It is easier to write a book with the weight of a large institution behind you than as a freelance writer. So I enrolled as a doctoral student at the University of Oxford. It was a place I had dreamed of going for most of my life. It is glorious: full of interesting history, superb buildings, and great resources. My first year there was, probably, the happiest of my life. However, it was not a complete dream, and I have a great dislike of those books about Oxford whose authors describe it all as glamour, glory, and glittering prizes. There are plenty of little people in the big buildings ther

mind and an athlete's past. He has done a range of interesting work, from exploring class and education in the U.K. to designing political surveys in current-day Iraq. He guided me

teams in Europe were bought up by people so corrupt that you would hesitate to have your wife, son, or wallet



In my journey I did find real heroes: people who have attempted to clean up the world's "beautiful game." They have, for the most part, been marginalized, stamped on, or silenced. Their stories are littered throughout this book: failed jour



# ASIA

THE STORM CLOUDS

*PART I*

