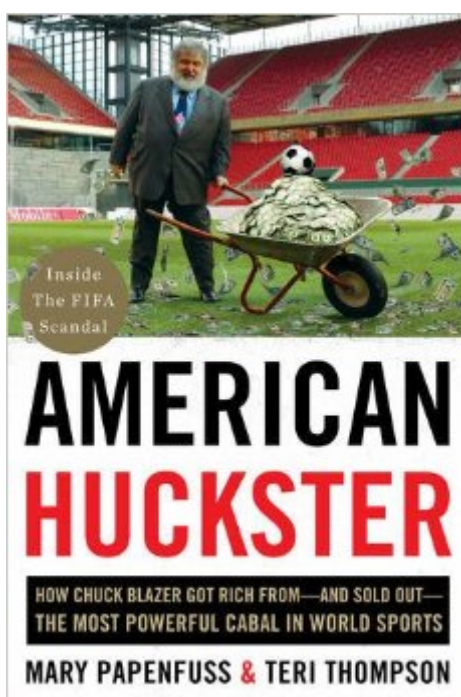


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American Huckster: How Chuck Blazer Got Rich From—and Sold Out—the Most Powerful Cabal In World Sports



Synopsis

The first inside account of the international soccer scandal that rocked the world and the American at its center—the incredible story of how a stay-at-home New York soccer dad illegally made millions off the world’s most powerful and corrupt sports organization and became an unlikely FBI whistleblower. He was the middle-class Jewish kid from Queens who rose from local youth soccer leagues to the heights of FIFA, becoming a larger-than-life, jet-setting buccaneer—and the most notorious FBI informant in sports history. For years, Chuck Blazer skimmed over \$20 million from FIFA, stashing his money in offshore accounts and real estate holdings that included a luxury apartment in Trump Tower, a South Beach condo, and a hideaway in the Bahamas. Instantly recognizable with his unruly mass of salt-and-pepper hair and matching beard—and a rotating crop of arm candy—Blazer was one of the most flamboyant figures in the glitzy social and political circles of international soccer. Over the course of thirty years, Blazer leveraged his friendships with the likes of Vladimir Putin, Hillary Clinton and Nelson Mandela, to increase his influence with the mandarins of global soccer—most notably Sepp Blatter, FIFA’s long-time godfather. Once Blatter tapped Blazer to be the first American in almost fifty years to sit on FIFA’s executive committee, the erstwhile accountant steadily accumulated money and power—until 2013 when the FBI and IRS nabbed Blazer and charged him with fraud, money laundering, and tax evasion. In exchange for immunity, Blazer agreed to let the Feds install a microphone in his keychain to entrap his larcenous band of brothers—leading to the shocking arrest and indictment of eighteen FIFA officials for racketeering and bribery. In this taut and suspenseful tale of white-collar crime and betrayal at the highest levels of international business, investigative reporters Mary Popenfuss and Teri Thompson draw on sources in U.S. law enforcement as well as in Blazer’s inner circle to tell the surreal tale of this astonishing character and the scandal that rocked the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From the moment I received this book, I could not put this book down! Teri and Mary have a great writing style bringing this incredible story to life. I can't wait for the movie! An Academy Award winning role but we know it's all true! Congratulations to the writers, publishers for bringing us the facts in a very entertaining style! Everyone needs to read this book!!!!

The levels of greed exhibited by everyone connected with FIFA were sickening: no accountability whatsoever. My feelings about Chuck Blazer are mixed. He was an avaricious abuser (of people and of funds), but he had a hint of conscience to realize that what he and his cronies were doing was wrong and he helped the Justice Department.

Reads like a thriller novel. You can't make this stuff up. The authors are world class sports investigative writers. Teri Thompson, fmr Exec Sports Editor of the NY Daily News, has spent her lifetime exposing corrupt multi-billion dollar sports business both in news print and her last 2 books (American Icon: The Fall of Roger Clemens and the Rise of Steroids in America's Pastime; The Card, how sports memorabilia business is corrupt). The authors exposed deep levels of corruption through some incredible investigative work and significant inside sources. If you're a Football (Soccer for the US) fan, and you care about the integrity of the 'Beautiful Game' this book will make your blood boil that the game can be bought and sold like some illicit commodity. Perfect example of that is how Qatar 'won' the 2022 World Cup. Qatar, a small Gulf country that get's over 120 degrees in the Summer with barely any infrastructure or professional soccer history, and that has allegedly enslaved thousands of migrant workers to build their stadiums, beat out defeating bids by the United States, Australia, Japan and South Korea. It's been practically accepted fact that tens of millions in bribes were paid to FIFA executive committee...Total corruption. Definitely a great book for any Soccer or sports fan.

This is an excellent account of the corruption in FIFA and its regions. Tens of million of dollars siphoned off, and tens of millions in bribes extracted for broadcast rights by the unscupulous Jack Warner, Chuck Blazer and many of the other officials of FIFA and its regional operations. Despite the

corruption going on for years these individuals were untouchable until they made the mistake of moving some of their ill gotten gains through the US banking system giving the USA jurisdiction over their criminal activity.

A great page turner from two wonderful writer/reporters, Mary Papenfuss and Teri Thompson. Even if you don't follow soccer, you'll enjoy this true-crime story from inside the FIFA scandal. Chuck Blazer is an amazing character, and his corrupt rags-to-riches story is entertaining. American Huckster will surely be a fantastic movie sooner rather than later.

Anyone interested in the organizational dysfunction of FIFA should read this. Blatter and Havelange clearly misunderstood the American market and how a PT Barnum character made his way in.

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