

HOW IT WORKS

This 33 year old player regrets what he did but acknowledged that he was thrilled at the time with all the money he was making in a short period of time. He also claimed that he saw a large number of players accept bribes and only a very small percentage of those approached refused to throw matches.

Players posed problems at the start but then they began agreeing when bribes were made before the matches. Out of 60 only two said no. It matters who you can corrupt as if you have the goalkeeper on your side then you have a big advantage and it's also much easier if you can buy an attacker or a defender. He still has doubts about games he watches today as he is observing from a different perspective.

He describes the methods employed by match-fixing gangs. It was like courting with the gang, he went out for a drink or dinner with them and they would make him understand clearly what he had to do.

The gang would bet on specific Asian markets in order to avoid suspicious betting patterns and would only bet in-play on live games. The first time they put in €100000 to throw the game. As a gang they were organised and they would change his phone's sim card every 20 or 30 days but they would contact him on Skype. The player feels guilty for allowing himself to be corrupted. His motivation was money as he was earning €10,000 to €15,000 every month.

He played for one season without being paid his salary, but insists that it was not an excuse. The fixers also gave him a personal "agreement" fee of €75000. He could not sleep well because of all the adrenaline rushing through his system. He says that he is not a hypocrite and is now sorry for what he did, he simply did it because it allowed him to bring home a lot of money in a short time.

In the end he felt like scum because he had to deceive his teammates as he was playing against his own side. He has vivid memories of a game where he spoke to one of the opposing players about arranging the result of the match. Before the match as they walked around the match his opponent asked him if everything was okay and he immediately understood what he meant. We had to lose that match by two goals. He says that the opponents couldn't score although being the better team. Then his team conceded a penalty and his own goalkeeper told him to tell the taker to shoot down the middle. He duly informed the penalty taker. Still the opponents couldn't score the important second goal. He then gave away a penalty with a tackle that he would have never made, and then strongly argued with the referee so that his teammates and coach would not understand what had happened.

He says that it was normal to end up playing a part. ft