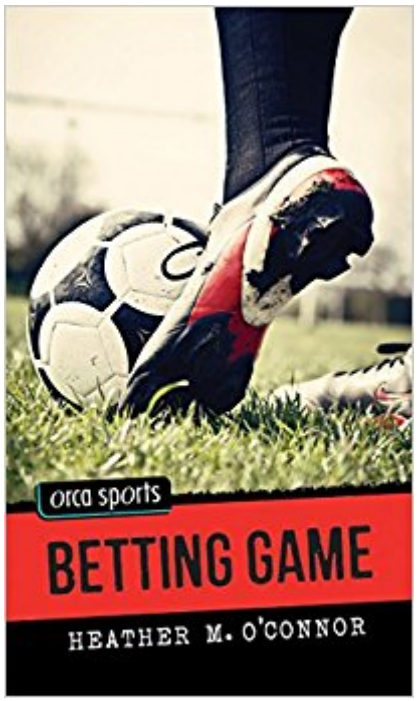
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Betting Game (Orca Sports)



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Synopsis

JackÃ¢ ¬â„¢s a star player on an elite soccer team along with his brother, Alex. The Lancers are on top of the league, even favored to win the National Championship. But the gameÃ¢ ¬â„¢s about to change. A slick bookie wins JackÃ¢ ¬â„¢s friendship and introduces him to illegal betting. Before long, Jack is hooked on the adrenaline rush, and early wins convince him that gambling could make him rich. Meanwhile, an ever-widening rift is forming between the two brothers. Suddenly, JackÃ¢ ¬â„¢s Ã¢ ¬Å“systemÃ¢ ¬Â• fails and his luck runs out. How could a few losses pile up to a gut-kicking ten grand? When he canÃ¢ ¬â„¢t pay, the bookie gives Jack one way outÃ¢ ¬â •throw the National Championship. But can he betray his brother, his team and himself?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"OÃ¢ ¬â„¢Connor will keep the gameÃ¢ ¬â„¢s fans close with plenty of in-the-know soccer patter, but she will also draw other readers with the story of JackÃ¢ ¬â„¢s slow absorption into a gambling...Hard-hitting...and as memorable as a prison tour for young men who think crime is a sport and a joke." (Kirkus Reviews 2015-08-15)"The fast-paced writing has enough soccer action to keep reluctant readers turning the pages, and the gambling intrigue, along with a side plot involving a new player on JackÃ¢ ¬â„¢s team, adds to the increasing conflict...The tone, dialogue, and emotional stakes ring true. A solid pick for hi-lo sports fiction." (Booklist 2015-09-01)"Tight and

authentic sports action combined with engaging characters make this title great for sports fans as well as readers who enjoy action and drama." (School Library Journal 2015-10-01)"A very compelling story with interesting characters that kept this reader wanting to read more. 'Connor deals with topics that would be well worth discussing with almost any teen: the value of team-work; honesty; and ethics. I will certainly include Betting Game in our curriculum resource collection and would recommend it for other school libraries as well. Highly Recommended." (CM Magazine 2015-09-18)"A fast paced, entertaining read that will really appeal to all soccer players, both boys and girls, especially those struggling to sustain a reading habit. This book canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t be put down. The soccer scenes are action packed. The boysÃ¢â ¬â„¢ references to world renowned soccer players will engage readers while the emotional pressure to get along on a team will resonate with all athletes." (Resource Links 2015-10-01)

Jack is playing a high-stakes game.

In this, her debut Young Adult Novel, Heather OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Connor sets a high standard for herself.Jack and his brother, Alex, both play for and elite soccer academy with an eye to being moved to the pros one day. Both are excellent players, but Jack has an unusual edge in that he can plan out the entire game, play for play, in his head. This makes him great at fantasy soccer where he almost never loses. JackÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s part time job with the academyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s pro team and has taught him a lot about the various players and their abilities ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ another plus when playing fantasy soccer.When his dad introduces Jack to Luka, a rich young man with a keen interest in soccer, Jack is flattered to be asked about his job. He is more than willing to tell Luka all about the players, their injuries, recoveries and potential in each game.Then a new player with an attitude joins his team, leaving Jack miffed and angry and creating a rift between him and his brother. LukaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s interest in him becomes even more valuable. One thing leads to another and before long Jack is immersed in a world he never knew existed.The reader, too, becomes immersed in this world.I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know much about soccer and as such was wondering what some of the terminology meant but this did not detract too much from my enjoyment of the story. Perhaps a glossary describing some of the soccer terms may have helped.OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Connor has obviously done her homework in researching soccer and the seedier side of the game. The characters come across as quite believable and I must accept the premise that after all that research, her description of the game, both the good and the bad, are accurate. The story moves at a good pace and the action is ongoing enticing the reader ever

onward to the next page.This story would appeal to all soccer players and fans as well as to those interested in a good, quick read.

"Good move Jack Attack." Good move Heather M. O' Connor! Jack is a star player for the Lancers. He knows soccer. O'Connor knows her sport. The author doubles her money on a story line about illegal betting. O'Connor's Debut Novel , Betting Games brings the frightening reality of dangerous games played for high stakes. I'm banking on the system! The spread looks good! The energy is high! O'Connor just scored! She's hit the jackpot! And Betting Game is no 'Gamble!'

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