

# A Study of Literature Review for the Dark Side of the Sports

Wen-Bin, Lin, and Cheng-Tien Chuang

**Abstract**—Events reflecting the dark side of the sports field continue to occur, including drug abuse, doping, violence, corruption and so on; they have become a major challenge and concern within sports. In this study, we presented the literature review offered the following results: 1. Match-fixing, corruption and gambling scandals are becoming increasingly serious in sports and are affecting the entire sports industry and its development. 2. Bribery and corruption in sports has become an important economic issue. 3. Studies on the influence of corruption and match-fixing on sports has shown that these negative scandals are prone to occur in sports with lower compensation. 4. Most of the relevant studies explored and discussed match-fixing, corruption and gambling scandals in sports through literature analysis, interviews, and qualitative research; the amount of quantitative research is relatively inadequate. Quantitative research tools include logistic regression, Cox regression, and the Fibonacci sequence. 5. Studies on match-fixing, corruption and gambling in sports were based on issues of rarity (negative issues), professionalism, and practicality. The dark side of the sports field is expanding, and in the wake of this great challenge, many strategies and methods have been proposed for use at different sports events or under different circumstances. This studies contributed to academic research and practical applications, and the topics explored are worthy of continuous exploration and development in future research.

**Keywords**—match-fixing, corruption, gambling, scandals

## I. INTRODUCTION

THE dark side of the sports field has grown since the 21st century. This dark side includes the four primary issues of drug abuse, doping, violence, and corruption, which are important challenges identified by academic research that is confronting the practical management of sports (Petroczi, 2009). Bag, and Saha (2011) noted that incidents related to match-fixing and gambling always make headline news. Almost all sports tainted by the dark side of sports are sensitive to its inherent negative influence. For example, Wolfers (2006) surveyed approximately 500 round-1 NCAA basketball games in 1989-2005, and the results showed that nearly 1% of the games had gambling-related bribery and corruption scandals. Duggan, and Levitt (2002) discussed Sumo wrestling in Japan and found the same situation.

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There are an even greater number of match-fixing scandals in other sports such as professional baseball, professional football, professional car racing, and even the Olympic Games. Many researchers (Duggan, & Levitt, 2002; Preston, & Szymanski, 2003; Winter, & Kukuk, 2008; Wolfers, 2006) explored related issues and found that the activities within the dark side of sports, such as bribery and corruption, are always connected with gambling or betting, so eradicating the dark side has become an important issue.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The dark side of the sports field is expanding, and in the wake of this great challenge, many strategies and methods have been proposed for use at different sports events or under different circumstances. For example, Archontakis, and Osborne (2007) studied the 2002 World Cup football games and proposed that the games between teams assigned to the same group should be conducted simultaneously in different locations to prevent the continuous unfolding of match-fixing scandals. Barros (2006) explored the issues around the financial crisis of the Portuguese Football Federation and advocated for an initial focus on referees to prevent their malpractice, which helps to reduce the incidence of match-fixing and related corruption. Probert, and Leberman (2009) conducted in-depth interviews with 23 bodybuilders from New Zealand to learn how they managed the crises and risks of the dark side of the sports, such as diet and weight loss in the bodybuilding process, thereby achieving self-affirmation in personal growth and healing and creating positive value.

Events reflecting the dark side of the sports field continue to occur, including drug abuse, doping, violence, corruption and so on; they have become a major challenge and concern within sports. Duggan, and Levitt (2002) discussed the influence of corruption and gambling scandals on Sumo wrestling in Japan and found that bribery and corruption are becoming increasingly serious in sports; they have affected the entire sports industry and become an important economic issue. Wolfers (2006) surveyed approximately 500 round-1 NCAA basketball games in 1989- 2005, and the results showed that nearly 1% of the games had gambling-related bribery and corruption scandals. Barros (2006) explored the issues around the financial crisis of the Portuguese Football Federation and advocated for an initial focus on referees to prevent scandals such as referee misjudgement and to help reduce the incidence of match-fixing and related corruption. Archontakis, and Osborne (2007) mentioned that over the past two decades, football gambling has grown rapidly in Europe. It is widely

known that the sports gambling market can be analysed as a financial market. Most of the previous studies focused on two aspects of this market: one is the gambling rate and the other is the betting strategy. Therefore, studies have used the Fibonacci sequence to analyse the data from the 2002 World Cup Football Games and the ensuing work explores how gambling strategies create economic benefits. Petroczi (2009) explored the continuous spread and growth of the dark side of the sports field and focused on four primary issues: drug abuse, doping, violence and corruption. All of these are serious issues addressed by academic research and confronting sports management; they are also the most important challenges and issues facing the team managers. Probert, and Leberman (2009) conducted in-depth interviews with 23 bodybuilders from New Zealand to learn about how they managed the crises and risks of the dark side of the sports, such as diet and weight loss in the bodybuilding process, thereby achieving self-affirmation in personal growth and healing and creating positive value. From the perspective of competitive balance, Pawlowski, Breuer, and Hovemann (2010) explored the performance of participating football teams from England, Spain, Italy, Germany and France in the games of the 1999-2000 Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and the Champions League (AL). Their results also highlighted match-fixing and betting-related scandals, further underling that gambling prevention has become an important issue. There are frequent match-fixing scandals in sports worldwide, including the NCAA, sumo wrestling, professional baseball, professional football, professional car racing, and even the Olympic games. Match-fixing and gambling-related corruption always makes headline news. Almost all sports tainted with the dark side of sports will eventually feel its inherent negative influence (Bag, and Saha, 2011). Please submit your manuscript electronically for review as e-mail attachments. When you submit your initial full paper version, prepare it in two-column format, including figures and tables.

### III. CONCLUSION

The literature review offered the following results. 1. Match-fixing, corruption and gambling scandals are becoming increasingly serious in sports and are affecting the entire sports industry and its development. 2. Bribery and corruption in sports has become an important economic issue (Paul, & Weinbach, 2011). 3. Studies on the influence of corruption and match-fixing on sports has shown that these negative scandals are prone to occur in sports with lower compensation (Forrest, & Simmons, 2003; Preston, & Szymanski, 2003). 4. Most of the relevant studies explored and discussed match-fixing, corruption and gambling scandals in sports through literature analysis, interviews, and qualitative research; the amount of quantitative research is relatively inadequate. Quantitative research tools include logistic regression, Cox regression, and the Fibonacci sequence (Archontakis, and Osborne, 2007). 5. Studies on match-fixing, corruption and gambling in sports were based on issues of rarity (negative issues), professionalism, and practicality. These studies used various quantitative research methods to obtain exact results and analysis and subsequently proposed professional

recommendations and solutions. These studies contributed to academic research and practical applications, and the topics explored are worthy of continuous exploration and development in future research.

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