



# The Ugly Game: How Football Lost Its Magic and What It Could Learn from the NFL

*Martin Calladine*

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**The Ugly Game: How Football Lost Its Magic and What It Could Learn from the NFL** Martin Calladine

**A passionate, funny book of essays comparing soccer, often unfavorably, with American football**

At its best, European football is a glorious, uplifting, unifying sport. But it hasn't been at its best for some time. Disillusioned by corruption scandals, billionaire club owners, and an ever-smaller group of title challengers, Martin Calladine drifted away from the game that had defined 25 years of his life. He found solace in an unexpected place: American football. Despite the glitz and the endless ad breaks, the NFL has a curiously Corinthian purity: preventing teams buying success by sharing TV money equally, having a strict salary cap, and, with the draft, letting the worst teams get the pick of the best new players. *The Ugly Game* is a funny, angry book of essays for fans of European football setting out where the game has gone wrong and showing that, perhaps surprisingly, the NFL has many of the answers.



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