

Footballer unhurt after gunfight during mugging

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via Glenn Harper on flickr.com

A Premier League footballer has had a lucky escape thanks to the heroic efforts of an off-duty police officer in Brazil. Brazilian fullback Emerson Royal, 23, was on holiday in the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo. He was outside a nightclub taking photos

with the police officer. He was suddenly accosted by the thief, who was armed with a handgun. The would-be assailant demanded Mr Royal's watch and other belongings. Fortunately for Royal, the police officer sprang into action and chased the thief down the street. The two became involved in a 29-shot gunfight. The footballer escaped unharmed, but was shaken by the attempted robbery. The police officer was shot in the back, but is now recovering in hospital.

Mr Royal, a defender for the London club Tottenham Hotspur, said he would be eternally grateful for the officer's heroics. He wrote: "God sends angels to Earth. This is confirmed every day in my life. This human being...risked his own life to save mine." Royal's father described the event as a "horror scene". He said he would not wish such a thing on anyone. He added: "I don't remember well. It all happened in a flash and the adrenaline was running." High profile footballers have become a target for criminals in recent years. The website "Insider" reported there have been more than 20 assaults on and robberies of soccer stars and their families across Europe's top leagues since 2019.

Sources: bbc.com / marca.com / insider.com

Writing

Police officers are among the biggest heroes in the world today. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Premier League / lucky / escape / off-duty / nightclub / thief / belongings / footballer / London / grateful / Earth / risk / horror scene / adrenaline / high profile / robberies

True / False

- 1) An off-duty police officer protected a footballer from a man with a gun. T / F
- 2) The police officer helped the footballer inside his home in Brazil. T / F
- 3) The police officer and thief had a 29-shot gunfight. T / F
- 4) The police officer escaped unharmed. T / F
- 5) The footballer described the police officer as being an angel. T / F
- 6) The footballer's father said he clearly remembers the whole attack. T / F
- 7) The father said everything happened so slowly. T / F
- 8) Around 20 top-league footballers are attacked every year. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. off-duty | a. endangered |
| 2. accosted | b. attacker |
| 3. assailant | c. forever |
| 4. thief | d. confronted |
| 5. recovering | e. fair game |
| 6. eternally | f. very quickly |
| 7. risked | g. recuperating |
| 8. in a flash | h. attacks |
| 9. target | i. not working |
| 10. assaults | j. robber |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of soccer?
- b) What do you know about the Premier League?
- c) How dangerous is your city at night?
- d) What would you do if you were assaulted?
- e) What do you think of the police?
- f) What do you think of the police officer in this story?
- g) Should the police officer get an award?
- h) How can we stop muggings?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. had a lucky | a. to save mine |
| 2. thanks to the heroic efforts | b. be assailant |
| 3. He was suddenly accosted | c. leagues |
| 4. The would- | d. into action |
| 5. the police officer sprang | e. by the thief |
| 6. he would be eternally | f. in a flash |
| 7. risked his own life | g. of an off-duty police officer |
| 8. It all happened | h. was running |
| 9. the adrenaline | i. grateful |
| 10. Europe's top | j. escape |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you like to be a police officer?
- What are the good and bad things about being a police officer?
- Have you ever been eternally grateful to anyone?
- What do you think people are taught during police training?
- Why are soccer players becoming targets of criminals?
- Should soccer players get more security?
- What questions would you like to ask the footballer?

Spelling

- thanks to the heroic frsefot
- suddenly tecdoca by the thief
- The would-be stalsaain
- became vdinvloe in a 29-shot gunfight
- The footballer psacdee unharmed
- shaken by the attempted erbbryo
- he would be nyereltla grateful
- the officer's ireshco
- This is iofmdcren every day
- the anndearlie was running
- High orlfipe footballers
- more than 20 tssslaau

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. d	3. b	4. j	5. g
6. c	7. a	8. f	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Mugging

You think mugging is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): shoplifting, pickpocketing or vandalism.

Role B – Shoplifting

You think shoplifting is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): mugging, pickpocketing or vandalism.

Role C – Pickpocketing

You think pickpocketing is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): shoplifting, mugging or vandalism.

Role D – Vandalism

You think vandalism is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): shoplifting, pickpocketing or mugging.

Speaking – Crimes

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| • Mugging | • Petty theft |
| • Shoplifting | • Vandalism |
| • Pickpocketing | • Speeding |
| • Trespassing | • Disorderly conduct |

Answers – True False

1	T	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	F	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.