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# The Underdogs Mike Lupica

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Triple Threat  
Henry Holt and  
Company (BYR)  
A timely and  
heartfelt follow-up  
to #1 New York

Times bestseller  
Heat, about a  
young baseball  
prodigy and his  
immigrant family  
living in today's  
America. Twelve-  
year-old star Little  
League pitcher  
Nick Garcia has a  
dream. Several in  
fact. He dreams

he'll win this  
season's MVP and  
the chance to  
throw out the first  
pitch at Yankee  
Stadium. He  
dreams he'll meet  
his hero, Yankee's  
pitcher Michael  
Arroyo. He  
dreams they'll find  
a cure for Lupus so

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<p>he sister won't have everything. Praise to suffer. But mostly, he dreams one day his family can stop living in fear of the government. For one kid, it's almost too much to bear. Luckily, Nick has his two best friends Ben and Diego to keep him balanced. But when Nick notices a mysterious man lurking on his street corner, he senses a threat. Suddenly, his worst fears are realized, and just when it seems there's no one they can trust, an unexpected hero emerges and changes</p>	<p>for Strike Zone: *"Lupica skillfully addresses the timely and complicated topic of living as the child of undocumented immigrants and the uncertainty facing many American families.... This exceptional baseball novel delivers both lively sports action and critical subject matter." --Kirkus Reviews (starred review) --"Lupica's action sequences are thrilling and fast-paced....[a] solid purchase where Mike Lupica and the</p>	<p>Yankees are popular." --School Library Journal --"As he did in Heat, Lupica skillfully juggles the baseball drama with the larger social issues that swirl around it, vividly putting a human face on the immigration crisis." --Booklist --"Strike Zone brings the game of baseball to life, but moreover, it addresses immigration, a current issue in U.S. culture and politics. Teens will choose to read Strike Zone as a "sports book" but will root for Nick both on and off the</p>
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field. The Garcia family's desire to become legal U.S. citizens is well woven into this fast-paced story."

--VOYA

*Travel Team*

Penguin

New York

Hawks co-

owner Jack

Molloy takes

a break

abroad after his

notorious

brothers

sell their

half of the

team to a

fractious

businessman,

who quickly

alienates

everyone

affiliated

with the

team.

Reprint.

Defending Champ

The Underdogs

Get to know

Walton ' s star

athletes in this

action-packed

boxed set of the

New York Times

bestselling Home

Team series from

sports-writing

legend Mike

Lupica. Best friends

Jack, Teddy, Gus,

and Cassie may be

star athletes on the

field, but they ' re

still trying to figure

out who they are

off it. Despite their

love of different

sports, they must

find in themselves

the same courage

and passion to

become not only

the best players they

can be, but the best

people, too. This

collectible boxed

set includes: The

Only Game The

Extra Yard Point

Guard Team

Players

Team Players

Penguin

Can a young

baseball star

maintain his love

of the game after

the loss of his

brother? Find out

in this start to the

Home Team

series about a

small town with

high hopes, from

New York Times

bestselling author

and sportswriting

legend Mike

Lupica. Jack

Callahan is the

star of his

baseball team and

seventh grade is

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<p>supposed to be his year. Undefeated season. Records shattered. Little League World Series. The works. That is, until he up and quits. Jack ' s best friend Gus can ' t understand how Jack could leave a game that means more to them than anything else. But Jack is done. It ' s a year of change. Jack ' s brother has passed away, and though his family and friends and the whole town of Walton thinks baseball is just the thing he needs to move on, Jack feels it ' s anything but. In comes Cassie Bennett, star softball player, and the only person who</p>	<p>seems to think Jack shouldn ' t play if he doesn ' t want to. As Jack and Cassie ' s friendship deepens, their circle expands to include Teddy, a guy who ' s been bullied because of his weight. Time spent with these new friends unlocks something within Jack, and with their help and the support of his family and his old friends, Jack discovers sometimes it ' s more than just the love of the game that keeps us moving forward—and he might just be able to find his way back to The Only Game, after all.</p> <p><b>Fantasy League</b> Penguin</p>	<p>The #1 Bestseller!</p> <p>Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-yearold brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and</p>
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anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources. Perfect for any Little Leaguer with dreams of making it big--as well as for fans of Mike Lupica's other New York Times bestsellers *Travel Team*, *The Big Field*, *The Underdogs*, *Million-Dollar Throw*, and *The Game*

*Changers* series, this cheer-worthy baseball story shows that when the game knocks you down, champions stand tall. **The Home Team Collection** Penguin In this follow up to *Triple Threat*, New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica takes us to the soccer field in another empowering story about dismantling sexism in sports. Fresh off her football victory as QB, Alex Carlisle is on cloud nine. But with football season ending, Alex is ready to get back on the field in the spring. Ideally she'd like to play soccer again, but as she's about to sign up for tryouts, she hears

word around the school that they're planning to cut athletic funding. and girls soccer might be first to go. Now, Alex knows playing soccer is about more than just healthy competition. It's about fighting for their right to play. Why should the girls team be first to get cut? It's an injustice that seems to follow Alex through her middle school athletic career, and it needs to stop. The soccer girls get together and hatch a plan. A battle of the sexes. The girls team versus the boys team. Whoever wins gets to play in the spring. But Alex soon realizes that's not the right approach. Everyone deserves to play. So instead,

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she hatches a new plan--charging tickets to the game to raise money for the school's athletic program so that no one is left on the sidelines.

### Long Shot

HarperCollins

Starting the basketball season after their football championship, Ben McBain and his crew are challenged by newcomer Chase Braggs, whose point guard abilities outstrip Ben's and who attracts Lily's attention while Ben is busy practicing.

**The Big Field**  
Penguin

"Teddy has been training all summer with his new friends Jack and Gus to make the new travel football team in Walton, but when his long-absent dad comes back to town and into his life he is faced with a much bigger challenge."--

*Miracle on 49th Street* Simon and Schuster  
#1 New York Times bestseller  
Mike Lupica continues his tribute to the underdog in his new series for young middle-grade readers. Grab the attention of reluctant male readers with

these action-packed sports titles that are sure to keep them cheering for mo  
**Comeback Kids**

Penguin

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Heat*, *Travel Team* and *Million-Dollar Throw*.

Playing shortstop is a way of life for Hutch—not only is his hero, Derek Jeter, a shortstop, but so was his father, a former local legend turned pro. Which is why having to play second base feels like demotion to second team. Yet that's where Hutch ends up after Darryl "D-

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Will" Williams, the best shortstop prospect since A-Rod, joins the team. But Hutch is nothing if not a team player, and he's cool with playing in D-Will's shadow—until, that is, the two shortstops in Hutch's life betray him in a way he never could have imagined. With the league championship on the line, just how far is Hutch willing to bend to be a good teammate? Bump and Run Scholastic Press After inheriting half of the New York Hawks, Las Vegas player Jack Molloy is

thrust head-first into the wild world of professional football, contending with steroids, corruption, sportswriters, tough coaches, and gambling. Reprint.

*Hero* Penguin  
The UnderdogsPenguin  
**QB 1** Penguin  
From New York Times bestselling author Mike Lupica, comes a timely story about a young girl who joins the boys football team. With Mike's signature fast-paced, heartfelt writing, he expertly explores

gender inequality in football with nonstop sports action. When twelve-year-old Alex makes up her mind to join her middle school's football team, she doesn't expect it to be easy. But she also never anticipated she'd be met with scorn and derision from her exclusively male teammates. Football has always been a source of happiness for Alex. She and her single father never miss a Steelers game on TV, and Alex knows she has a talent for throwing the perfect spiral. But the guys suck the

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joy right out of the game for Alex--going out of their way to trip her up during tryouts, and teaming up against her just to watch her fail. Suddenly, Alex is the lowest she's ever felt. But if getting QB is worth it to her, she's going to have to fight for it.

*The Underdogs*  
Penguin

When Sasha Silver and her horse, Charm, arrive on the campus of the elite Canterwood Crest Academy, Sasha knows that she's in trouble. She's not exactly welcomed with open arms. One group of girls in particular is used to

being the best, the brightest, and the prettiest on the team, and when Sasha shows her skills in the arena, the girls' claws come out. Sasha is determined to prove that she belongs at Canterwood. Will she rise to the occasion and make the advanced riding team by the end of her first semester? Or will the pressure send Sasha packing?

### **The Only Game** Spotlight

Fourteen-year-old Billy learns he has the same special abilities as his father, who was the President's globe-trotting troubleshooter until "the Bads" killed him, and

now Billy must decide whether to use his powers in the same way at the risk of his own life.

*Fast Break*

Scholastic Inc.

A New York Times bestseller From acclaimed author of the Home Team series Mike Lupica comes an inspiring novel about the heart and soul of baseball. On or off the field, Ben and Matt couldn't be more different. Ben Roberson is an all-or-nothing player: he's big, he's bold, and he's brash. Ben's swing can hit a ball right out of the park—but that's if he can get a hit at all. Matt Baker is small, and shy, and his stutter has him avoiding



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the spotlight—even if better? For Matt to he's the best all-rounder on the team. But while Matt knows he's got the chops, a part of him has always envied "Big Ben" and his attention-grabbing charm. So it's a total shock when Ben asks Matt to help him work on his swing. Because Ben can't put the ball into play, and his showboating comes at the expense of the team. And even though Matt's trying to help, Ben doesn't seem to take him seriously, especially when it means toning things down. The end of the season is fast approaching—is there enough time for Ben to realize bigger isn't always

understand that sometimes, being the bigger person means standing up for yourself? Or will they have to accept defeat?

Penguin  
Cassie must learn that you can't "fix" someone else after a girl with Aspergers joins her softball team in the fourth and final book of the Home Team series from New York Times bestselling author and sports-writing legend Mike Lupica. Cassie Bennett is great at being in charge. She always knows what to do to lead her teams to victory, keep her many groups

of friends together, or fix any problem that comes her way. So when Sarah Milligan, an autistic girl with unreal softball skills, joins Cassie's team, Cassie's sure she can help her fit in with the team. But before long it's obvious that being around so many people is really hard for Sarah, and the more Cassie tries to reach out and involve her, the more Sarah pushes her away, sometimes literally. It doesn't help that Cassie's teammates aren't as interested in helping Sarah as they are in making

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sure they make it	softball games?	close against him,
to the new softball	<u>Strike Zone</u>	he turns to fallen-
All-Star	Berkley	from-grace city
Tournament that'll	"Real-life news	newsman Ben
be televised just	reports of out-of-	Mitchell for help.
like the Little	control hazing by	And the two will
League World	high school sports	discover just how
Series. Soon no	teams give	far a town will go
one besides	Lupica's tale a rip	to get a state
Cassie seems to	ped-from-the-	championship.
even want Sarah	headlines	"Brisk writing and
on the team	thrill."—Publishers	bristling with
anymore, and the	Weekly South	suspense. Too Far
harder Cassie	Shore High	is too smart to
tries to bring	School's	figure out. (You
everyone together,	nationally	won't.) It's
the worse things	recognized	terrific."—Patricia
seem to get.	basketball team is	Cornwell
Cassie Bennett	in the midst of a	"Surprising, dark...
never backs down	winning season	stunning...filled
from a challenge,	when its team	with twisting plot,
but can she	manager is	crackling dialogue
realize that maybe	murdered—and	and unforgettable
the challenge isn't	aspiring	characters."—*Harl
fixing a problem in	sportswriter,	an Coben "It's
someone else, but	senior Sam Perry,	simple, you can
in herself? Or will	begins to hear	write or you can't.
her stubbornness	stories of hazing	Lupica can. And
lead her to lose	that went over the	Too Far proves it
more than just	line. As the ranks	again."—Robert B.

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Parker <u>Two-minute Drill</u> Berkley From #1 New York Times bestselling author of TRAVEL TEAM, HEAT, and MILL ION-DOLLAR THROW comes a cheer-worthy, family-friendly football novel set amid the Friday Night Lights world of Texas high school football Jake Cullen is a freshman quarterback playing high school football in Texas, the high- pressure land of Friday Night Lights. He is	also the brother of Wyatt Cullen, who quarterbacked his team to the Texas State Championship last season--not to mention the son of former NFL quarterback and local legend, Troy Cullen. To be a Cullen in Texas is to be football royalty . . . which leaves 14-year-old Jake in a Texas-sized shadow. Being a good teammate comes naturally to Jake; being a winner and a celebrity does not. Jake may be a Cullen, and he may play	quarterback, but he is not his brother or his father. He's just like every other kid: fighting for every ounce of respect, awkward around a pretty girl, in awe of his famous family, and desperate to simultaneously blend in and cast his own shadow. Inspired by the real-life Manning family of quarterbacks and set amid the football-crazy culture of Texas, QB 1 is a coming- of-age story perfect for the fan of MILLION- DOLLAR
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THROW and  
HEAT.

### **Red Zone**

Simon and  
Schuster

“Look, Mick,” he said, “you’re going to find out from somebody in the gym, so you might as well find out from me. Those supplements you’re taking? They might get you a little bigger, but just a little. If you’re after serious results, there’s other stuff that produces better results much faster, stuff that a lot of guys in the gym use.”

“What other

stuff?” “You know what I’m talking about—gym candy.”

Runningback Mick Johnson has dreams: dreams of cutting back, finding the hole, breaking into the open, and running free with nothing but green grass ahead. He has dreams of winning and of being the best. But football is a cruel sport. It requires power, grace, speed, quickness, and knowledge of the game. It takes luck, too. One crazy bounce

can turn a likely victory into sudden defeat. What elite athlete wouldn’t look for an edge? A way to make him bigger, stronger, faster? This novel explores the dark corners of the heart of a young football player as he struggles for success under the always glaring—and often unforgiving—stadium lights.