

## The Underdogs Mike Lupica

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*QB 1* HarperCollins

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.

**Heat** Penguin

The #1 Bestseller! Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court -- but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured. For fans of *The Bad News Bears*, *Hoosiers*, *The Mighty Ducks*, and Mike Lupica's other New York Times bestselling novels *Heat*, *The Underdogs*, and *Million-Dollar Throw*, here is a book that proves that when the game knocks you down, champions stand tall.

Penguin

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 Only Game** Berkley

#1 New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica makes his return to the basketball court! There's a reason teammates call him "True." Because for basketball phenom Drew Robinson, there is nothing more true than his talent on the court. It's the kind that comes along once in a generation and is loaded with perks--and with problems. Before long, True buys in to his own hype, much to the chagrin of his mother, who wants to keep her boy's head grounded--and suddenly trouble has a way of finding him. That is, until a washed-up former playground legend steps back onto the court and takes True under his wing.

**Hot Hand** Penguin

The daughter of a respected horse healer, 14 year-old Amy has a powerful connection with horses. With her mother's help, she is

developing her skills as a horse whisperer while tending to the animals at Heartland, a refuge for horses that have been emotionally or physically traumatized. But when her mother is killed in a tragic trailer accident, Amy realizes she will never see her world the same way again.

**Strike Zone** Penguin

From the #1 bestselling author of *Heat*, *Travel Team* and *Fantasy League* comes a story of heroes, family, the thrills of skateboarding, and football. When the Brighton Bears suit up on game day, 12-year-old Tommy Gallagher is the toughest kid on the football field. And the bravest. After all, his father Patrick is a Boston firefighter--one of Boston's bravest. Tommy's dad taught him everything he knows about football--and life. Yet even Tommy isn't strong enough for what happens when the sirens ring and, for the first time, they're racing away from the fire. "First man in; last man out" had always been his dad's motto . . . yet he never said anything about leaving in an ambulance. What kind of risk had his dad taken? Now Tommy's biggest battle has nothing to do with football. And the kid who always had such respect for risk on the gridiron finds himself drawn to it off the field. Set in New England, home of the Patriots' football dynasty, Mike Lupica shows off his trademark knack for spinning a tale that's equal parts sports action and heart. *Last Man Out* is a thoughtful tribute to the bravery of firefighters and the need we all have to live up to the level of our heroes. Praise for *Last Man Out* "[S]hort, action-packed chapters . . . will keep even the most reluctant readers motivated to keep reading. As is characteristic of Lupica's books, the sports segments, most particularly the football portions, are exceptionally well written."--VOYA "Lupica stirs equal quantities of grief and gridiron action into his latest outing. Lupica effectively puts readers into the center of the action . . . [I]n the best tradition of sports writing, this will leave readers both breathless and thoughtful."--Booklist  
*Fantasy League* Penguin

An uplifting story about role models, football, and tackling fear set in the heart of Friday Night Lights country—from the bestselling author of Heat, Travel Team, and Fantasy League. Clay is a quarterback's dream. When he zips across the field, arms outstretched, waiting for the ball to sail into his hands, there's no denying him the catch. Like most Texans, Clay is never more at home than when playing football. And his coach, a former star player for the Dallas Cowboys, is just like a second father. But as the football season kicks off, Clay begins to notice some odd behavior from his coach—lapses in his memory and strange mood swings. The conclusion is painful, but obvious: Coach Cooper is showing side effects of the many concussions he sustained during his playing days. As Clay's season wears on, it becomes clear that the real victory will be to help his coach walk onto that famous star logo in the middle of Cowboys Field one last time—during a Thanksgiving day ceremony honoring him and his former Super Bowl-winning teammates. In Lone Stars, #1 New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica demonstrates once again that there is no children's sports novelist today who can match his ability to weave a story of vivid sports action and heartfelt emotion. A touching story that proves life is bigger than a game. Praise for Lone Stars "Lupica has crafted another fine sports story for the middle school reader."—VOYA "Young readers, no matter their level of interest in the game, will be drawn in by this touching, timely story."—Booklist "There is plenty of great football action to keep the sports enthusiasts engaged, and the information about concussive injury is easily understood and applied. This is an entertaining read that also imparts an important message."—School Library Connection

#### Lone Stars Macmillan

New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica tackles football! Will Tyler may not be the biggest running back around, but no one can touch him when it comes to hitting the hole and finding the end zone. And no one can match his love of the game. When Will has a football in his hand, life can't touch him—his dad isn't so defeated, his town isn't so poor, and everyone has something to cheer for. All of which does him no good if the football season is canceled. With no funding for things like uniforms and a well-maintained playing field, with every other family moving to find jobs, there just isn't enough money or players for a season. It's up to Will to rally the town and give everyone a reason to believe . . .

#### The Extra Yard Penguin

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 the spotlight—even if 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 better? For Matt to understand that sometimes, being the bigger person means standing up for yourself? Or will they have to accept defeat?

#### Gym Candy Penguin

It's summer and the three Barker brothers—Simon, Henry, and Jack—just moved from Illinois to Arizona. Their parents have warned them repeatedly not to explore Superstition Mountain, which is near their home. But when their cat Josie goes missing, they see no other choice. There's something unusually creepy about the mountain and after the boys find three human skulls, they grow determined to uncover the mystery. Have people really gone missing over the years, and could there be someone or some thing lurking in the woods? Together with their new neighbor Delilah, the Barker boys are dead-set on cracking the case even if it means putting themselves in harm's way. Here's the first book in an action-packed mystery series by a New York Times bestselling author. Missing on Superstition Mountain is a Publishers Weekly Best Children's Fiction title for 2011.

#### Iron House Penguin

"Real-life news reports of out-of-control hazing by high school sports teams give Lupica's tale a ripped-from-the-headlines thrill."—Publishers Weekly South Shore High School's nationally recognized basketball team is in the midst of a winning season when its team manager is murdered—and aspiring sportswriter, senior Sam Perry, begins to hear stories of hazing that went over the line. As the ranks close against him, he turns to fallen-from-grace city newsman Ben Mitchell for help. And the two will discover just how far a town will go to get a state championship. "Brisk writing and bristling with suspense. Too Far is too smart to figure out. (You won't.) It's terrific."—Patricia Cornwell "Surprising, dark...stunning...filled with twisting plot, crackling dialogue and unforgettable characters."—\*Harlan Coben "It's simple, you can write or you can't. Lupica can. And Too Far proves it again."—Robert B. Parker

#### Coming Home Penguin

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

### **Defending Champ** Penguin

"When a young basketball star decides to research his grandfather--and coach--for a school project, he uncovers a decades-old scandal that changes everything he thought he knew about his grandfather"--

### *Too Far* Penguin

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.

### **Take the Reins** National Geographic Books

In the tradition of *About a Boy* comes a feel good sports and holiday novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Mike Lupica. Josh Cameron has it all: a World Championship ring with the Boston Celtics, an MVP award, a clean-cut image, and the adoration of millions. What he doesn't have is family. Until the day 12-year-old smartaleck Molly Parker confronts him in a parking lot and claims to be his daughter--the only daughter of Jen Parker, Josh's college sweetheart and the still the only girl he's ever loved. Trouble is, Jen Parker died last year, and now Molly has tracked down the father she never knew, the one her mother never wanted her to know about. Josh Cameron cares about two things only: himself, and basketball. The last thing this superstar wants or needs is a 12-year-old daughter. Yet this isn't just any 12-year-old. Mr. World Champion has finally met his match. "[T]his novel is . . . an enjoyable read with interesting peeks into the world of professional basketball. It will appeal to young teen sports enthusiasts as well as kids just looking for a good story." -VOYA "Lupica delivers a winning novel, creating a realistic character in Molly. Young readers will also enjoy the look inside Josh's pampered sports-superstar world." -Booklist "Lupica is an extraordinarily smooth writer with a great ear for witty repartee." -Publisher's Weekly

### Missing on Superstition Mountain Penguin

The #1 Bestseller! 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 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.

### **Long Shot** 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

### The Underdogs Penguin

Small but fast twelve-year-old Will Tyler, an avid football player in the down-and-out town of Forbes, Pennsylvania, takes matters into his own hands to try and finance the city's football team, giving the whole community hope in the process.

### *The Big Field* The Underdogs

Pedro, an avid basketball player, decides to run for class president, challenging a teammate who is also one of the most popular boys in school.

### The Underdogs Penguin

From #1 New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica! It's simple. All Billy Raynor wants to do is shoot. After all, he is one of the best shooters in the league. But with his dad as his coach, and his parents newly separated, somehow everything's become complicated. His brother Ben hardly talks anymore. His mom is always traveling on business. And his dad is always on his case about not being a team player. But when Ben's piano recital falls on the same day as the championship game, it's Billy who teaches his dad the meaning of being a team player.