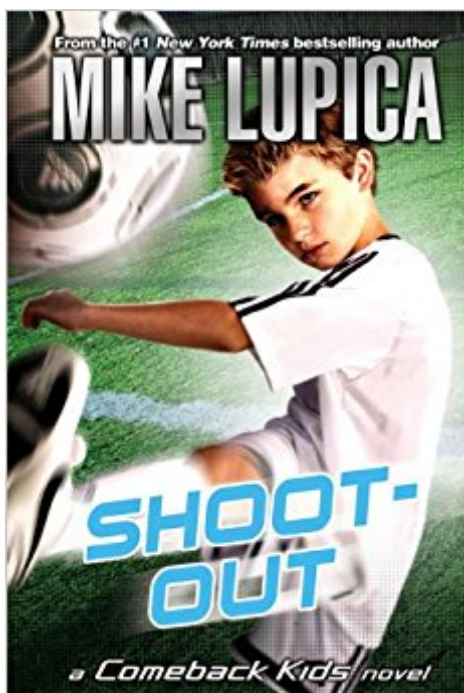


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# Shoot-Out: Mike Lupica's Comeback Kids



## Synopsis

What happens when a star player ends up on the worst team? He either learns to lose or he stops playing the game he loves. These are the choices facing Jake, who has gone from champion to last place, testing his sportsmanship every time his soccer team gets waxed. It is his teammate Kevin who shows Jake that being a good captain means scoring and assisting off the field as much as being the star player on it. The latest in #1 bestseller Mike Lupica's Comeback Kids novels is a cheer-worthy ode to the one sport played by more kids across the country than any other—in the summer of the next World Cup.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920L (What's this?)

Series: Comeback Kids (Book 5)

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; Advance Uncorrected Galleys edition (May 13, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399247181

ISBN-13: 978-0399247187

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #317,199 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #160 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #808 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values #4402 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Jake is accustomed to being a soccer star on winning teams, so when he ends up on the losing side, he is flummoxed. His teammates think he is arrogant, and he has trouble getting along with one in particular. Jake's ability to read the flow of a soccer match makes him a good player, though, and he gradually learns to develop a similar ability with his teammates personalities, eventually earning their respect and bringing the story to a victorious close. An enjoyable sports story with lots of action. Grades 4-6. --Todd Morning

Mike Lupica is one of the most prominent sports writers in America. His longevity at the top of his field is based on his experience and insider's knowledge, coupled with a provocative presentation that takes an uncompromising look at the tumultuous world of professional sports. Today he is a syndicated columnist for the New York Daily News, which includes his popular "Shooting from the Lip" column, which appears every Sunday. He began his newspaper career covering the New York Knicks for the New York Post at age 23. He became the youngest columnist ever at a New York paper with the New York Daily News, which he joined in 1977. For more than 30 years, Lupica has added magazines, novels, sports biographies, other non-fiction books on sports, as well as television to his professional resume. For the past fifteen years, he has been a TV anchor for ESPN's The Sports Reporters. He also hosted his own program, The Mike Lupica Show on ESPN2. In 1987, Lupica launched "The Sporting Life" column in Esquire magazine. He has published articles in other magazines, including Sport, World Tennis, Tennis, Golf Digest, Playboy, Sports Illustrated, ESPN: The Magazine, Men's Journal and Parade. He has received numerous honors, including the 2003 Jim Murray Award from the National Football Foundation. Mike Lupica co-wrote autobiographies with Reggie Jackson and Bill Parcells, collaborated with noted author and screenwriter, William Goldman on *Wait 'Till Next Year*, and wrote *The Summer of '98*, *Mad as Hell: How Sports Got Away from the Fans and How We Get It Back* and *Shooting From the Lip*, a collection of columns. In addition, he has written a number of novels, including *Dead Air*, *Extra Credits*, *Limited Partner*, *Jump*, *Full Court Press*, *Red Zone*, *Too Far* and national bestsellers *Wild Pitch* and *Bump and Run*. *Dead Air* was nominated for the Edgar Allen Poe Award for Best First Mystery and became a CBS television movie, "Money, Power, Murder" to which Lupica contributed the teleplay. Over the years he has been a regular on the CBS Morning News, Good Morning America and The MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour. On the radio, he has made frequent appearances on *Imus in the Morning* since the early 1980s. His previous young adult novels, *Travel Team*, *Heat*, *Miracle on 49th Street*, and the summer hit for 2007, *Summer Ball*, have shot up the New York Times bestseller list. Lupica is also what he describes as a "serial Little League coach," a youth basketball coach, and a soccer coach for his four children, three sons and a daughter. He and his family live in Connecticut.

Nicely presented the proper attitude for competition in a soccer team setting and how to be a good friend and teammate. My 5th grader commented that it was "a good story but a bit predictable." I am just fine with that assessment. It means that he was following the story and understanding the

moral, which was exactly the purpose for suggesting that he read it. Characters are real, regular boys from good families- the type of boys we'd be happy for our sons to have for friends. The dialogue is genuine, and sports references spot on (my son agrees). Story and main characters have depth enough to make the story enjoyable, but not so much that it is difficult or inaccessible to the young audience. Author struck a nice balance.

Mike Lupica's book *Shoot-Out* focuses on looking at the consequences of major changes in players' lives. First there is the soccer whiz, Jake, who moves from a town with a tough playing soccer team that leads in the league standings to a nearby town with a team barely able to take the field. First to last place in the space of moving day. Then there is Kevin, a teammate, who is still trying to figure out how he feels about playing soccer now that his interested family member, his mom, is no longer there. Both boys love the game; neither have found ways to work through the impacts that major family events have had on their participation in the sport. Jake gets tasked by his coach with the job of field captain - seeing the wider venue that includes how to maximize use of his teammates' skills for the good of the team. Jake finds he has to reach out to Kevin to have Kevin's skills and Kevin's attitude contribute to the team's success. (Tiny spoiler alert) The shoot-out at the end has Jake, the team's best all-around player, stepping aside so that Kevin, the best kicker, has a chance to win one both for himself and for his team. Game descriptions: Solid Grade level appeal: 3rd grade on up Read Aloud/Read and Share: Excellent for parents to share both sports and personal talk in the course of reading about the game. Reading Skills: Great for extra reading practice.

I enjoyed this Y/A novel thoroughly, as I have all the Mike Lupica novels I've read. Character development and action will draw in young readers.

Mike Lupica is my daughter's most favorite author. She enjoys his style of writing as she is an avid athlete. Keep up the great work keeping kids interested in reading.

When a young soccer player from a school with a winning team moves to a new school which has a much weaker team, he is forced to learn some lessons in leadership and life. That is the premise of this book by Mike Lupica. There are still opportunities for flashes of individual glory, but it takes a whole team to win a soccer match, and the team's scorecard at the end of each game does not reflect the results to which the young hero is accustomed. How do you treat team mates who are less gifted than you? If you are used to winning, how do you adjust to losing? Do you play on

regardless of the result, or do you stop playing until you can find a better team to play with? If another player on the team is clearly playing at a level below his best, what can you do to encourage him? How do you help someone who is dealing with grief? These are some of the issues raised in the book. In my view the book is a good read for young people aged 10 years and older who are interested in sports. I bought it for reading with an 8 year old soccer fan, but it turned out to be a bit advanced for him. The story is interesting with plenty of tension and a not-overly-predictable plot line, ingredients which have made the author's range of books very successful.

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