



QB 1

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From #1 New York Times bestselling author of TRAVEL TEAM, HEAT, and MILLION-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 the high-pressure land of Friday Night Lights (Texas). 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 royalty . . . and a quarterback. All of which leaves 14-year-old Jake in a Texas-sized shadow, a tall order for any boy, especially one who's merely a freshman.

While his teammates assume the starting job will be handed to Jake on a silver platter, the truth is that he has to fight for every snap and every ounce of respect. Jake may be a Cullen and he may play quarterback, but he is not his brother or his father. Being a good teammate comes naturally to Jake; being a winner and a celebrity does not. He's just like every other boy--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 (father Archie, Super Bowl-winning sons Peyton and Eli) and set amid the football-crazy culture of Texas immortalized in Friday Night Lights, QB 1 is a coming-of-age story perfect for the fan of MILLION-DOLLAR THROW, HEAT, and of course FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS.

"This is a wonderful book by a great writer. All football fathers and sons will enjoy it."--Archie Manning

QB 1 Details

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Author : Mike Lupica

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From Reader Review QB 1 for online ebook

Preston M. says

This book was a great Mike Lupica book. It demonstrates the true value and passion of football. It shows that not all teammates treat each other with respect. This book made me feel right there, watching everything that happened. The book shows the hard work of being a football player, the grit, and the effort put into football. It shows that not everything is perfect In football. The book shows great description and emotion. It deserves its 5 stars, it is a very undead and underrated Mike Lupica book. I enjoy Mike Lupica books and wish to read more.

Collin Manzano says

I read the book QB1 by Mike Lupica, I thought this was a really good book and I also thought he did good on how he described being on the field in a game and in practice in the scorching heat. In this book the main character is Jake Cullen, a freshman quarterback at a small Texas high school. In QB1 Jake comes from a big football family, his dad was a NFL player, and his brother lead his high school team to a state championship. So Jake has a lot to live up to from his dad and his older brother's legacy. While everyone on the team thinks Jake will be handed the starting job, Jake knows he will have to work every snap and not let up.

This book takes place in a small town in Texas where football is the one thing that everyone loves watching and playing. Like I said earlier in this book there are good descriptions of things like when they are practicing, i can imagine it in the book of what it's like and it makes me think of our football practices when it was hotter than a oven but we were still out there getting better. I really connected to this book because I love football and it had a lot of football sayings and feelings you went though playing the sport. My opinion about this book is that it was a really good book and was a exciting book.

My overall impression is that I enjoyed this book and would tell others to read it that enjoy sport books. I really never like to read books but this was a good book. I thought it was a little long but all book are long but besides that I liked it. It had good descriptions, words and good characters. All in all this was a 5 star book in my opinion.

Danielle Behn says

Personal Response: I really enjoyed this book even though sometimes I felt it was a little too cliché and predictable for me. I'm about to contradict myself when I say that this book is very suspenseful. It had a lot of high and low spots in it where I wasn't all that interested, through I couldn't put the book down. I feel the way the author laid out the games and basically the entire book was great. I'm going to definitely read more of his books in the future.

Plot: This book was mainly about football; it had some romance in it as well. It started out as the little brother, Jake, always having to fall behind in his older brother's footsteps. Wyatt, the older brother, took his football team to state the previous year and they won. Now Wyatt is going to the University of Texas and is their starting QB his freshman year. Meanwhile, Jake has to earn his spot as the QB in Granger. The original

quarterback for the Cowboys ended up getting hurt. That's when the rivalry began. Jake, the smart, conservative one, against Casey Lindell, the fierce, optimistic one. To put it short and sweet, Jake worked harder to get the position. He and Casey had some tension between them but Jake was very mature about it and handled it in a polite way. Jake also got Casey's girl, Sarah Ryburn. Sarah had tried to get with Wyatt, but he wouldn't give her the time of day. That didn't matter to her though because she found someone better, and that was Jake. Jake and his Granger Cowboys' ended up winning the state championship two years in a row.

Characterization: The main charterer in this book is Jake Cullen. He is a freshman in high school and he has one older brother, Wyatt Cullen. His parents' names are Libby and Troy Cullen. They live in Granger, Texas where football is about the only thing the town strives for. Jake has two really good friends, Bear (Barrett) and Nate. They play football together and they always will motivate each other. Bear is probably my favorite character just because we share similar personalities and it's amazing how much we act alike.

Setting: This book took place in Granger, Texas. It never really gave a time period as to what year it was taken place, but it was during the summer/fall season. If anyone knows Texas, they know that there is no other state that worships football like they do. I feel that has the biggest impact on this book as it is about football. The heat and rain also somewhat affected the scenes.

Recommendation: I would recommend this book to mostly boys or girls that don't mind football and are in high school or late middle school. If the reader enjoys or engages in football, I feel they could relate to this more than anyone else. If they are a fan of football, they will get the opportunity to see what it's like to be on the field and in a tough situation. I would also recommend this book to someone who is not too good at problem solving. QB1 really opens your eyes on how many options there really is out in the world and that not always is the easy way the best way.

Rating: I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars although every once and awhile I got bored. For the most part, I was entertained.

Nate Phelps says

-QB1 was written by Mike Lupica and is about the excitement of Texas football. Jake Cullen is the freshmen quarterback for Granger High School and has always been in the shadow of his brother and fathers football careers.

-Calvin Morton is the best receiver in the state and often messes around with Jake even though he's a good friend. Nate Collins is Jake's best friend, wingman, and center, he is always there for Jake on and off the field. Sarah Rayburn is a sophomore who is the prettiest cheerleader in all of Granger, who just so happens to be Jake's girlfriend.

-Jake has always been in the shadow of his brother who won the state championship the year before as a senior and got a full ride to Texas A & M. He has never been better than his brother at anything until he starts as the freshmen quarterback. He struggled to outplay the older and bigger defensemen and other quarterbacks but comes out with a winning season. Along his journey he manages to get the prettiest girl at the high school as his girlfriend. Throughout the story Jake struggles to win the attention of his father who is obsessed with his brother Wyatt's college career. Jake's winning season is topped off with winning the quarterfinal game at a cost. Jake gets a concussion and can't play in the semi finals, the game that would prove he is a better quarterback than his brother. He must help train the second string quarterbacks

confidence and skill so they can indefinitely win the semi's. The championship game is around the corner and jake will attempt to lead the team to victory and beat his brothers record.

-The main conflict is jakes concussion which cripples him from playing the semifinal game which could qualify their team to the championships. The only way they could win is if they trust their second string quarterback to beat the best team in the league. The backup to jake has no confidence and can't throw far enough. Jake trains him to be more confident and teaches him how to launch the ball. The semifinal game is won!

-This book is phenomenal, it not only gives a great feel for the main characters but also gives a great suspenseful description to ever game. I felt that I was watching a Texan version of "Friday Night Lights". Not only was the book about my favorite sport but it had romance, comedy, action, and loads of suspense. It may be one of the best books I have ever read.

Justin Juarez says

In Texas, football is a big deal. The main character Jake Cullen is a freshman quarterback at Granger High School. He has been living in the shadow of his brother, Wyatt, who is a quarterback for Texas state and eh quarter backed the Texas State championship. He has also been living in the shadow of his dad, Troy Cullen, who is a quarterback in the NFL and was a legend. No one sees him as a famous person. They see him just as every other boy teenager. Through out the season, Jake gets a girlfriend who is the prettiest girl in school. Jake and his team makes it to the sem ifinals, but he gets a concussion and cannot play. Jake teaches there backup quarterback how to play better and they win the semi final game! Will they win the championship game with jake ready to get back on the field?

I thought that this was a fantastic book. The author Mike Lupica, did a great job writing this book. She kept me wanting to read the book more and more when I had the chance. I liked how there is a lot of action sports wise. I also liked how the story was based on the Manning family. They are a family who played in the NFL. There father Archie Manning Whois Troy Cullen. Payton Manning who is Wyatt and is a Super Bowl champion. And last is Eli Manning who is Jake who is also a Super Bowl champion. I would definitely recommend this book to my friends who like sports books. I would like to read the other books that Mike Lupica has made.

Rohun Yarala says

Football is the most popular and obsessive sport in America, but in some places, it isn't just the NFL. Texas high school football is as important as anything for the townspeople, and Mike Lupica does a great job of capturing the life and pressure of being a high school quarterback in Texas. However, young Jake Cullen is not just a freshman quarterback at Granger High, but the son and younger brother to two of the best players to come out of Granger.

The book transitions from the storybook ending of Wyatt Cullen's high school career, a state championship before heading to Texas University as a top recruit, to the beginning of Jake Cullen's high school career. A freshman who happens to be the youngest of the biggest family in town, Jake is nowhere near the quarterback his Dad or brother was. The journey Jake takes from being on the varsity because of his last name to the star player is exhilarating and a must read for everybody.

Lupica writes in a way that captures the emotion of the characters, and paints a perfect picture in the readers mind. He combines a slightly descriptive writing style with a drama to keep his audience on the edge of their seats, as if they were watching a real football game.

Although this book is perfect for the diehard sports and/or football fan, it can provide the same excitement for a casual reader. Lupica does a fantastic job of incorporating family, drama, and multiple themes in the story so that it is not merely a game of football. This book is suitable for all ages, requires little previous football knowledge, and can become anybody's favorite book.

Mason Soerens says

PERSONAL RESPONSE

This book was amazing. Everything in this book was amazing. Mike Lupica opened up a whole new world to me. Before this book I did not think that I would like sports-related books, but now that's practically all I want to read.

PLOT SUMMARY

Jake Cullen was in a shadow of his dad and brother. His brother Wyatt Cullen had just won the Texas state championship, and now him, a freshman, Jake has to earn the QB role. Jake is a natural born leader but he was not as gifted QB like his brother Wyatt and his father Troy Cullen. Now into his high school career Jake earned the job of QB. He was now not only feeling pressure from the game he plays, but also because of his major crush on the pretty girl at school.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend this book to everyone. It was easy to read and understand and I don't just recommend this to people who like sports books, but everyone because I didn't like sports books before this book.

Brendan Young says

AN AMAZING BOOK

AviP_C2 says

I loved this book because it showed what it took to become a division 1 athlete. In the story QB 1 by Mike Lupica Jake Cullen plays football. His brother is already the top recruit and his dad is an NFL legend. Jake loses many different tournaments at first but then starts working harder and harder every day. He builds the mentality of a hunting lion. Once the Finals arrives Jake comes Big. I can connect to this because I once last year did not get to play very long in my basketball players, and become the Most Improved Player at the end of the season. I worked my butt off for the Game of basketball while Jake for football.

Eric Kneisler says

Genre: Fiction, contemporary YA

Setting: present day, Texas, USA

Main Characters: Jake Cullen, freshman quarterback

Wyatt Cullen, Jake's brother

Troy Cullen, Jake & Wyatt's father

Calvin Morton, Jake's teammate

Nate Collins, Jake's best friend & teammate

Casey Lindell, Jake's quarterback rival

Sarah Rayburn, a girl in school Jake likes

I really liked this book. It was interesting to read about football and the pressures that a player goes through. I liked the family's story. I liked that it was based on the Manning football family.

Jake Cullen is a freshman in high school. His father was a great quarterback in high school and he went on to play in the NFL until he became injured. Jake's brother, Wyatt, is a great quarterback, too. He plays college football at the University of Texas. Everyone thinks Jake will just follow in their footsteps to become a great quarterback, too. He feels a lot of pressure to be as good as his dad and brother. The other players think everything will be just handed to Jake. But, Jake has to fight for every play and every bit of respect he gets. It doesn't come easily to him.

When the starting quarterback is hurt and out for the year, Jake competes with another boy, Casey, for the starting quarterback job for the team. Jake is put in when Casey doesn't do well in a game. Jake makes some mistakes, too, but does alright.

Jake feels like he is in competition with Wyatt for his father's attention. Jake thinks that his dad cares more about Wyatt than he does about him. Jake is upset when his dad leaves during his game. Jake has moments when he feels sorry for himself. Calvin points out that HIS father never comes to a game even though he is one of the best receivers in the state.

Jake likes a sophomore girl named Sarah. They didn't talk much at first. After a while they became closer. The book ends with Casey throwing and Jake catching the winning touchdown in the championship game. After the game Jake and Sarah kissed.

Theme: This book is more about the struggles we all go through in our family life than it is about football. We can all relate to what the family goes through. We can all relate to the feelings that we won't live up to everyone's expectations of us. The family feels struggles with their relationships with each other. Troy wants to live out his dreams through his kids. Jake wants to be himself and not always be compared to his dad and brother.

I would recommend this book to people who like football. They would like the competition in the book. I would recommend it for ages 14 and up. There was some minor language in it.

Brittany says

I stuck this one out because my students love it. And as a Friday Night Lights lover, I was intrigued by the football. But it was just...meh. I had to make myself finish it.

Austin Baehnman says

Personal Response: The book “QB1” by Mike Lupica in my opinion is a very good book. With that being said you have to like football or sports in general to really enjoy this book. I believe that Mr. Lupica does a very good job describing all of the detail that goes on in this novel.

Plot: The book “QB1” by Mike Lupica is about a High School Freshman trying to get the starting quarterback position on his football team. Jake Cullen is always living in the shadow of his dad and brother, Troy and Wyatt Cullen. Jake's older brother, Wyatt, is a freshman in college and the starting quarterback for the Texas Longhorns. Wyatt took his High School team, the Granger Cowboys, to the state championship last year during his senior year. After Wyatt graduates the starting quarterback position gets handed down to senior Tim Mathers, but in the first game of the year he tore his ACL on a normal play which means he was out for the rest of the season.

That meant for Jake that he was back up behind Casey Lindell, a junior that moved in from a different school. Casey felt threatened by Jake and started making silly mistakes that basically handed the job over to Jake. In the last game of the season Jake ran for a touchdown, but right as he got there he got lit up by the opposing linebacker which gave him a small concussion. That means that Casey had to play the next game, which was the sectional final.

During that week of practice Casey looked absolutely terrible. So what Jake did was he wrote a letter to Casey saying that he should come by his house and he would help him. When Casey came to Jake's house Jake had his dad come out and helped Casey on his mechanics which actually helped a lot. In the game not much scoring went on, the score was seven all through halftime. Once the third quarter started Highland Junction got off to a quick start, but couldn't score any points off of it. The score after the third quarter the score was 14 all. Then a huge rainstorm blew in at the start of the fourth quarter, but Casey was able to pull off the win with a score of 21-17.

With that win the Granger Cowboys moved onto the state final. Jake was able to play this game because he was cleared earlier in the week. At the end of the half it was 14-0 Fort Carson with the lead. In the Third quarter Jake started getting his mojo back and got the Cowboys almost tied with Fort Carson. 14-13 was the score going into the fourth quarter. In the fourth quarter Fort Carson kicked a field goal to make it 17-13 and it stayed that way until the last drive of the game.

With two minutes and ten seconds left in the game Jake needed to take his team down to the other end of the field and score. Jake drove all the way down to the Fort Carson 30 yard-line, but then got stopped by the defense on first and second down. A penalty on third down caused it to be fourth and 25 on the 45 yard-line. Jake knew that only one play was maybe even crazy enough to work.

On fourth down Jake lined up as a wide receiver and had Casey in the quarterback position. Casey snapped the ball and looked at Calvin, which drew the defense away from Jake. At the last second Casey launched the ball toward Jake. Jake caught the ball on the 10 yard line and kept running until he got hit at the five, but at this time it was too late and Jake was in the touchdown for the score.

With only 10 seconds left in the game the score was Granger Cowboys 20 and the Fort Carson 17. Fort Carson had one chance to throw a Hail Mary pass but it got batted down by the cowboy defense. Granger won the state championship again this time with a freshman on the team instead of a senior.

Characterization: The characters in this book develop a lot throughout this book. First we meet Wyatt Cullen in his senior year in the state championship game. He won that game and went on to start as a freshman for the University of Texas Longhorns. Then we meet Jake Cullen, Wyatt's younger brother, as he is starting his freshman year in high school. The starting quarterback in the first game of the season is Tim Mathers, who tore his ACL. We don't see him from that point on. Casey Lindell is the backup to Tim and steps into the quarterback position when Tim gets hurt. We meet Nate and Bear in the beginning of the book when Jake starts practice. Sarah Rayburn is the Captain of the cheer team and also has a crush on Jake's older brother Wyatt. This is a dysfunction for Jake because he has a crush on her.

Impacts of Setting: This book takes place in modern day Texas, so it is always hot and is able to rain in an instant. Jake always has to adapt and play his best in any conditions. The setting changes a lot throughout this book. We start in Boone Stadium, the stadium where the championship is played. After Wyatt won the game the book switches over to Jake getting ready for the next season back in Granger. The field in Granger is called Cullen Field after Jake and Wyatt's father, Troy. Troy Cullen played for Granger and then worked his way into the NFL. He was the back-up quarterback for the St. Louis Rams before he had too many concussions and had to leave the game he loved so much.

In the book we also jump from Cullen Field back to the main street of Granger, where Jake spends most of his time with Nate and Bear. After the first couple chapters the setting stay around the same, occasionally jumping from stadium to stadium on game days. The time affects Jake as well, for instance at the beginning of the book he is young and inexperienced. As the book continues on though he starts to become a better football player.

Thematic Connection: The theme of this book is always keep going forward and never back down. If Jake would have stopped at being third string, he would have never been able to lead Granger to another state championship in two years.

Recommendation: I would recommend this book to all students sixth through twelfth grade, boy or girl. The reason I would recommend this to these people is because it is a fairly easy read and the storyline will keep everyone, in my opinion, intrigued.

Brendan says

I loved this book.

Gus says

Personal Response

I thought that this book was very good. I liked this book a lot because it was about football. I also like the characters in this book and the way the author described each one of them. The plot was very good in my opinion although it was somewhat predictable. This book wasn't very original when compared to other books by this author. The plot of this book was what earned my rating of five out of five stars.

Plot

The book is centered around a freshman quarterback named Jake Cullen. Jake lives in the small town of Granger, Texas. In Granger, high school football is the pride of the town and everybody roots for the star quarterback. Before Jake was born, the star quarterback was his dad Troy Cullen. When Jake was in middle school, that quarterback was his older brother Wyatt. Wyatt was able to lead Granger to another state championship his senior year and cement his name as a local legend. After Wyatt leaves Granger for the University of Texas, the quarterback position is filled by a senior quarterback. Jake is sitting at third on the depth chart because he is a freshman. Even though Jake is third string, his quarterback coach pays special attention to him after practice and works with him to make him better. During Granger's first game, Granger's quarterback goes down and Granger's back up is making a lot of mistakes. When the game looks like it is going to be a blow out, Coach McCoy throws Jake into the game. Jake throws the ball well and scores a touchdown in the final seconds of the game, proving that he belongs out on the field just as much as the next guy. During practice the next week there is a competition for the starting spot between Jake and Casey. This will continue the next couple of weeks with neither of them being named the true starter. During the position changing, Casey develops an attitude towards Jake and the two often clash after practice. Towards the middle of the season, Jake starts most of the games and wins them. Jake is really excited that he is able to show his dad his talent, but he realizes that his dad hasn't even come to any of his games. Jake's dad doesn't come to the games because he is too occupied with Wyatt. Jake questions how much his dad really cares about him. Jake also questions his dad's faith in Jake's playing ability. When Jake gets hurt and Casey starts, Casey is flustered with the sudden chance to prove himself. Casey struggles throughout practice and he seems to have lost his confidence. Jake doesn't want to see the team lose so Jake chooses to be the bigger man and forgive Casey for the past. Jake helps Casey fix his game and Casey is able to win the rest of the games up to the State Championship. Jake's dad realizes he hasn't treated Jake as an equal to Wyatt. Jake's dad comes to the championship game to show Jake that he truly cares about him as an equal to Wyatt. The game is very close but in the final seconds of the game Casey throws a touchdown pass to Jake and they win the game.

Characterization

Jake's character changes slightly throughout the book. At the beginning of the season Jake is unsure of his own ability to play quarterback and be a leader on the team because he is a freshman. When he is named the co-starter, he realizes the talent that he has and he is able to become more bold with his ability. Jake is also able to show his team he can get them wins. One thing that doesn't change about Jake is his love for the game. He also stays true to his nature of being forgiving to everybody, even Casey.

Setting

The setting is a key part of this book. The book takes place in the heart of a little town in Texas. Texas is a huge football state which adds a huge atmosphere of importance to each town's high school team. The importance of each game is really felt throughout the book and every Friday night has an electric feeling to it. The setting of Texas also lets the reader imagine the toughness the game of football is played with at the high school level.

Rating/Recommendation

This book was great. I gave it an easy five stars out of five because the book was a captivating read for me. I love football and the fact that this book was entirely about my favorite sport kept me reading it day and night. Every page seemed to come to life in my mind and I could imagine every feeling the main character

had because I could relate to him. This book is great for people who love the game of football and know the importance of high school football. I would recommend it to boys from middle school up because middle school is really where you start to learn how much you really like a sport. I wouldn't recommend this book for girls because all of the characters are guys and girls may not be interested in football.

Jessica says

Can battle of the books please stop making me read sports books
