

A Letter to Your Class from **MIKE LUPIGA**

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

Dear Class,

When I was young, I loved to read mysteries about the Hardy Boys, and loved reading what were called “science adventure” stories about a character named Rick Brant, and his friend Scotty.

More than anything, though, my favorite books were about Chip Hilton. They were written by a famous basketball coach named Clair Bee, and were about football and basketball and baseball. The books featured Chip and his mom and his friends Soapy Smith and Speed Morris; and a wise, wonderful high school coach named Henry Rockwell.

But they were about more than that, about friendship and loyalty and never giving up. They were about finding a way to pick yourself up no matter how many times you get knocked back down.

Of course these are all things I write about in my own books now. I didn't know, when I was your age and first fell in love with these stories myself, that someday I would be lucky enough to write stories of my own like this, and have young readers fall in love with them. We all love a good story. In that way, we'll always be the same. The young reader who read those Chip Hilton books just happens to be the one now writing for you.

Your friend in books,

