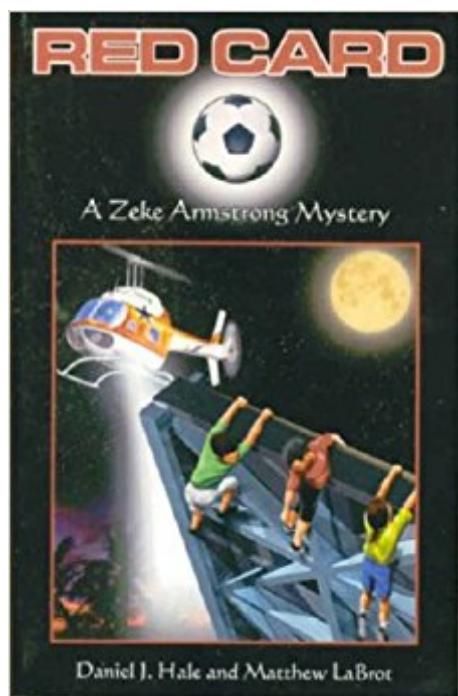


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# Red Card: A Zeke Armstrong Mystery (The Zeke Armstrong Mysteries, 1)



## **Synopsis**

After living in a series of far-flung countries-and finding more than his share of trouble along the way-Zeke Armstrong thought he would finally lead the life of a normal thirteen-year-old when he moved to Dallas and joined the Sundogs soccer team. Instead, he goes to the Lone Star Invitational tournament and soon find himself in the middle of another adventure when someone tries to take his coach out of the game-permanently. Will Zeke solve the mystery and help his team win the playoff, or will he be the next victim?

## **Book Information**

Series: Zeke Armstrong Mysteries (Book 1)

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## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 4-7-Ezekial Tobias Armstrong, a soccer whiz and mystery sleuth, helps to find out who is trying to kill his coach while they are playing a tournament in Dallas. Zeke also helps to hold his teammates together as they move through the competition without their coach, who has been hospitalized. The constant action and excitement of the play-by-play, the mystery, and Zeke's first-person narration should hold readers' attention. As in many novels for young people, the adults don't appear too bright. While knowledge of soccer is not necessary to understand the descriptions, it helps.Janice C. Hayes, Middle Tennessee State University, MurfreesboroCopyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

fast-paced action story that doesn't stint on character development. A fun read for any young mystery fan. -- Jo Rogers, My Shelf.com

I loved everything about this book. From the beginning I was in the story. I wanted to turn the page. This is a true mystery for all ages. Well written, yet easy to read - but not easy to figure out. Love it. The authors keep their readers on full speed, but allowed the reader a breath at the end. Excellent.

Red Card is a young adult mystery novel with enough action and intrigue to keep any mystery fan satisfied. Red Card is an impressive first novel from authors Daniel J. Hale and his nephew, Matthew LeBrot. Zeke Armstrong and his soccer team, the Sundogs, are involved in a tournament when someone shoots the coach and leaves him for dead. A second attempt is made on the coach's life at the hospital. One of the player's fathers is caught red handed holding a pillow over the coach's head and is arrested. Things are not always what they seem. Armstrong believes he has clues that will prove to the police the man in custody for the attempted murder is the wrong man. Being just 13 years old, the police do not take him serious. And neither do the moms and dads of the players on his team. Even his friends think he should give the Sherlock behavior a rest. See, but Armstrong is not only a talented soccer player, he also possesses a secret identity that only he, his Uncle Dane and a few others know about. He lives to solve crimes. With a cast of plausible suspects for wanting the coach dead, Armstrong and his closest friends work to figure out who keeps trying to kill their coach. It is a highly climactic and action-packed finish, when everything unravels and more lives are in jeopardy that Armstrong struggles not only to catch the killer, but also fights to save the lives of his friends ... and his own life. Red Card is the kind of book that demands a reader's attention. It is the type of mystery that can be read in one sitting. It contains enough suspense to keep the pages turning. And with the well-developed characters and story line, readers will be thrilled to know there are more scheduled in the series. --Phillip Tomasso III, author of Johnny Blade and Third Ring

My wife and I always check out the books we give our boys (ages 8 and 10). We grew up on the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew, and we loved the pleasure those books brought us. Until recently, we'd been unable to find anything new on the market in the way of great mystery/adventure fiction. You know what I mean - pure, unadulterated, fast-paced fun. There are a lot of books out there about kids with "issues", which is fine - they're certainly needed. But if a lot of the kids today are anything like my wife and I were when we were young, then there's a need for a modern Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew. We'd all but given up on finding anything like that, until I noticed a teaser on an uncle/nephew mystery writing team in last week's Apple eNews email from Apple Computer. I

checked out the full story on Daniel J. Hale and Matthew LaBrot on Apple.com's Pro site. I was intrigued. I ordered both books in the Zeke Armstrong series. I read both Red Card and Green Streak in a single day (when I should have been making sales calls). They blew me away. They took me back to my youth. I gave the books to my wife. She stayed up until 3 AM reading them. They blew her away. They took her back to her youth. We gave them to our boys. They devoured them. For the past two days, all they've been able to talk about is Zeke and Pow Wow, Zeke and Pow Wow, Zeke and Pow Wow. My wife and I have never seen them so excited about books. At last! In Zeke Armstrong, we have a worthy successor to the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew. Thanks to Apple Computer for bringing him to our attention.

Red Card is the perfect book for summer, or anytime you find yourself looking for a quick, highly entertaining read. The protagonist is Zeke Armstrong. He's thirteen years old. He plays soccer. He solves mysteries. He's got a secret. The book opens in the middle of a soccer game at the Lone Star Invitational Soccer Tournament. Zeke's team wins, but afterwards his coach is shot and left for dead. Zeke is the first person on the scene. After doing what he can for his coach and calling for help, he starts gathering clues. The action shifts back to the tournament, and then a second attempt is made on the coach's life. Zeke starts to put things together, but none of the adults or his teammates will take him seriously. To make matters worse, the attacker may now be after Zeke. It was a lot of fun watching Zeke try to solve the mystery with the attacker still on the loose and still a threat. Red Card's mix of intriguing detective work, exciting sports action and engaging characters keeps the pages turning. Although the book is geared towards younger teens and up, I can't imagine anyone not enjoying it. Red Card appears to be the first book in a series; if so, I'll definitely buy the next one.

Zeke Armstrong is playing in a soccer tournament with his team, the Dallas Sundogs. Things are going well, until his coach gets thrown out of a game for loosing his temper with a ref. The next morning, Zeke discovers that the coach has just been shot. After he's rushed to the hospital, another attempt is made on his life. It has to be one of the team's fathers, but whom? The police think they have their man, but Zeke is convinced they're wrong. Can he make the other parents believe him and save his coach's life? I'll read a good mystery aimed at any age group, and I loved this one. The main character is lots of fun. I'm not a big sports fan, but the descriptions of the soccer games held my interest and were easy to follow. In fact, a book that could have been awash in characters did such a good job of introducing them that I had no trouble keeping everyone straight.

And the climax had me turning pages as fast as possible to find out what how everything would end. This is an entertaining debut that left me wanting more. I recommend this book to anyone of any age looking for a good mystery.

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