New Kid

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New York Times bestselling author and former NFL defensive end Tim Green delivers another baseball tale that will keep kids on the edge of their seats. Perfect for fans of Mike Lupica or Dan Gutman's Baseball Card Adventure series. Tommy’s the new kid in town, like he's been so many times before. Now he goes by the name Brock, and he’s having a hard time fitting in, especially when his new friend is the bully from the wrong side of the tracks. Thanks to a prank gone wrong, the baseball coach notices Brock and offers him a place on his failing baseball team. But can Brock prove himself on and off the field before he becomes a new kid again?

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I received review copy from the publisher, and since I’ll read pretty much anything about baseball, I was interested in this book, even though its target audience is young adult. My first comment is one that cannot just be blamed on the fact that I received a copy prior to its final edit. A sports figure such as Mr. Green should know without prompting that Albert Pujols is not a member of the CALIFORNIA Angels “the name by which the team was known until 1996/97, when they became the ANAHEIM Angels. Pujols plays for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim (the dopey moniker that Arte Moreno, the Angels’ owner, saddled the team with in 2005 “ much to the chagrin of long-time fans and ridicule by sports fans and journalists from coast to coast... but I
digress...). Editorial aside, it was a rookie mistake, and one that a well-known sports figure should have never made, much less on page six of the book! How Mr. Green could be so spot-on when referencing Clayton Kershaw’s slider (one of his two dominant pitches) and miss so badly on a major league baseball team’s name is beyond me. Can you tell that it bothered me? ;) To sum up the story: A young boy is constantly being kept on the move by his father, whose profession seems to be a bit on the shady side "what with people trying to kill him and all... The boy is always the "new kid", and it’s getting old for Tommy/Brock (he keeps getting a new name in every city) because he’s a burgeoning baseball phenom. He is constantly being admonished by his father never to draw attention to himself, but is in the dark as to the "why". After a series of events puts Brock (nee Tommy) into the limelight because of his pitching prowess, danger comes a-callin’ and his dad is forced to run again.

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