

INTRODUCTION TO AN INSPIRATION



EXPRESS-TIMES PHOTOS | BRUCE WINTER

Jason McElwain signs pictures for students after speaking Thursday at Freedom High School in Bethlehem. McElwain, diagnosed with autism when he was 2, was the equipment manager for his high school basketball team when he scored 20 points in his only game.

Hundreds flock to meet extra-'ordinary' J-Mac

BY DOUGLAS B. BRILL
The Express-Times

BETHLEHEM TWP. | When Jason McElwain finishes his daily General Education Development classes, he goes to work at a grocery store.

McElwain — the kid who ran with his basketball coach's goodwill gesture to become an instant national inspiration, the kid who talks with Magic Johnson routinely — makes and sells bread.

"I still feel ordinary," McElwain said Thursday after an appearance at Freedom High School wrought with a frenzy he hardly seemed to notice. McElwain shrugged off the hoopla with his hands in his pockets.

Everyone knows the J-Mac story. He lit up the scoreboard for Greece Athena High School in Rochester, N.Y., after the coach put the team manager with autism in



Students applaud Jason McElwain after his keynote address. McElwain also spoke Thursday night at the Via All-Star Banquet at Freedom High School. Story on Page C1.

the game for less than five spintling minutes.

Lights. Camera. Goose bumps. McElwain scored 20 points, including six three-pointers, in the

four minutes he was on the floor.

But aside from the calls from celebrities, the movie in the works about his life, the string of

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