

# J-Mac speaks and scores

Autistic youngster's speech makes impact at Via All-Star banquet.

By Keith Groller  
Of The Morning Call

J-Mac delivered again.

Jason McElwain, the autistic teenager from Rochester, N.Y., who captured the heart of a nation in February of last year with his shooting exploits, won over a crowd of over 600 Thursday night in Bethlehem.

As the keynote speaker for the 32nd annual Via All-Star Basketball Classic banquet, McElwain brought tears to the faces of

some girls, and smiles to the faces of everyone in attendance during his presentation, which included a video tribute and an introduction

from his father, David.

McElwain, who also visited the Bethlehem Wegman's and spent time with special education students at Freedom High, received a standing ovation both before and after his speech.

"A lot of positive things have happened since my magical game," McElwain told the crowd. "But I hope more people have a greater awareness of autism and people with disabilities. What I do know is that everyone deserves a chance in life. Dreams sometimes do come true. I met Magic Johnson and he told me to keep dreaming and strive to make them come true. His advice is that if you don't dream, you can't become it."

Just meeting McElwain made dreams come true on

ONLINE  
extra

■ Watch the Jason McElwain story on [mcall.com/mcelwain](http://mcall.com/mcelwain)



Douglas Kilpatrick Special to The Morning Call

**JASON McELWAIN** looks out at the crowd before his speech at Freedom High's new gymnasium. McElwain, who has autism, was the manager for his high school team who suited up and scored 20 points in four minutes.