

= Jason McElwain =

Jason McElwain , nicknamed " J @-@ Mac " , (born October 1 , 1987) is an American high @-@ functioning autistic amateur athlete , in both basketball and marathon , and public speaker . McElwain came to fame on national news , in 2006 , when he played during a high school basketball game , and scored twenty points .

Jason McElwain was appointed as the manager of the Greece Athena High School by basketball coach Jim Johnson . On February 15 , 2006 , he played in a basketball game against Spencerport High School , for a division title . Greece Athena got a large lead , so Coach Johnson decided to let McElwain play in the last four minutes and nineteen seconds of the game . After initially missing two shots , McElwain made six three @-@ point shots and one two @-@ pointer , finishing with twenty points . After the final buzzer rang , the crowd dashed onto the court in celebration .

Ten years later , McElwain made his professional basketball debut with the Rochester Razorsharks .

= = Early life = =

Jason McElwain was born on October 1 , 1987 , to David and Debbie McElwain , and was diagnosed with autism at the age of two years . Jason and his family lived in Greece , New York , a suburb of Rochester , New York . He initially struggled when interacting with other children , but began to develop social skills as he grew older . Although he was placed in special education classes , McElwain enjoyed basketball , to which he was introduced by his older brother Josh , and was appointed manager of Greece Athena High School 's varsity basketball team .

= = February 15 , 2006 basketball game = =

Greece Athena High School basketball coach Jim Johnson decided to add McElwain to the roster for the team 's February 15 game against Spencerport High School , so McElwain could be given a jersey and sit on the bench for the team 's last home game of the season , and allow McElwain to play a few minutes if Greece Athena got a comfortable lead . With four minutes left in the game , Greece Athena had a double @-@ digit lead , so Johnson decided to let McElwain play out the last minutes of the game . When teammates first passed the ball to McElwain he attempted a three @-@ point shot and missed . McElwain got a second chance to score with a lay @-@ up which he also missed . McElwain then got " hot as a pistol " , sinking six three @-@ pointers and one two @-@ point shot , before the game ended . The final score was Greece Athena 79 , Spencerport 43 . As soon as the final buzzer rang , fans from the stands stormed the court in celebration .

McElwain 's performance was videotaped by fellow Greece Athena student Marcus Luciano , who was substituting for the team 's normal videographer . Before the game , Johnson gave Luciano strict instructions to track only the game formations . However , according to ESPN writer Elizabeth Merrill , Luciano " had a well @-@ deserved reputation for breaking the rules " ; when he saw McElwain make his first shot , he ignored Johnson 's instructions and instead panned the crowd reaction to McElwain 's performance . Johnson was initially angry , but soon changed his mind , calling Luciano 's decision " a brilliant move " .

= = = Reaction = = =

Teacher Andy McCormack was in the audience that night to see the game . McCormack was Jason 's Speech / Language Pathologist throughout high school , and the day after the game he got a copy of the video to local sports newscaster John Kucko who put it on the news that night . Others followed suit , and within days the tape reached a national audience . McCormack continued to support Jason over the next few months in school , helping coin alternative language expressions to his now @-@ famous " hot as a pistol " phrase and helping him construct an introduction speech when Magic Johnson came to Greece Athena to speak to the student body .

In his hometown of Greece , New York , McElwain quickly became a celebrity . The family 's home phone was always ringing , and when the McElwains went out for a meal , a group of fans ran into the family , praising Jason .

McElwain met President George W. Bush on March 14 , 2006 , when Bush stopped by a nearby airport on his way to Canandaigua , New York , so he could meet McElwain . Standing next to McElwain , Bush told reporters " As you can see , a special person has greeted us at the airport , Jason " , and then jokingly asked " Can I call you J @-@ Mac ? " Bush went on to praise McElwain , saying " Our country was captivated by an amazing story on the basketball court . It 's the story of a young man who found his touch on the basketball court , which , in turn , touched the hearts of citizens all around the country . " Bush also stated that upon seeing McElwain on television , he " wept , just like a lot of other people did " . Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning visited Rochester , where he was introduced to McElwain . Manning invited McElwain and Steve Kerr , another Greece Athena High School athlete to the Colts ' training camp for a week , which McElwain accepted . McElwain later said that Peyton was " one of the nicest guys in sports " and when the Colts won the Super Bowl and Manning raised the Vince Lombardi Trophy , McElwain " had a tear in [his] eye . "

McElwain threw out the opening pitch for the Rochester Red Wings ' game against the Charlotte Knights . The Red Wings also gave away 3 @, @ 500 free bobblehead dolls that were modeled after McElwain .

McElwain won an ESPY Award for the Best Moment in Sports in 2006 . McElwain beat out Kobe Bryant 's 81 @-@ point @-@ game and the George Mason Patriots ' run to the Final Four . The speech that Jason gave upon winning the award was written for him by his older brother . The theme of the speech was about dreams coming true . In addition to the many celebrities McElwain met , he also appeared on various talk shows , including The Oprah Winfrey Show , Larry King Live , Good Morning America and Today .

In 2007 , Topps trading cards produced a Jason McElwain card as part of its retro @-@ themed Allen & Ginter set .

In 2009 , he appeared in a commercial for Gatorade as part of their " What is G ? " ad campaign . The commercial aired during the Super Bowl .

McElwain appeared on The Talk in April 2011 as part of the show 's month @-@ long series on autism awareness . He told the hosts he was head coach of the 17U East Coast Fusion AAU basketball team . His memorable video surfaced once more in 2011 , when Facebook users shared a 2006 story featured on CBS Evening News .

= = = Radio = = =

Jason had a song dedicated to him and his accomplishments on the court by an artist named Iron Butter . Jason also did several interviews and appeared at the Summerjam concert where his song was performed .

= = Book = =

Following his rise to fame , Jason McElwain wrote a book titled The Game of My Life . The book is written mainly by Jason , but includes sections written by his family , coach , and teammates . The Game of My Life is 243 pages long and was published on February 5 , 2008 by New American Library . Editorial reviews were left by celebrities such as Magic Johnson , Doug Flutie , Rodney Peete , Holly Robinson Peete , and Tony Dungy . The book was co @-@ written by Daniel Paisner .

= = Film = =

As early as late February 2006 , Jason McElwain and his family started receiving inquiries from over twenty @-@ five film companies , including The Walt Disney Company and Warner Bros. ,

about making a film based on his story . In April 2006 , it was announced that Columbia Pictures had bought the rights to produce the film . Laura Ziskin , producer of the Spider @-@ Man film series , was signed on to produce the film about McElwain 's life . Magic Johnson has also been attached as producer , while two @-@ time Academy Award winner Alvin Sargent is in talks to write the film . However , there currently is no timetable for the movie as contracts are being finalized and the script is still being written .

= = Life after high school = =

McElwain completed his GED courses and planned to go to college , and has a part @-@ time job at Wegmans Food Markets in Greece , New York . Jason is often seen , too , at the local Olympia Family Restaurant , in Greece , New York . Occasionally , customers recognize him and ask for an autograph . McElwain also travels across the United States to help raise funds for autism research and to make media appearances . With all the activity that is going on his life , Jason admitted that he hasn 't been playing as much basketball , but says that , " Occasionally , I 'll go and shoot baskets at the YMCA . " McElwain is also involved in public speaking , including an October 2011 speech at the Jefferson Rehabilitation House 's annual dinner . Since 2007 , McElwain has also been a volunteer coach for the Greece Athena team alongside Johnson .

In April 2016 , the Rochester Razorsharks , a professional minor @-@ league basketball team , signed McElwain to a one @-@ day contract for their regular season finale against the Western New York Thundersnow . With the Razorsharks leading by more than 40 points late in the game , McElwain was put in and scored 10 points , including 2 three @-@ point shots .

McElwain is also an accomplished runner . On September 23 , 2012 , McElwain completed the MVP Health Care Rochester Marathon in 15th place in 3 hours , 1 minute and 41 seconds , a time that qualified him for the Boston Marathon . In 2014 , he completed the Boston Marathon in 2 : 57 @. @ 05 .