



The Last Shot

Before I get into the Leadership Challenge, let me share a personal last shot.

This is my last Leadership Challenge as Friday, December 14, is my last day as Director of Executive Education. It has been an honor and privilege to write this each month. And the responses you have sent were terrific. Even the negative ones, thankfully just a few, were well thought out and challenged me to do a better job next time. [Click here](#) for the link to all of my past articles. Please enjoy, send to a friend or pass on to a coworker.

I will continue to do training as an adjunct faculty member so I look forward to seeing many of you again.

Have a wonderful holiday season. We all have a lot to be thankful for. Say a prayer for our troops in harm's way and I hope 2008 is your best year ever!

The Last Shot

Jason McElwain's first shot was an air-ball, meaning it didn't even hit the rim (I can identify with this). His second shot was a lay up which he missed (I can identify with that as well). Then, in a time-span of 4 minutes, he sank six three-pointers in a row! (I can't identify with this)

He becomes an instant hero as his teammates carried him off the court on their shoulders as the crowd went absolutely wild.

So he must have been the second coming of Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant, or Magic Johnson, right? Wrong! He was an autistic senior who was the manager for the Grace Athena High School basketball team in Rochester, NY. He had never played in a game.

His coach, Jim Johnson, let him suit up for the last game, hoping to get him in for a little playing time if they were well ahead toward the end. It worked out and the rest, as they say, is history. I won't talk about all the awards he has received, meeting the President, and the film to be made. At the end there is a short clip on the feat which tells more and more eloquently than I could in 40 pages. If this doesn't tug at your heart strings, especially this time of year, you better check your pulse. Enjoy! (The link to the video is after the Leadership Challenge)

Leadership Challenge

Give everyone a chance. As a leader one never knows who will rise to the occasion, overcome incredible odds as Jason did, and produce an epic memory for the ages. What if the game was close, Jason hadn't made the shots, and his caring coach had never considered giving him the chance. Jason's mom said it best, "This is the first moment Jason has ever succeeded and could be proud of. Autism is his Berlin Wall, and he cracked it."

[Click here](#) for the link to the video or copy and paste the following link into your browser:
<http://youtube.com/watch?v=1fw1CcxCUgg>

If you have any trouble viewing the video, press the button for "rewind" several times and then press the button for "play". If all else fails, don't give up, google "Jason McElwain". The video is really worth seeing.

I encourage your response to these thoughts. farlgroup@aol.com

Have a great day!

Please forward this on or send us the e-mail addresses of co-workers, friends or family members who might enjoy a monthly leadership thought.

If you would like to see past *Leadership Insights*, please [click here](#).