



CAPITOL CITY SPEAKERS BUREAU

We help you thrill your audience!



Coach Jim Johnson

Travels from: New York

Fee Range: \$2,500 - \$5,000

Based on what transpired in a few short moments in early 2006, Coach Jim Johnson is now an authority on the subject of realizing your dreams. In his many public-speaking appearances, the Rochester, New York resident relates his role in a basketball game that got Hollywood calling. He also emphasizes the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship, delivering his talks with a heartfelt style that has brought audiences to their feet. Coach Johnson has developed winning high-school basketball teams for 27 years, taking over three losing varsity programs and turning them into winners in short periods of time. Of his 362 career victories, one in particular will surely never be duplicated.

On Feb. 15, 2006, Coach Johnson made the kindhearted gesture of inserting his autistic manager, Jason McElwain, now known to the world as J-Mac, into Greece Athena High School's final home game, which the Trojans won 79-43. J-Mac scored 20 points in just over four minutes, including six three-point baskets, to become an instant national celebrity. Coach Johnson, also, was featured in major news outlets around the country.

To make the Hollywood ending complete, Greece Athena captured the first Section V title of Coach Johnson's career a few weeks later. A second sectional crown followed in 2007, and Coach Johnson then coached the Trojans to their third straight league title in 2008 by posting a perfect 12-0 record in league play, netting Coach of the Year honors. His success continued in 2009 with a league co-championship (34-2 league record over a three-season stretch) and third sectional title in four years, with an overall record of 20-5, his first-ever trip to the state quarterfinals and more Coach of the Year accolades. In the recently concluded 2012-2013 season, his Trojans won the sectional title for the fourth time in eight years.

Coach Johnson has made a number of radio and television appearances, including the Oprah Winfrey and Jim Rome shows. In 2006 he met President George W. Bush, Governor George Pataki and Senator Hillary Clinton, to name just a few luminaries. The Athena team was also paid a visit at school by NBA legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson. J-Mac's magic moment won the ESPY for "Best Sports Moment" at the ESPN awards show later that year.

Coach Johnson was named Coach of the Year in 2006 by several Rochester-area organizations, and was also presented with a National Sportsmanship Award. These honors brought to light an impressive body of work over the past two decades. His career record is now 362-216, with divisional titles in 1996, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and again in 2013. He has had winning seasons in 19 of the last 20 years, finishing .500 the other year. Magic was once again in the air this past season as Coach Johnson's Greece Athena team rallied from 20 points down with a little more than a quarter to play to win its state-qualifier game.



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Coach Jim Johnson continued

Perhaps not so coincidentally, J-Mac was on the bench for that monumental victory: he returned to the Trojans as a volunteer JV assistant coach, starting in 2008-2009. In 2012-2013 Jason moved from JV to Varsity and helped the Trojans win another Section V Championship. He and Coach Johnson were also featured in a lengthy CBS Sports feature that aired during the 2009 Final Four.

In 2011, Coach Johnson captured this inspirational story in his first book titled, *A Coach and A Miracle: Life Lessons from a Man Who Believed in an Autistic Boy*. It is an important book for sports fans and for people who need to believe that miracles can still happen. It also reinforces the value of applying passion, goal-setting, perseverance and teamwork to any of life's endeavors.

Coach Johnson has rolled his accomplishments and experiences into a presentation, "Dreams Really Do Come True," which he gives to various business and civic organizations around the country. His one-hour talk also emphasizes "The Essence of Teamwork" and "The Ultimate Level of Sportsmanship." For instance, he likes to point out that J-Mac's big night was made possible by unselfish teammates who kept passing him the ball even though they hadn't been instructed to do so. He also notes how the game video captures Athena bench players going as wild as the crowd with every J-Mac basket. Coach Johnson, who is a graduate of both SUNY-Cortland and SUNY-Brockport, is a physical-education teacher at Athena and has served 17 seasons as the Trojans' varsity coach.

Most Requested Programs...

Keynote Messages

- Dreams Really Do Come True
- Leadership That Makes Dreams Come True

Workshops

- Dreams Really Do Come True (90 minutes to 4 hours)
- Dreams in Motion Leadership Development (90 minutes to 4 hours)