**14782, Dana Mutkoski**

Good Evening Everyone,

I want to thank all of you for coming to help us celebrate our son Dylan’s bar mitzvah. This is an important day in a young man’s life and your presence means so much to us. As his mother, my opinion of him is, of course, prejudiced. As far as I’m concerned he’s the perfect kid. Perfect until he breaks family rules or does something with a little too much enthusiasm and scares me as a mom. Then, I want to put a little of the fear of mom into him so he’ll be more careful. (chuckle)

Normally he tells me not to heap too many compliments on it because he’s not a little kid anymore and it’s embarrassing. You know the reaction we mom’s get. The kid rolls their eyes and says, “Awe Mom. Please don’t do that. My friends are here.” Am I right parents? Well, today is your day Dylan, so be patient while I brag about you a little bit.

The birth of your child is a day that no parent can ever forget. You’ve spent months of anticipation preparing for that experience. But, as any parent with more than one child learns, each child is unique. I remember when Dylan was born he couldn't wait to experience life. He came out so fast that he dislocated his shoulders and his face looked like he went 10 rounds in the boxing ring. He was so eager to enter this world and I knew that day that he would be a tough kid who was never going to let anything or anyone hold him back from experiencing all life had to offer. He wakes up every day with a positive attitude and is eager to see what life has in store for him. And, like that first day of his life, little scares him, so I have to keep watch over his exuberance. He tends to plunge himself into something rather than plan it out carefully. Boring will never describe Dylan.

All in all, Dylan is a lot like every other boy his age. He’s smart, athletic, sometimes mischievous, but he is also very kind to others. He is very competitive but he’s not really competing with everyone around him. He's competing with himself. His goal is always to be the very best in whatever he attempts. He is an unbelievably talented ice hockey player, as well as lacrosse and basketball. He will never be happy with being average. He always needs to shoot for the stars.

Because of his personality, Dylan has lots of friends. People are instantly drawn to him. In his race for excellence he tends to pull others along with him, encouraging them to strive for that same excellence just by his example. Family is very important to Dylan. He cares very much for his family and his friends. There is nothing he wouldn’t do for them. He has a sort of love/hate relationship with his younger sister Sienna. He adores her but also loves to torture her as only an older brother can do. Just don’t let anyone else try to torture her or they’ll have to deal with him. But, Dylan is a middle child, so I think that may be the origin of his search for excellence. He looks up to his older brother Matthew and wants to be like him but also wants to impress Matthew. Then, he wants to make sure his little sister always looks up to him.

We are so proud of him and are thrilled to celebrate his bar mitzvah today. Congratulations Dylan.