

Saturday Morning Devotion

AJ Burt - Powel Crosley, Jr. YMCA Ohio

We're all going into this session with it being our last this year, but for some of us, it's our last ever. While I'm not a senior, I've grown close to one on our team the past couple years. He was State Champion last year in his best event, which also happens to be mine as well – the 100 breast. He was handily the favorite going into state this year. He swam prelims and qualified for top 8 without any problems. I did too and it ended up that I got to swim next to him at finals. We were both excited for the swim and got each other pumped.

We both swam our hardest, but he was unfortunately not able to defend his title. He got 4th, I got 6th, so I got to stand on podium at State for the first time individually. In the team area, I could tell he wasn't very happy, so I talked to him. He said, "I'm not upset with my place or my time. Just the fact that it's over for me". I'll never forget when he said that to me. As many times that he and I haven't gotten along, we've bonded double the amount. I'll really miss him and the rest of our seniors. I couldn't be more honored for my first state podium experience to be with him, standing next to him getting my award.

Please remember your seniors today because they really do shape you as a swimmer and a person both in and out of the pool. They push you and drive you to be your very best to keep the team tradition alive. Let's all continue our traditions today and swim each race like it's our last. Thank you.

Dear Lord,

Please watch over us and guide us through our races. Keep our seniors safe as they go off on their own in the world, and please keep us all safe on our journeys home.

In your name, Amen.