

It's the last session of the meet, and I'm definitely not ready for it to end. I finished my YMCA short course career of 14 years with a 2 second drop in my 200 fly. Although I've never finaled here in Ft. Lauderdale, this summer should be a different story in Maryland.

Today was amazingly hot. I put on 30 sunscreen about 5 times today. It's hard to beat the weather and fatigue on the last day. As the sun started to set, the National anthem was played on a flute at the start of finals. I know the rest of my time here in Florida will be spent with my team, and I can't wait for all the inside jokes and memorable moments to happen. The devotion tonight reminded me that the most memorable moments would most likely happen outside of the pool, with my teammates. I know that the most outstanding memory of this week will not be the horrible sunburn I'll get tomorrow.

Emotions ran high today. I cried at the end of my 200 fly because I didn't want the meet to end. My sadness was soon overturned when my female teammates made consoles in the 400 Medley Relay. I was a tenth of a second away from making that relay, but I firmly believe that relays are about team pride. Although I'm a senior, not being on the relay didn't matter to me. I'm proud to be part of an amazing team that puts up fast swimmers, even if it's not me. This is one of the lessons YMCA swimming has taught me, and I will take it with me to college next year. Being part of a strong team is more important and valuable to me than my personal performance- it gives me a second family to rely on for advice, support, motivation, Gatorade, whatever I need. Thank you YMCA swimming!

Sincerely,
UMLY Senior
Kelly Landman