

Tuesday July 27, 2004

Hey everyone!! Well, it is now my third year down here at nationals and I'm so excited. Not to mention, it is my third year writing in the athlete's journal. I feel very privileged being able to write in this journal. I always remember reading the messages other swimmers left on their journals before I came to Nationals and I just thought all the things they did here were amazing. So being able to share my experiences with swimmers both here and still aiming to make this meet is just great!

So we came down on Sunday, except this year we flew down. It was so much quicker than the usual six or plus hour drive we are used to taking. Unfortunately our plane was delayed an hour but we still had fun in the airport just being ourselves. This was Allie's and Pat's first time in a plane. I don't think Pat really minded it, but Allie held my hand for the first ten minutes of the take off and then was fine. After we landed and got everything all together we went over to the pool and swam a quick practice. Finally, after our busy busy day we were able to go back to our hotel and relax. Monday was pretty much the same way.

So here I am today, the first day of Nationals. I can't even begin to explain how excited I am. I love this meet. The spirit you find in this pool is just amazing especially because the 4 YMCA values are so highly stressed; caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Everyone here is so friendly and supportive, it's hard (especially for first timers) to focus on the swimming part just because there is so much going on here. I'm still not totally used to it, but that's what makes the meet even more challenging and exciting. It's just a different type of swim meet and I look forward to it every year.

Well today I swim the 200 I.M. and the 200 Medley relay. My main goal is just to make the cuts over again (though a best time would also be nice). :) I'm off for now! For those who have read my journals before, you know that after every entry I leave a little inspirational quote. So..TTFN - tah tah for now

Kayleigh Boucher (15)
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"Some take their marks... while others leave them"