

Dear Journal,

Today is the third day of YMCA short Course Nationals. I woke up today feeling tired because we decided to run the dishwasher right before we went to bed and that kept me up for a while. I then put those tired feelings behind me when I put on my swimsuit and decided to have a phenomenal day. I swam in the 400 IM. Unlike on the first day, when I expected to make consolation finals before I even swam in prelims, I decided to focus on my swim in the morning. I swam my heart out and made the consolation finals. I also dropped 4 seconds, which did not exactly make me sad too. My teammates, Morgan Henry, Sarah Nockengost, Ruth Seiffert, and Kristen Dornstauder all swam together in the 800 freestyle relay and did awesome! My best friend, Morgan Henry, has really been an emotional “picker-upper” at this meet for all of us. When we ride over together in the morning, she’s singing away to some of our songs. One of her favorite things to scream in the van with the rest of the team is, “ACTION ACTION WE WANT ACTION A-C-T...I-O-N...ACTION BOYS ACTION!”. Kristen, our youngest swimmer, is another one of the coolest kids I’ll ever meet. She’s always working hard in practice and gets really mad when I don’t. She’s always willing to put everything on the line during swim practice, but she always upholds the YMCA banners. Sarah Nockengost (we call her Nock-Nock) has worked so hard this past year and it is good to see her be able to swim here in Fort Lauderdale with us. She also has red hair, which shines under water when she takes off her cap. It is day three. Do not think that we have not done anything fun so far. We ARE down here to swim but we also have a lot of fun together. Altogether we snuck down around 8 cans of icing to eat on Thursday night when we all go party together. The girls also bought a thing of cut out cookies that they torment the coaches with, because the coaches do not trust them with it. Mainly, they are good with the icing. They are perfect with the cookies though. When we are not sleeping in the afternoon, we get together, watch movies, and hang out in our condominiums together. The most fun however, is being down in the sun, swimming our best times of the season and hanging out together, and with kids that we only get to see a few times a year. Today, Morgan and I wrote a note to the Kennett Swim Team, “WE HEART KENNETT, - TEAM BRANDYWINE”. However, we did not write Team Brandywine. We wrote down something that I cannot write in a journal. We then rolled up the note, put it in a Propel Bottle, and tossed it into a circle they made while they were playing cards. They read the note and started laughing. It is the bonds like that my team has with the Kennett Swim Team that makes Nationals so much fun!

-Eric Dunn

Brandywine Delaware

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