

## Day 1

Lets start with the weather; while the sunshine is so much better then three inches of snow, it can turn out to be a backstroker's worst nightmare. I managed to get past the bright sun though, and swam a second best time, not bad for having our other championship meet only three weekends ago. Many other teams also just had their championship meet a couple weeks ago, as I found out when standing behind the blocks, waiting for my race for what seemed like ever. I always go over too early, but at least I get to meet people from as far away as Washington state and California. Last year, I had to make friends because I was the only swimmer from our team, but this year I am glad that there are six of us. Not only is the cheering a benefit, but we make the most fun out of every little event. Sometimes our coach thinks we are crazy, but then he looks around at the other teams and sees them doing the same type of things: making cheers into dances on the bleachers and making the biggest deal over a misplaced pair of goggles. I am amazed at how many parents, let alone people, there are here. The stands are full, and earlier there was a line outside of people trying to get in. They get just as crazy when their kids are swimming as the swimmers do when their teammates are swimming. It's great! Our relay is next, and we are so psyched. It is the first relay that our team has ever swum at short course YMCA nationals, and we are all so nervous that as I write this, my hands are practically shaking. I hope that we don't get DQ'ed for a false start or something simple like that. The officials are really watching. Our whole team misses the kids that couldn't come; they would have been great support and video tapers. Maybe next time, we will put them in our carryon.

Catherine Suppan  
Greater Burlington YMCA Dynamos  
Vermont