

Day 1, Tuesday, July 26, 2005

'05 NATS HERE WE ARE!!! This is Margot and Lauren from the Schroeder Swim Team and this is our third summer attending the Summer YMCA Nationals. Every year each team's enthusiasm level increases and the competition is more intense. The morning session went incredibly well, with several of our teammates making finals. One of the most exciting and anticipated parts of nationals is the opening ceremony. All the teams dress up in different themes and the energy on the pool deck is wild. This year our team dressed up as basketball players, other teams joined in the fun with themes such as mice and cheese, superheroes, and a variety of candies (pixie stix and jelly bellies). Opening ceremony brings our team even closer together by getting ready together and helps to show the appreciation we have towards each other (especially the seniors for being with us through the good and the bad). Our coaches even become extremely pumped for the cheering and team spirit. We have always been proud of our enthusiasm for the team and make sure it shows by cheering wildly for our teammates and dancing to all the songs. Tonight, two Schroeder alumni came to cheer on their former team and as we talked to them we realized that the memories of this meet are never forgotten and are still laughed about years later. Even though we have three more days of intense swimming ahead of us, we refuse to lose any enthusiasm and team spirit we started with tonight. That's all for now since we have more cheering to get to. Good luck to all swimmers!

Margot Luedke and Lauren Sweeney
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