

Tri-Hampton YMCA Devotional – 2005 Spring Nationals

Brandon Hall and Mackenzie Brady

Hi my name is Brandon Hall and this is my fellow teammate Mackenzie Brady. I'd like to begin by welcoming all of you to the commencement of what promises to be a highly competitive meet. This is my final meet as a high school student, and I am very proud that I had the opportunity and privilege to share it with such an amazing group of people. I am one of the 5 founding members swimming here today from my Y team... Tri-Hampton. As I look back on my swimming career it is pretty much all a blur, everything went by so fast, but I don't feel like I have missed anything and I have no regrets. I can remember some of my times and some of the good swims that I had, but the memories that are most vivid in my mind are the ones not in the pool but when we all bonded as a family. A swim team is your second family, meaning you see and talk with the same people 6 days a week all year round, and they are always supportive of the choices that you make. Swimming with a Y team has shown me how to be a good friend, given me determination, and an amazing respect for competition... whether with myself or others.

Sportsmanship has been taught in all of the other sports that I have played in the past but until I started swimming for Tri-Hampton Y I never truly understood the depth of the meaning of that word.

I'd like to begin by extending my heartfelt congratulations to each swimmer competing here this week. You have committed an inconceivable amount of time and effort to be here. Only people in the swimming community truly understand the commitment necessary to succeed in our sport. And we also have learned that success is not measured by the what place we finish in, but by knowing we have given our best effort. And although the parents supporting us here and at home did not share our lanes at practice, this phenomenal experience would not be possible without their unwavering dedication and love. Our talented coaches too act as parents, always supporting us in our endeavors all the while balancing their careers and families. And now in conclusion... (Mackenzie)

Leonardo Da Vinci once said that simplicity is the utmost form of sophistication and although the challenging requirements necessary for each swimmer's presence here is not simple, the foundation for our experience is. Each of us here shares an unspoken but common belief, a faith in ourselves and our fellow teammates to succeed in all endeavors with dignity and respect.

The unequivocal bond is a gift every YMCA team has given its swimmers. For that we should all be truly grateful. Geography may divide us but a common belief unites us. Let this meet be living proof again as we push our bodies to excellence together.

Following in Tri-Hampton team tradition we would like to ask everyone to please stand and join hands as we say our blessing:.....

Dear God,

We thank you for guiding us through our long seasons and tough days to end in a dream come true meet in which we can share our love for swimming and for you. May you bless us all with great swims and great fun that will spark the bond of new friendships to last us a lifetime. Until we can someday to be the proud parents in these very stands.

Thank you and Amen.