

Charlotte's Web

Day one: April 5, 2005

Today was the first day of Nats 2005! Despite being in the pool Sunday and Monday, there was such a different feeling when we walked in for warm-up this morning. Seeing the stands full of people and the tents covering tons of bags and kids really psyched us up. The patches of different colored shirts, bags, and sweat pants was a welcome change from the regular meets when we see all the same teams. We have been trying to stay out of the sun in accordance with our coach's demands (not going to the beach... oh so tempting), but most of us have gotten rosy cheeks by now. When we had to put on our Fastskin FSII's you could look around the locker room and know that everyone was feeling your pain (a 28 in any other suit does NOT fit like a 28 FSII). They take forever to put on and you're already tired after you're finished. After warm-up we had some good swims (most notable 12 year old FELICIA LEE and her amazing 100 back and 200 IM (she had a swim-off for 8th place and WON IT with a new National Age Group record). Our girls 200 medley relay swam out of their minds, but just missed making finals by .5 of a second.

Later on, the parade of teams occurred. The theme was hip hop this year, so our team dressed up "ghetto" with Roca-Wear clothing and decorated Guinea tees. We saw some very interesting costumes: some people took "hip hop" really literally and dressed up as bunnies and frogs. Other people dressed up nothing like hip hop and wore super hero and cave man outfits. There was even a Chinese dragon *from New Jersey* There was a lot of spirited YMCA swimming-related festivities including a swim-rap, dancing to hip hop music on the bulkhead, and boogying to YMCA and cha-cha slide. The Gate Guys were probably the best dancers out of everyone. There was a devotion and a national anthem. Once the swimming started, everyone was pumped up and cheering like crazy for their team-mates (FELICIA LEE).

All in all, there were probably 10 trips made to Smoothie Kafe between races so we could stay hydrated and cool while assuming the task of cheering for our awesome 12 year old FELICIA LEE. All the girls looked cute with their trucker hats and bling-bling (especially Natasha and Charlotte if we don't say so ourselves... just kidding)

After we got back to the hotel, we had a team dinner and meeting when our coaches BG and Jon talked to us about our highlight swims

(FELICIA LEE), and prepared us for the rest of the week. Tomorrow is NEW JERSEY SHIRT day so everyone can wear their NEW JERSEY PRIDE on their backs with their awesome GREEN SHIRTS. Signing out, this has been Natasha and Charlotte... update tomorrow !
Montclair YMCA, Montclair New Jersey
Natasha Moodie, Charlotte Richman, Kate O'Leary, Felicia Lee, Sara Rodgers, Stephanie Ferrell, Peter Polgar, Kevin Jung, Kevin Wright, Mario M., Alex Fishman, Nick Bassolino, Dan Fletcher