

Monday April 5, 2005

Hey Little CHIEFERS!!!

Today is the first day of my last YMCA Nationals but I'm really looking forward to this meet and swimming next year in college. The first day of YMCA Nationals is always a memorable experience. Even though this is my 6th YMCA Nationals in Ft. Lauderdale, I still have chills down my spine when I walk in the Hall of Fame pool packed with parents, coaches, and swimmers. Walking in on day one is one thing that I will never forget about YMCA Nationals.

Today I swam the 200 IM and I am 7th going into finals tonight. This is the first time that I have made it back in this event so I am very excited about the race. My teammate, Payton, qualified first for the 50 freestyle and our 200 MR is in 15th place. The chiefs are off to a great start at the 2005 YMCA Nationals.

Tonight was the opening ceremonies. They are crazy, funny, interesting and a great way to start off the first finals session at the meet. Our girls dressed up as the Illini Basketball team, our boys were the Illini cheerleaders, and our parents were the Illini fans. It was a sight! We saw movie stars, Bunnies, old ladies, mullet wearing wrestling champions, nerds in speedos, and so much more. So far the weather has been great...sunny but not too hot. I hope the weather at home is better than when we left! I hope to have good news for you guys tomorrow!

Chiefs on the Warpath ;)

Your swimming friend,

Elena Luisa Ramirez

Champaign County Aqua Chiefs (Illinois)