

Thursday April 7, 2005

Hey Little Chiefers!

It's funny how things happen sometimes...

This morning my 400 IM was a disappointing swim. Given the previous race, my 200 free split on the 800 Free Relay was decent, yet nowhere near what I was capable of doing. To top off a seemingly terrible day, I broke my CD player (let's just hope Abby is good to her word...). I wasn't sure tomorrow (Friday) was going to be a good day. But...

I applied for the Outstanding Athlete Scholarship this year. This award was something I had wanted to win since my first year at Nationals. Many of my teammates have won this award in both the men's and women's category: Tommy Lockman, Justin Hauffe, Janie Reed, Christine Keller, and Tracey Hendrickson to name a few. Since I was not having the best of days, I had prepared myself mentally that I would not get the award (I know I know - always think positively ☺).

That afternoon (almost 2 hours ago as of 7:08 pm), I came back to finals and was upstairs typing my (first) day 3 athlete journal when I received a call from one of my teammates saying that my coach was "just checking" to make sure I was at the meet and down on deck soon. I finished my paragraph, and made my way down on deck to see my coach, Gary. He seemed unusually talkative and wanted me to stay close to the pool and to not go upstairs. I am sure you can tell where this story is going (hehehe)... they (the announcers) started describing the Female Outstanding Athlete Scholarship winner to the crowd. "6th year at Nationals, Senior Class President, Quilt Project"...I knew it was me, and I was right ☺.

Never give up hope. When you think you are down and out as far as you can possibly go and you feel nothing good will come your way, never underestimate the power of a positive attitude. I am so honored to win this award, as it is the completing

factor in my YMCA swimming career. It truly means so much to me as it was the award that I aspired to the most. There were so many other qualified and amazing young women that had the opportunity and ability to receive this award, and I congratulate every one of them. Thank you to all who helped me achieve this from my parents to coaches; my friends to competitors; and my references to the YMCA founders themselves. Remember to always hope for tomorrow and the days to come!

Chiefs on the Warpath!

Your Swimming Friend

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