

Atlanta Classic Write Up

By Michelle Owens

This write up may give off a distinctive sense of déjà vu and that's because, the trip to the Atlanta Classic was a trip down memory lane of sorts. Nicole, Maddie, Veronica and I once again ventured to the land down under (Georgia) to the same pool (Georgia Tech). We stayed in the same glorious hotel and visited some of the same restaurants. However, there were many ways in which this trip was very unlike the one in December. For starters, we all actually showed up at the correct airport, albeit not exactly on time. Once we arrived in Atlanta we were forced to travel directly to the pool, with absolutely no time to go to our favorite hotel. That night, we went to true foods (again) where we discovered that fast swimmers (read: Elizabeth Biesel and others) really like organic, anti-inflammatory, potentially vegan food, who knew?!? I think I can honestly say we all fangirled out a little bit. Back at the hotel, Maddie and I continued our legendary music video making, by performing a perfectly choreographed routine to 'Halleluiah' from Shrek. At the meet the next morning, we were all very surprised by the number of college teams there. We took a spot ~~in the middle of~~ next to Auburn's team area. The first day was a busy one for the FISH, but it went quite well. Maddie, Nicole and I all got our summer juniors cuts in the 200 free, Maddie and I also went best times in the 400 IM and Veronica made it back to finals in the 400 IM. In prelims of the 400 IM, I even got to race next to Elizabeth Biesel! (Because she missed her heat—see Ray, even Olympians do it!). The highlight of the night however, was watching the star studded A-final of the women's 200 free, featuring Katie Ledecky making some of the fastest swimmers in the world look really slow. On

Saturday, we continued to swim well, making it back to finals in the 400 free and 200 fly. Auburn began slow invading our team area (much like a cobra strangles its prey) forcing us to retreat to the other side of the pool to sit on the floor. Nathan Adrian made his triumphant appearance in the 50 free. We even walked by him a couple times! (And I would be lying if I didn't totally freak out) At finals, Maddie actually got to race against Katie, which was very fun to watch! That night, Ms. Donohoe cooked us some delicious pasta and Nicole, who had recently discovered her love for avocados, decided that while pasta sauce was quite good on avocados, Nutella was not. Following dinner, a great battle was fought over the big bed. Maddie and I succeed in our endeavor, but our victory did not come without casualties. The next morning, a few hurt feelings remained, but those were reconciled by the time the finals session rolled around. Sunday went much like the other days; filled with fast swims and staring in awe at Nathan Adrian. At night, Maddie and I swam the 800 and Nicole swam the 100 free, then we sprinted to the airport in an attempt to make it home in a timely manner. As soon as we got to the airport, we realized that the security line seemed to wind all the way around the airport. We did not have time for such shenanigans, and most of us were pre-checked (except Ms. Donohoe) so Maddie used her A+ acting skills to at least get her mom to the front of the security line, fortunately without causing any riots. 4 not-so-great boxes of Chinese food, 3 different gates, 2 new friends and a 1-hour delay later, we were finally on the plane, all ready to return home.