

Winter Junior Nationals 2015

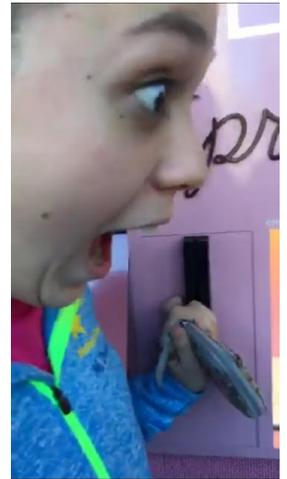
Atlanta, Georgia

By: Nicole Fye

Last Tuesday Maddie, Michelle, Veronica and myself all got to leave misery school early and go to Atlanta for Winter Junior Nationals. Everything went COMPLETELY NORMAL and ON TIME as we boarded the plane and went to my old homeland, Georgia. Once we landed, we went to our ginormous hotel room that would soon become home to lots of stray, dirty socks and fun activities and went to sleep ready for the meet the next day.

On Wednesday we got up early to maneuver through spaghetti junction and warm up at Georgia Tech, site of the best pool and smoothies on Earth. After leaving, we went to the very yummy and healthy True Foods, where Michelle discovered the Holy Grail of all amazing food things: A CUPCAKE ATM. We spent the rest of the day fangirling over instant cupcakes. That night, we swam the 800 free relay and broke the team record by 0.14 seconds!! Excited but exhausted, we went to bed that night anxious to start our individual events the next day.

Thursday will forever go down in Fish infamy as the day of broken records. At prelims, I broke the record for most suits ripped and worn in a ten minute time span. I'm pretty sure I also broke the record for putting a leg suit on fastest, but that record proved to be short-lived, for that night at finals, Maddie and Michelle managed to get theirs on in about 60 seconds before sprinting to the blocks and swimming cold turkey. They were still able to swim super fast, though. Then, Michelle got her friend L.B. Smash to let us into the super fancy VIP college swimmer locker room (it had giant sofas and a TV!). For dinner, we went back to True Foods where the swimmers ate some awesome chai seed pudding and healthy chocolate cake, and Coach Ray discovered that Kale-Aid is his new favorite beverage.



Friday was a really long day of prelims and time trials. When we returned to the hotel, we had many dance parties, failed attempts at magic tricks, and some of Mrs. Donohoe's awesome world-famous spaghetti.

Saturday was a really exciting day. In the mile, Maddie got third and Michelle scored a point, proving to Ian that it could be done. Afterwards, we went to a giant Ferris wheel, but the line was really long, so we just took a nice picture in front of it. We ended up going to a super fancy restaurant disguised as a diner and flopping into bed later that night.

Sunday--the last day! We had to make the rough transition from

short course to long course for time trials, but we still did pretty well. Right after we finished, we said quick goodbyes to Georgia Tech and ran through the airport and security, just making our flight.

Junior Nationals was a great learning experience for us all. We all returned to Virginia with new practice goals, lots of school work to make up, and unforgettable memories. I believe this high level meet impacted us so much and was so much fun because, after all, better is better.

