

## Minnesota GP – Written by Reese Fye

Day One of our trip was about as decent as a Day One could possibly be. It all started with an early morning after a late night. We had all met at Dulles International Airport to catch our flight to Minneapolis. Sleep deprived and tired, we marched through the airport until we eventually found our gate and prepared to board. The flight was only about an hour and half and was a pretty peaceful flight (other than the 4 year old sitting in front of me playing her “educational” music at full blast). Once we had arrived at our destination, we got our transportation for the weekend and immediately headed to the hotel located directly next to the pool. Since only one of the three rooms was ready, we dropped our luggage off and went over to the pool for a workout; drills, a couple of sprints, and some stroke work. However, many of us were not as focused as we should have been since it had been announced that we were going to Mall Of America later that day. After practice, we loaded up the van and headed to the closest Target and purchased our snacks and breakfast items for the weekend. We then piled into the van to head to what everybody was waiting for.... Mall Of America, which is the biggest building ever built by man in my own personal opinion. After an hour and half of screams, smiles, laughs, and Nicole's crying for help on rides, we walked upstairs to the food court. After a delicious dinner we headed back to the hotel, which would be our home for the next couple of days.

The next day, everybody was feeling very refreshed from a good night's sleep. (Especially Nicole, Selah, and Bridget had recharged properly since they went to bed at 7:30 p.m.). The Fish had a great prelims session with many best times and many finals' qualifiers. After the morning session was over, we headed to lunch at Chipotle and afterwards took naps at the hotel (except for Nicole's room since they had gotten 15 hours of sleep the during the night). Finals was also a great session with Maddie..... “dangerous” ..... Donohoe (announcer's nickname) winning the girls 500 free and winning a stuffed Gopher which ultimately resulted in a WWE style fight between Allie and Maddie. After finals, we walked to AppleBee's and had dinner. We walked back to the hotel and by that point it was already lights out for one room and the others shortly followed.

On the third morning of the trip we woke up, ate our breakfast and headed to the pool once again for another morning of fast swimming. At the pool we were yelled at by multiple officials and when I say we, I mean, I was yelled at for JUMPING IN THE POOL. Yes, apparently in Minnesota the rule is “Sit and Slip”, which means you have to sit down on the side of the pool and slide into the water. Anyway the second prelims day we all swam fairly well and the morale of the team was very upbeat. That night, the guys' team finally scored some points and the girls scored quite a number of scores. Dinner that night was an all-day breakfast place which offered free slices of pie, which we never got since it took them over an hour serve dinner and resulted in no pie :(.

It was now the last day of the meet, and we were all happy when we realized that this was the last day we had to “slip” into the freezing waters of Minnesota. Our swimmers had some truly

sizzling times and definitely left their. During prelims Coach Ray had found a lock in his bag and decided to lock loose articles of ours to a pole with it...



After lunch and some rest, surprise....surprise, we were back at the pool. There were more sizzling times and some more clothing attire being locked up. We also found out that throughout the meet coach Ray had been putting "prizes" into Nicole's Cheerio boxes. These magnificent prizes were usually pieces of the psych sheet, notes from Ohio State coaches, random papers, and papers with random writing on them. At the end of the meet however, The Fish had placed extremely well with a combined team score placing us at third and the girls team placing second overall. Every member of the team had scored as well!



Maddie was named the female High Point Winner!



We then headed out to celebrate at Raising Cains with 75 chicken fingers and a truck load of fries. When we were done with the celebration, there were so many fries left over that Liam and I took the liberty of taking them back with us to our hotel room since we didn't want to waste good food. After getting to the hotel room I proceeded to take a shower and when I came out found all the fries eaten by Liam.... kinda like how he ate all Allie's fries at AppleBee's XD. Eventually the night crept up on everybody and we all packed and went to sleep, so that we could get up at 3 AM and go to the airport. We had one layover and eventually arrived back at Dulles. Our Parents were waiting.

Overall the trip was very fun and everyone had a great time. Congratulations to all the swimmers that swam at the meet, and please wish us good luck for the rest of our season!