

Mimi Chase, West Shore YMCA, Pennsylvania

Good morning everyone and welcome to the third day of competition at YMCA Nationals! My name is Mimi Chase and I am a senior at the West Shore YMCA in Pennsylvania.



The YMCA has always played a special role in my life, ever since I was young. I took swim lessons when I was little, but I began my swimming career on the mini team at the West Shore YMCA after moving from Virginia to Pennsylvania. Never would I have imagined that ten years later I would be swimming on the competitive team throughout all of high school and preparing myself for a collegiate swimming career.

I have been coming to this meet since the summer of 2014, and every year I look forward to it more and more. Not only is it exciting to swim at the highest level of YMCA swimming, but the memories I have made with my teammates will be what I will remember most from this meet. My original shy demeanor from my very first national meet has grown into my outgoing and friendly personality which has helped me create friendships with people not only from Pennsylvania but all over the country. My teammates and these friends are what make this meet so special.

This will be my last Nationals, since I will be attending the United States Naval Academy starting in June. I will miss YMCA swimming, but I look forward to the next chapter of my life. The lessons I have learned through swimming, like finding resilience through failure and chasing goals, I will use throughout my life. YMCA swimming has left a mark on my life that is immeasurable. I am abundantly grateful for this.

Now let us all bow our heads in prayer.

Let all the swimmers today swim to their highest potential. Let competition make them strong, but never hostile. If they know victory, allow them to be happy; if they are denied, keep them from envy. Let them be reminded that sports are just games. Help them to learn something that matters once the game is over. And if through swimming they set an example, let it be a good one. Amen.

Thank you to the coaches, officials, timers, and everyone who made this meet possible and good luck to all swimmers competing this week!