

MORE THAN JUST A TEAM. As the season progressed the girls really became a family. There were pasta parties before big meets, sleepovers, travel meets, a training trip to Miami University in Oxford, and the inevitable winter break. Students picture winter break as a great time to relax and spend time with family not these girls. For them, winter break meant double practices, three-hour workouts, and a training trip to Miami University. They spent more time with their "extended family" than with their real families. Hard work sometimes breeds negativity, but not for these girls. It pulled them even closer together and increased their team spirit. No matter what occasion, meet, or race there was always a cheering section. The spirit did not stop there. Before the district meet, the girls decorated their very own shorts to show off their hairy legs! During the season the girls refrained from shaving their legs in order to create drag. Before the championship meets they shave away not only the hair, but the seconds as well. At the start of winter break the team

traveled to Cleveland to compete in the Viking Invitational at the University of Cleveland. This meet is always a blast for the girls. They charter a bus for the long four hour drive. On the bus the girls watched movies, played games, and even did each other's hair! It was a great time to bond and give the upperclassman a chance to get to know the new freshmen. The meet took place in the morning and lasted most of the afternoon. After the meet the girls grabbed something to eat, and rested up for finals that night. Unfortunately, not everyone made it back for finals. However six of the girls did. This was another great accomplishment considering the huge number of teams competing in this meet. Following the meet on Sunday morning, the team returned to the pool for one last practice before heading home.

"The hard work and early mornings were all worth it when our times dropped at the end of the season," said **Rachel Costello, 10.**

All of the hard work certainly paid off. The girls finished 1st in the GMC, 8th in state, and placed very highly at the district meet.

"Somehow the hours of hard work seemed to disappear in the glow of success," said **Suzanne Wight, 11.**

The state team included: **Lauren Bernstein, 11, Grace Denny, 9, Amy Krone, 9, Courtney Siemer, 11, Jaclyn Tameris, 12, Suzanne Wight, 11, and Jen Witte, 11.** This was the first year that every one who traveled to state was competing in an individual event, a great way to end the season. State was the biggest meet of the year. Only those with the fastest times earned a spot in the top twenty-four. Swimmers physically and mentally prepared for the meet the entire season.

"The light at the end of the tunnel was blinding at this point," said Witte, when asked about the state meet.

Factors that contributed to the team's success, were hard work, determination, and coaching. Head Coach, **Mark Sullivan,** and Assistant Coach, **Kevin Hartman,** put in long hours. They came in early and stayed extra hours making the season a success.

Good times win

Both smiles and GMC's

By Katie Loftspring



1. What is my time? Katie Hess, 10, looks for her time after her race. Hess has a successful season. She qualifies for districts in the 200 yd. and 500 yd. freestyle. The district meet is highly selective taking only the top 32 swimmers in each event from each sectional. These swimmers then go to Miami University to compete with swimmers from other districts.

2. 14-14. The girls continued their winning streak at GMC's. The team had been undefeated for the past 14 years. **Elsbeth Gibb, 12, Jaclyn Tameris, 12,** Assistant Coach, **Kevin Hartman,** and Head Coach, **Mark Sullivan,** accept this incredible achievement. It has been a tradition for the seniors to accept this award on behalf of the team.



3. Flying High. Amy Krone, 9, soars through the water on her 200 yd. IM. Krone is a major asset to the team. She is part of the state team not only for a relay, but for two individual events as well. She qualifies in the 50 yd. and 100 yd. freestyle. This is a major accomplishment for any swimmer, especially a freshman. Most swimmers work their entire high school career to make it to state. The state meet is the final meet of the season. Only the top 24 are invited to compete for state titles. Krone's constant dedication to the team, and excellent work ethic contributes a lot to her success.

