

It seems like only yesterday that I was nervously walking through the hallway anxiously anticipating my first day of swim practice. Everything was new. A new pool a new coach, new teammates. I was in a panic, rushing to my locker to grab my swim bag so I wouldn't be late for practice. But as soon as I got to my locker I realized I had forgotten my combination. It was *November*. I had remembered my combination every single day for the three months prior. It's crazy to think that this was four seasons ago. Four seasons that went by so fast yet four seasons that I will never forget.

It turned out the fears my freshman year self had were completely unwarranted. I can say with one hundred percent certainty that there is no team with athletes closer than us, athletes who laugh more than us, or athletes who sing better than us. And no team with coaches that put in the same effort and support as ours do. It's weird to look to my left and see only one other senior standing by my side. What started out as a small class, only Georgia, Julie, Chloe and I, somehow transformed into only two. But there is no one else I would rather spend nearly every minute of the day with than Georgia. I'm sad to see our swim careers coming to an end but I am grateful that from the age of about 8 until the age of 18 we got to spend them together.

What I learned through the years is that getting through a sport as emotionally and physically draining as swimming is isn't about the times you drop or the meets you qualify for, but the relationships you make and who you make them with. And fortunately I can say with certainty that the friendships and memories I have formed on this team

will stay with me forever. From belting out stone cold in the locker room, on the bus, in the pool, or just about anywhere else we could get the lyrics out, to balancing awkwardly on the freezing cold bus as we painted each other's stomachs green, to sharing secrets over chido burrito during our sleepovers, I have made memories that i am forever grateful for.

The reason that we swim as fast as we do at the end of every season has a lot to do with how much hard work we put in every single day in the pool, but it has more to do with how much we love doing it. I want to start off by thank all of my teammates for being more than teammates as you have become my best friends. I want to thank Georgia for sticking by my side for all of these years. I want to thank Heather and Mike for giving me as well as the rest of the team unwavering support, and crafting me into the person I am today. Finally I want to thank my parents for loving and supporting me through each and every swim meet and swim practice. I couldn't be where I am today without all of you, thank you.