

Senior swimmers celebrate season as big crowds pack natatorium during Township rivalry wintry home meet

By Adam Crozier

The swimming and diving senior night began with an impromptu baritone rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as Cardinal sophomore Justin Tidd sprang into song after audio equipment malfunctioned at the Perry-Southport meet.

The competition continued without another hitch, sound or otherwise.

The Lady Falcons beat Southport, 103-77, while the Falcons fell to the Cardinals, 103-77 on Jan. 11. After the diving portion, seniors **Antania Sims**, **Molly Brodzeller**, **Natalie Monroe**, **Joe Gavazzoni**, **Raul Moreno**, **Sarah Jones**, **Taylor Jarboe**, **Devin Little** and foreign exchange student **Giuliano Stefanelli** walked the length of the pool with white carnation in hand and parents on either side.

On the opposite end of the pool, fellow swimmers and divers' outstretched arms made a tunnel just wide enough for seniors and parents to saunter through single file. Monroe said, "The human tunnel has always been a tradition for senior night. Even though the

tunnels may not be the easiest to run through, it is still fun."

Once free, the family units stood in a row for pictures and to wait as the next name was read, basking in the loud noises of approval coming from the second-story bleachers.

"I feel humbled because I have seen all of the seniors go through this and now it is my time to do it," Little said.

Royal and light blue signs wished seniors good luck in college. Outside the pool entrance, a picture of each senior was pinned up to commemorate the farewell season.

"The underclassmen each year decorate the pool deck for the seniors and they did really great this year, making it really special!" said Brodzeller. Members of the crowd had a reason to be there, too. Blue Crew senior **Anthony Pasch** went to cheer on his little sister freshman **Sophia Lopez-Wright**. Freshman **Claire Bilodeau** said, "I came to support my friends: freshman **Bella Sandefer**, junior **Kyra Skeens** and Giuliano."

Sandefer competed in the 200-me-

ter relay and the 200-meter individual medley. In the IM, and other medley races, swimmers display four different kinds of strokes: butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle. Junior Skeens was in the 200-meter freestyle relay. The students in the stands crescendoed after each event.

"It was really great to have a crowd of students there to support us. We don't usually get too many students at our meets," Brodzeller said.

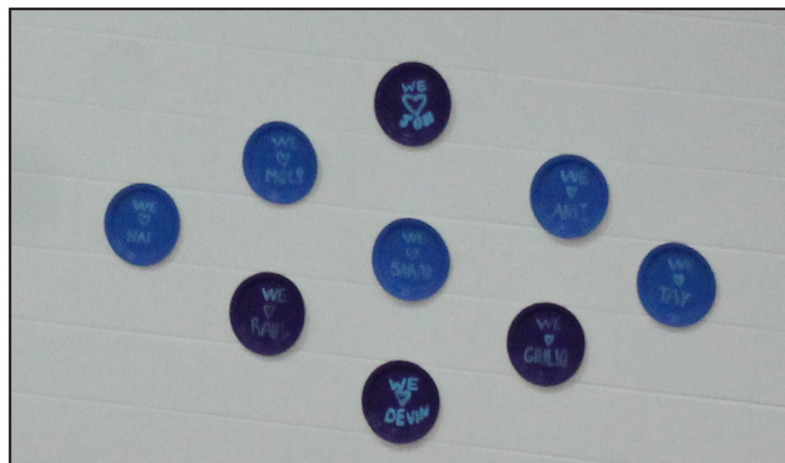
Monroe said she'd never seen so many Falcon fans at a swimming and diving meet before.

"It was great to see the support from so many and it just pushed me even more to win the events."

Little agreed, "Everyone performs better when they are being cheered. We are together so much we are like family!" Brodzeller shaved two seconds off her 500 time and Sims won girls diving. Little swam four events in total. He received second place finishes in the 200 medley relay, 200 IM and 400 free relay and eked victory in the 100 back by four seconds.



Junior Kyra Skeens moves her arms and legs to achieve distance in the 200-meter freestyle relay. Her bilateral breathing allows her to take in oxygen with each stroke as her arms and legs work together to maintain rhythm and speed. She turns her head side-to-side after each stroke to increase oxygen intake. She approaches the end of the lane, preparing herself for the upcoming turn (Photo by Adam Crozier).



(above) A group of decorative plates are arranged in the form of a diamond that were created by the underclassmen swimmers. These were made in order to both celebrate and commemorate the senior swimmers who will be leaving for college.

(below) Another example of decorations that were put up around the pools created by the non-senior swimmers (Photos by Adam Crozier).



THE KEY TO SAFE DRIVING

"Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

DRIVING ACADEMY

3015 Meridian Meadows
Greenwood, IN 46143

(317)534-0016 DRIVINGACADEMY.COM

DRIVER EDUCATION: ONLINE OR CLASSROOM