

Even the competition cheers for RHS

by Kristen Lang

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The Water Warriors of Riverdale High School started off this swim season with a bang! Waiting for the delayed meet to begin, the Warriors crammed their iPod buds into their ears and stuffed their faces with energy bars—preparing for individual and team accomplishments.

The opponents on Nov 3 were Cleveland High School, home of the Blue Raiders. They have a smaller team than Riverdale; however, they put up a fight for the win. But at the end of the night, the numbers were calculated, the Water Warriors were victorious!

On Nov. 10, with a win behind them, RHS was highly motivated and confident in the meet against the University School of Nashville. Surprisingly, there was an unexpected twist during the meet. As nervous, beginner swimmers swim something in a meet; there is nothing better to do than to cheer them on! And that's exactly what one of the USN Tigers did. She was screaming her head off and clapping her hands until they were red--not for a Tiger swimmer, but a Warrior! She demonstrated the camaraderie so often missing in competitive events.

"Being a swimmer is a very nerve racking position sometimes," says Sophomore Shae Crosslin, "It really doesn't matter who you are or what team you're on, every swimmer knows what it's like to worry about what you're swimming and think you're going to mess it up or lose the points for your team. I think that that's what that nice girl was thinking."

But while that USN tiger inspired a sense of unity, the meet was a battle to the very end. Some swims were won by less than a blink of an eye—00.00.03! (three hundredths of a second)

After the times were calculated and the swimmers were bundled up in their clothes to prevent pneumonia, the RHS lady warriors won and the USN tigers won... HOWEVER, they both won with the same amount of points. That means that the RHS warriors lost with the same amount of points that the USN lady tigers lost with. So they tied: 169 to 169!

The meet on Dec. 1 was against the Father Ryan "Fightin' Irish." A lot of swimmers who were important to the meet couldn't swim because of their grades. Coach Davis' number one rule is 'Do the Right Thing' and it covers everything that could possibly happen in life. If a swimmers gets too bad of a grade, they are not doing the right thing so they consequence is not swimming.

Also, one of our lady simmers, sophomore Rachel Jones, was faced with the choice of swimming sick or not. On Monday, Rachel got a medicine of strep throat that made her break out in a rash. Another trip to the doctor and they realized she didn't have strep throat; she had mono.

Of course, because Rachel is a fighter and a dedicated teammate, she decided to swim. The lady Warriors battled it out with all they had, but in the end, they fell short by 19. However, the Warriors won by around 50 points, so overall the Warriors won.

An upcoming away meet is on Dec 13 at Brentwood High School against Brentwood and Hendersonville. What surprising splashes will they have in store this time?