



**Finish First** Elle Kaiser '21, Brianna Shroyer '23, Kolby Schendel '22, and Ellie Carik '22 walk back after their first place finish in the 200 medley relay. Excitement filled the team with the race. "The win was the best way to start the meet," Shroyer '23 said. "It set us up for a meet filled of fun." Photo by Kaylie Carik

# STATE SNATCHED AWAY

The Girls Swim team deals with the disappointment of a canceled state meet

The sound of teammates cheering at the top of their lungs filled the Elk River pool as **Elle Kaiser '21** touched the wall for a first place finish in the 200 medley relay. Soon after, the realization of not being able to go to State hit.

Kaiser's final season on the swim and dive team was cut short due to COVID-19. That did not stop her from swimming as fast as possible to still be able to make it to state.

"If anything, not having a State made me work even harder because I was angry. I wanted to go to Sections and get times that would've sent me to state so that I could be satisfied with my season," Kaiser said. "The only thing I could think of to make me more confident was training as hard as I could and doing the optional workouts like lifting and Saturday practices."

The added incentive of going to State often served as encouragement for **Ellie Carik '22**.

"State being canceled was really disappointing. It is the most exciting meet of the season," Carik said. "Now it will only push me to work harder to try to make it in more than just the two relays next season."

Along with Carik, **Kolby Schendel '22** looked forward to the state meet the whole season, and couldn't wait for the team trip to the University of Minnesota pool and staying at the hotel.

"I always enjoy going to State with the girls on the team, because we always have so much fun together and it's an unforgettable swimming experience," Schendel said. "With no state this year, we decided we still wanted to celebrate. We went to the Ridgedale Mall and ate at the Cheesecake Factory."

The canceled State meet left **Hayley Crossland '23** with unmet goals, despite the effort she put into the season.

"One of my goals has been to qualify for the state meet," Crossland said. "Throughout the season I worked as hard as I could to get there."

"Before my races I would remind myself that as long as I put everything into the race, no energy left to give, then I would know I did the best I could," Kaiser said. "I would've loved being able to go to State again for my last season at the high school, but since it was cancelled I'm just given another reason to train insane in college."

-Ellie Carik



**KELSEY RHODES '24**

"Cheering for my teammates is one of my favorite reasons I swim. I love when the pool is loud, it makes the meet feel like it is important and lightens the mood."

Photo by Matthew Scherber