## What Swimming in the NHSA Has Meant to Me

My youth swimming career has started and, surprisingly, ended with NHSA! I have fond memories with my first club team, starting at the age of 11. From the team bonding to eating out to performing our best times, traveling up to UVAC for the state championships was always the highlight of my swim season. That's why I am excited to be back at UVAC for my last year. The surrounding area is what made it fun, too. After swimming, I would always go skiing with a couple of friends before heading home and I know that these memories will last a lifetime.

I spent three happy years with my club team developing my swimming skills and making new friends. Sadly, my first team ceased to operate and I had to move on, going to a Massachusetts based club team. I spent the next four years there, and although I continued to grow as a swimmer, there was no similar opportunity to bond with the entire team at a championship meet. I have come full circle, now that I'm back with a New Hampshire based team. It truly reminds me of all the fun times I had on my first club team and I couldn't be more thankful to return to UVAC one last time.

Joining my current NHSA club last year, I rekindled friendships with former teammates from my first team, for which I am grateful. To me, swimming in the NHSA champs is not all about racing, it's more a reflection of team values. This is why I'm excited to continue swimming in college where I'll again have the opportunity to bond with all of my teammates at league championship meets. Knowing that I'll be back at UVAC for the last meet of the season made me realize how much I've missed being there those past four years. There is no better feeling than ending my club swimming career right where I started, in the NHSA!