

CLAIRE VAN BILJON - LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL



Claire will attend and compete for Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. Ironically that is also where her high school coach Todd Gabel also went to college and swam for the Bears. Claire plans to study exercise science and nutrition.

Most embarrassing or challenging moment? My most embarrassing moment is when my suit ripped at the Edwardsville meet. Special thanks to my teammates for having a towel handy plus I had another suit at the meet.

What will you miss as you move on? I am going to miss my teammates and coaches- all of them, Todd, Brad, Mary, Liz, Dan and Christie. They are why I love swimming and doing it the next four years without them will be hard, however, I am excited to have a new place to reach for my goals.

Favorite race or practice set? I have always loved the 2:01 set, how it gets harder so quickly and how you can measure your improvement. My favorite race is the 100 free and any relay.

Favorite memory? The trip to the University of Southern California is one of my favorite memories. We stayed in the dorm and raced at the Olympic pool on campus. The traffic was crazy, the beaches were great and the weather was excellent. Coaches Jerod and Liz made the trip fun with the side trips to cupcakes and groceries.

FROM CLAIRE - *I want to thank all of my coaches for helping me get to where I am today and always doing what they can to help. I want to thank my parents for pushing me and taking me to practice and meets when i couldn't drive, especially all the early mornings school year and summer, and I want to thank my friends for making me love the sport so much more because I got to see them every day.*

