A second-place trophy was not the only hardware the Illinois State swimming and diving team took home from the Missouri Valley Conference Championships last weekend.

Junior Danielle Schumacher swam herself to an MVC Elite 18 honor.

The award is based on a combination of academics and MVC championship performances.

“Honestly, I didn’t even know [the award] existed until I got it,” Schumacher said with a laugh. “I had everyone under the sun explain it to me, but I am honored and really excited.”

Schumacher won the conference championship in the 500-yard freestyle, finished second in the 200-yard freestyle, and was a member of the 800-yard freestyle relay team that broke the MVC Championship record in the event.

“When I do anything out of the ordinary, I surprise myself,” Schumacher said. “The intensity is a lot higher at conference and the competition is better. You can feel the energy around you and it makes you swim faster.

“We could see our teammates watching at the other end of the pool and you just know everyone wants you to do well,” she added.

Schumacher’s post in the 200-yard freestyle was also the best in ISU history, breaking the record and providing her personal-best time.