[The Milford Messenger](http://www.themilfordmessenger.com/)

Robotics World Championship

Austin Willey  
May 16, 2013 

[](http://www.themilfordmessenger.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/2011_team_2_20120101_183229_4.jpg)Austin Willey

**Robotics World Championship**

Congratulations to the Heroes of Tomorrow! The HOT Robotics team finished as finalists of the Curie Division in the FIRST World Championship. Students and mentors from the HOT team participated in a packed four days of competition and conferences inSt Louis, April 24-27. There were over 400 teams that got invited from all over the world. The world championship began Wednesday with a series of conferences on build and game strategy, programming, electronics, and team structuring. The conferences were followed by a fierce three days of qualification and tournament matches. The HOT team finished with a 6 and 2 record and was the first selection by the 3rd seed alliance, captained by team 4814 (United Robotics of London) a defensive power house. The alliance was completed by team 1918 (NC Gears) a sweeper and climber. The partnership of these 3 teams brought the 3rd seed alliance to an unexpected finish as division finalists. The HOT team is very proud of their scoring contribution to the alliance.

The team had 6 weeks to design and build their robot. Their building center is located at a small lab at the GM Proving Grounds where they get to use band saws, drill press and the grinder to build their project. The World Championship program had certain limitations with the robot. They provided the metal and the electrical equipment. It had to be a certain weight, height, and width. The team developed their final design and started building it in the fifth week of their timeline. ”It was Crunch time!” said Lukas Senczyszyn. Erik Britton and Emma Beattie worked together on the electrical wiring and made sure all the lights and functions were working properly. “I’ve learned so much from doing this over the past few years and it’s a great program to get involved in,” Said Erik Britton.

The HOT Team continues the tradition of robotics excellence for which it has been known. Of the 64 best FIRST Robotics teams, inMichigan, theHuronValleyteam, sponsored by the General Motors Proving Ground, emerged as a State Finalist!

The FIRST in Michigan State Championship consisted of 3 days of the best robotics competition in the world! In these games, robots built by students and their mentor’s play 3 against 3 in a 2 and a quarter minute game called Ultimate Ascent. The game can best be described as a game of speed frisbee golf followed by climbing as high on a pyramid shaped jungle gym as possible. Points are awarded based on the number of made shots weighted by the difficulty of the target and on the final height of the ascended robot. On average, scores at this event more than doubled the scores earned by teams at any other event!

The HOT team’s cross court shot followed by a pyramid climb, only mastered by a few robots, wowed the audience, which included people like John Calabrese, General Motors vice president of global engineering; Rick Schneider, Michigan’s governor; and Milord’s own Kevin McKenna. During qualification, the HOT Team’s alliance posted the highest score ever achieved inMichigan! This score would be a World Record when penalty points were removed from all posted scores.

After 12 competitions, the top 8 teams pick their alliances. The Huron Valley Team, seeded 4th, was picked by the top seeded team-the Tech Vykes, fromHopkinsMichigan. Using data produced by our team’s scouts, they chose the EngiNerds from Grand Blanc as their 3rd alliance member. With great team work, the team helped their wounded robots through the quarter finals and the semi finals. In the finals, our alliance was finally overcome by the second seeded team; captained by Las Guerrillas, from Bloomfield Hills; the Byting Bulldogs, fromWashington, and the Thunderchickens, fromSterling Heights. The HOT Team also won the Delphi Engineering Excellence Award for the outstanding engineering that resulted the team’s climbing system. The HOT team showed an incredible amount of team work and really showed how far the can go when they all work together.