

2015-04-15 / Front Page

[[Print article ](http://www.spinalcolumnonline.com/news/2015-04-15/Front_Page/Huron_Valley_HOT_Team_headed_to_world_competition.html) Print](http://www.spinalcolumnonline.com/news/2015-04-15/Front_Page/Huron_Valley_HOT_Team_headed_to_world_competition.html)

Huron Valley HOT Team headed to world competition

BY CHRIS WALL

CONTRIBUTING WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER

[chris@scnmail.com](mailto:chris@scnmail.com)

[
Nathan Feather (left) from Lakeland High School and Donovan Porter (right) from Milford High School adjust the robot arms with help from Coach Freeman (middle) in the quarterfinals of the Michigan State Robotics Championships on Saturday, April 11 in Grand Rapids. ](http://www.spinalcolumnonline.com/sites/www.spinalcolumnonline.com/files/images/2015-04-15/1p1.jpg)**Nathan Feather (left) from Lakeland High School and Donovan Porter (right) fromMilford High School adjust the robot arms with help from Coach Freeman (middle) in the quarterfinals of the Michigan State Robotics Championships on Saturday, April 11 in Grand Rapids.**

The General Motors- Huron Valley Schools “Heroes of Tomorrow Team 67” (HOT) robotics team finished in the 8th spot last Saturday in a challenging field of 102 teams at the Michigan State Robotics Championships in Grand Rapids.

The HOT team’s Elite 8 finish qualifies them for a return trip to the World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri beginning on Wednesday, April 22.

This year’s robotic competition focused on building a robot that is able to grab and stack plastic recycling containers and large green plastic recycling cans. After competing successfully at the district and regional competition last month, the HOT Team 67 determined they would need to develop new robot arms capable of grabbing green cans that, when added to the stacks, triple the point value.

[
Rennie Scott (left) and Donovan Porter (right) from the GM-Huron Valley Heroes of Tomorrow (HOT) Team directs the robot to pick up containers from Nathan Feather (far right). ](http://www.spinalcolumnonline.com/sites/www.spinalcolumnonline.com/files/images/2015-04-15/1p2.jpg)**Rennie Scott (left) and Donovan Porter (right) from the GM-Huron Valley Heroes of Tomorrow (HOT) Team directs the robot to pick up containers from Nathan Feather (far right).**

As a result, the programming, electrical, and mechanical teams went to work to design, program and deploy two new arms under the direction of coaches Adam Freeman and Lori Gleason. This challenging task to deploy the new arms was being developed during the qualification periods on Thursday and Friday which added even more pressure.

Thanks to their hard work, the HOT Team 67 finished in the top 16 with an average qualification score of 144. As a result they were chosen to form an alliance with the Flying Toasters Team #3641 from South Lyon and the Titanium Tigers Team #5114 from Fenton for the finals. This neighborhood alliance advanced to the Elite 8 but had a minor problem and was eliminated.

“I thought the team performed really well today,” said Coach Freeman at the end of the day. “We did our job. We had one miscue in the quarterfi nal match that kind of cost us and our alliance did not get it done but that’s what happens with the average of two scores.”

As a result of their 8th place finish and Hall of Fame status, the GM-Huron Valley Schools “Heroes of Tomorrow Team 67” (HOT) robotics team qualified for another run at the World Championships where they will compete with 600 teams from around the globe.

“We put a lot of pressure on ourselves to have high expectations,” said Coach Freeman. “From day one, designing and building everything to compete in St. Louis at the World Championships is the focus.”

Congratulations and good luck to this year’s “Heroes of Tomorrow Team 67” (HOT) robotics team: Chad Abou-Hamdan, Kaden Allen, Ryan Allen, Hunter Barnes, Henry Baxter, Noah Beattie, Nick Begien, Hunter Beltowski, Shawn Blasko, Paul Bonnen, Marlina Bowring, Melissa Brei, Michael Brown, Angela Butkovich, Mary Buzolits, William Caradonna, Danielle Cummins, Maddy Dean, Nathan Feather, John Flowers, Alexis Fosmer, Noah Gould, Shae Grubb, Steven Hagopian, Joey Hatfield, Ethan Holper, Alex Iseler, Franklin Jeffery, Cody Kallay, Mallori Kay, Jack Koby, Varun Kutirakulam, Nicklas Lieske, Brandon Mackey, Kirk MacQuarrie-Klender, Dillon Massey, Drew Massey, Riley Morris, Donovan Porter, Ryan Robinson, Marin Sakuma, Bradley Schoff, Rennie Scott, Dylan Sellers, Erick Smith, Michael Streng, Karel Venegas, Jacob Wheaton, Autumn Whitney, and Julia Zahn.