Title: HOT Robotics Team Scorches World Championship

Article: by Nathan Feather

The Huron Valley Schools-GeneralMotors Proving Ground-FIRST Robotics team, The Heroes of Tomorrow, just returned from another successful trip to the World Championship as the Carson Division Finalists. The HOT team joined 607 of the top robotics teams from around the globe as they converged on St Louis for the 2015 FIRST Robotics World Championship. After a rollercoaster ride of qualification matches; the HOT Team was chosen by Team 4488, Shockwave, from Hillsboro OR, to join their 5th ranked alliance. The alliance was completed with team 225, TechFire, from York PA and team 5659, Team Supreme, from Bridgehampton NY. The alliance faced a heavy battle with higher ranked teams in the division playoffs in order to get to the finals. On their journey; they knocked out the heavily favored alliance, captained by the 2014 world champion, The Cheesy Poofs. The World Championship competition capped a successful year for The HOT Team with 2 district wins and multiple other awards already to their name.

The FIRST Robotics Competition is a sport where high school students work with engineers and teachers in order to design, fabricate, and build a robot in order to compete in an annually changing game. The 2015 game was to stack plastic totes and then place a recycling can with a pool noodle on top of the stack. The purpose of the game is to create a challenge that students and engineers work together to solve. The HOT Team works in the General Motors Milford Proving Ground and has many GM engineers mentor the students. The collaboration with engineers gives students the opportunity to develop valuable skills sought after in today’s work environment.

The HOT Team has experienced lots of success at the World Championship in past years and are one of the winningest teams in the sport. They are a 3 time world champion and 3 time state champion. In addition, they have reached at least the division finals at the world championship in 8 out the past 10 years. They are the only team in the world to hold this impressive feat. It is also the second year in a row that The HOT Team was able to accomplish this feat entering the playoffs as an underdog.

The HOT Team would not have been able to accomplish this, without the hard work and dedication of all their members. Their drive team consisted of drive coach, Adam Freeman; driver, Donovan Porter; operator, Rennie Scott and athlete, Nathan Feather. Their pit crew was run by crew chief Jim Meyer; mechanics, Ethan Holper and Kaden Allen; electricians Angela Butkovich and William Caradonna; and programmers Paul Bonnen and Marlina Bowring. Their scouters and data analysts were ChadAbou-Hamdan, RyanAllen, HunterBarnes, HenryBaxter, NoahBeattie, NickBegien, HunterBeltowski, MelissaBrei, MichaelBrown, MaryBuzolits, DanielleCummins, JohnFlowers, AlexisFosmer, NoahGould, ShaeGrubb, EthanHolper, AlexIseler, FranklinJeffery, CodyKallay, MalloriKay, VarunKutirakulam, NicklasLieske, BrandonMackey, RileyMorris, RyanRobinson, BradleySchoff, ErickSmith, MichaelStreng, KarelVenegas and JuliaZahn.

The HOT Team thanks their generous sponsors, General Motors and Denso; their mentors, Spenser Adams, Lee Arms, Jason Bretzlaff, Al Calder, Adam Freeman, Lori Gleason, Rodney Gleason, James Hendrickson, Ashley Haren, Ray Jeffery, Ron Kubani, Ryan Legato, Jay Meldrum, Jim Meyer, Josh Orlando, Darrell Robinette, Mike Schreiber, Regina Stephenson, Kevin Sweeney, Gina Sweet, Russ Sweet and Marybeth Waldo; and their parents for providing everything the team needed for this year’s “Recycle Rush.”