



The Nuts and Bolts

Mini-Issue

FIRST Robotics Competition

Carmel High School -
Rolls-Royce -
TechHOUNDS
Team 868

The last weekend of February was quite eventful for the TechHOUNDS, as the team traveled to Cleveland, Ohio to participate in its first **Regional FIRST Robotics Competition** of the season. The experience, outlined below, proved to be enriching and enjoyable, and included what are sure to be some of the major highlights of the season.

Buckeye Regional — Cleveland, OH (Feb. 26—Feb. 28)

The TechHOUNDS won **silver medals** as they competed with about sixty other teams in the **2009 Buckeye Regional** in Cleveland, Ohio and won **second place** with its alliance partners, **Teams 1018** - the Pike RoboDevils from Pike High School in Indianapolis - and **3010** - the Centerburg Trojans, a rookie team from Centerburg, Ohio.

Team 868 proved to present a **consistent, high-scoring robot** during Thursday's practice rounds, and after efficiently making a change from a two-wheel drive train to **four-wheel** at the competition itself in our pit, we confidently began Friday's qualifying matches as one of the top robots of the competition, scoring approximately **eighty points per match** with our innovative dumping mechanism. After losses due to radio problems on Friday, the TechHOUNDS recovered, winning both of Saturday's qualifying matches. This placed Team 868 at **fourteenth rank** overall, and ultimately we were honored to be chosen by the second seeded team of the competition, **Team 1018**, as a partner. With the selection of **Team 3010** to complete the alliance, the three effective offensive robots collaborated as a **powerful trio**.



Quickly and victoriously storming through quarterfinals and semifinals, our alliance emerged as a finalist, competing against the robust alliance of **Teams 1747, 1038, and 2010**. Both alliances played with brilliant strategy in two heated matches, and the TechHOUNDS ultimately finished in **second place**.

Our drivers, **Charles Nepomuceno** and **Stephen Spence**, human player **Dane Dale**, and coach **Adam Wilmes** successfully directed our robot on the slippery field, capturing the attention of the entire audience. Not only were we popular on the playing field, but our **student-constructed pit**, incorporating a unique layout, efficient workspace, and colorful banners and video, incited interest from virtually **all teams and public spectators**.



With our skilled **drive team** and alliance partners, hard-working members in the pits, and spirited adults and students cheering the team on in the stands, the TechHOUNDS have started its 2009 FIRST Robotics Season with full force, and we are eagerly looking forward to the upcoming **Boilermaker Regional** in West Lafayette, Indiana at Purdue University and the **FIRST Robotics International Championship** in Atlanta, Georgia.





Thank you to all of our sponsors for your support and contributions!

In addition, a special thank you to Mr. Shawn Spence, who took all of these stunning pictures of us at Cleveland.

