



# The Nuts and Bolts

Mini-Issue

FIRST Robotics Competition

Carmel High School -  
Rolls-Royce -  
TechHOUNDS  
Team 868



Presenting...



2009 Boilermaker  
Regional Champions!



The weekend of March 19, 20, and 21 was one of the most exciting for Team 868, as they made TechHOUNDS history by winning their first regional of their eight years of participation in the FIRST Robotics Competition. The TechHOUNDS were the captains for the fourth-seeded alliance comprising of two additional teams: Team 1024, The Kil-A-Bytes from McKenzie Career Center in Indianapolis, and Team 292, PantherTech from Western High School in Russiaville, Indiana. Together, this powerful alliance won gold medals as they were crowned the **2009 Boilermaker Regional Champions**.

Team 868's robot, "Mr. Shumper", made quite an impression in the competition with drivers Stephen Spence and Andrew Johnston, human player Dane Dale, and coach Adam Wilmes.

On Thursday, the drive team utilized their practice matches to once again become accustomed to the unique Lunacy field and a change in drivers from the Cleveland competition. This hardworking drive team was victorious throughout Friday's qualifying matches, winning each match with an average score of **seventy points** by shooting and dumping (thus "shumping") game pieces efficiently. At the end of day one, the team was in first place. However after a few losses during Saturday's qualifying matches,

the TechHOUNDS were ranked fourth going into the finals. The top eight seeded teams are given an opportunity to choose two alliance partners to compete with during the final matches. Team 868 invited the assistance of Team 1024 and Team 292, forming an effective, robust alliance.



The TechHOUNDS plowed through the quarterfinals and semifinals, thus emerging as finalists against the powerful alliance of Team 45, Team 234, and Team 461, an alliance that placed first in a previous

regional competition. The alliances had to win two out of three final matches – Team 234's alliance won the first match, while our alliance won the second match. Thus, the third match was as heated as ever, and with a last-minute upset in score, the TechHOUNDS alliance were victorious, with a final score of **81 to 78**!

A major component of our robot, allowing it to maneuver on the slippery field, is a special traction control program – this feature won a major judged award, the **Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control Award**. Not only were we successful on the playing field, but our student-constructed pit, incorporating a unique layout, efficient work-space, and colorful banners and video, incited interest from several teams and public spectators.



The six weeks of hard work by the TechHOUNDS, a team of sixty students and twelve adult mentors, ultimately culminated to becoming a Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control Award-winner, the 2009 Buckeye Regional Finalist, and the 2009 Boilermaker Regional Champions. We are eagerly looking forward to 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 the Boilermaker Regional.*