



Congratulations to the HOT robotics team. They braved the weather to compete at the Southfield District event this weekend, finishing as district finalists.

42 students from Milford, Lakeland and the International Academy-West woke up early on a March 1 snow day to attend their first FIRST robotics tournament of 2018, "FIRST Power Up." After spending 6 weeks designing, building, and programming their robot, they were ready to support it in its inaugural event. When they arrived, they met 40 teams that would be their potential alliance partners or opponents. Some were incredible works of engineering. Some came unready to compete. The Huron Valley team stepped in to help these teams build protective bumpers, correct mechanical and electrical issues and develop code to make their robots competitive. The gracious professionalism that our students displayed helping others teams prepare for the competition really showed the spirit that FIRST was designed to produce.

The qualifying matches were a rollercoaster ride. Our team came in with high expectations, but lost its first two matches. They came back with several wins, but then had some mechanical issues that set them back as they left of Friday's competition. The ride continued on Saturday. The team showed off their autonomous programming consistently using their "power cube" to gain control of their "switch". Friday's experience payed off as the drive team (Marlina Bowring, David Vella and Franklin Jeffery) continuously improved their rate of placing cubes to control the more difficult and competitive "scale." They also honed the move that sets our team apart from the others, climbing the tower in the "end game" carrying another robot. This single move is capable of earning our team 90 points in a game in a game with typical scores in the 300's. The HOT team finished the qualification matches with a 7-5 record and a 5th place ranking.

Jakob Olechiw developed an app that the team used to compile data on the teams at the competition. The data proved itself during qualifying matches highlighting the abilities and deficiencies of the teams we would be competing with. The data would prove critical for choosing a competitive alliance for the final tournament.

Tournament selections placed the team as the 3rd seeded alliance captain. The team chose as their partners team 4680 (the Az-Tech Eagles from Detroit) and rookies 7218 (the Bradford Botdogs from Southfield). This team rose through the bracket finishing as tournament finalists.

The team competed valiantly. Their performance throughout the event was a testament to FIRST values: *Gracious Professionalism* (a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community) and *Coopertition*® (displaying unqualified kindness and respect in the face of fierce competition. *Coopertition* is founded on the concept and a philosophy that teams can and should help and cooperate with each other even as they compete)

The team will take the field again March 16-17 at the Milford District event at Milford High School. Come see your team in action at their home event. Friday's opening ceremonies begin at 10am. Qualifying matches continue until 7pm-ish. Qualifying matches continue Saturday morning. The tournament begins at 1pm on Saturday. The award ceremony should begin at 5. Admission is free. The students really appreciate your support.

HOT Team Student Roster

IA West

Duyen Avallone
Marlina Bowring
Alison Brei
Noah Brinker
Devin Brown
Grace Cyporyn
Rachel DeClerck
Nicholas DePolo
Natalie Heywood
Aiden Jerome
Paul Johncheck
Sophia Johncheck
Jasmin Kasi
Sophia Kasi
Ian Larsen
Brenden Londeau
Jakob Olechiw
Nicholas Stankovich
David Vella
Jonah Wehner
Kayla Wehner
Frank Xia

Lakeland

Alexander Coleman
Joshua Conrad
Amanda Fairchild
Maxim Geise
Kendra Hayden
Luke Hoensheid
Jackson Holper
Jacob Rende
Marissa Stapleton
Aidan Sweeney

Milford

CONAN BAXTER
Henry Baxter
Zachary Blanchard
Michael Caradonna
Ian Flanagan
Joe French
Noah Gould
Alyssa Hagan
Franklin Jeffery
Cody Kallay
Edward MacDOugall
Rowan Marchie
Timothy Meyer
Alex Moening
Kristen Schang
Brien Smith
Hayley Spellicy-Ryan
Peyton Spellicy-Ryan
Emily Stando
Cayla Stec
Nicholas Taubert
Garrison York
Blayne Young

Highlander Way HS

Kaitlyn Meyer

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Lori Gleason

Milford High School-Chemistry and Physics Teacher

FIRST Robotics Mentor-FRC Team 67 and FTC Teams 7255 and 11668

Posted by: Lori Gleason <lori.gleason@hvs.org>

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