

Press Release March 1, 2009

Hello,

Oconomowoc High School CooneyTech Robotics Team had a great time Feb 26-28 at the Greater Kansas City FIRST Robotics Competition! The students worked hard the whole weekend and learned the value of science, technology, engineering and math. They really learned about the value of great engineering!

Oconomowoc's students had very little to do in their pit area because their robot was built sturdy and worked well. They really appreciated all the lessons learned from their engineering mentors. There were 61 teams at the event and many needed assistance with their robots. CooneyTech spent time helping other teams. Daniel Gradinjan helped teams with programming, Brittany Rusch helped with electrical wiring and Mac Guckenberger, Dave Gedymin and Ben Doherty helped with mechanical issues. The team also brought along extra supplies for teams that needed to change their robot bumpers. In FIRST Robotics teams all help each other to be able to compete!

Drivers Kyle Beranek and Dave Gedymin did a great job maneuvering among all the robots and Chris Foyer and Emily Hern were the outstanding human players for Oconomowoc. In the preliminary matches Oconomowoc won 4, tied 1 and lost 2. They were in 14th place and were picked to join teams 2410 and 1094 in the finals. This alliance won their first quarterfinal match but then lost in the quarterfinals due to penalties made by alliance partners. The team was very happy with their personal performance and they are looking forward to the Wisconsin Regional.

Hamilton High School Charger Robotics from Sussex, WI was the only other Wisconsin team at the event. They had a great day too. They had 3 wins and 4 losses. Most important for them was that their robot improved in each round and they are ready to compete at the Wisconsin Regional. Even though they were working on their robot they had students and mentors helping other teams. They also had many parents and mentors who volunteered to help run the event.

The students want to thank their sponsors, mentors, and parents for giving them the chance to participate in this event where science and technology are celebrated and engineers are heroes.

Attached are two photos.

Oconomowoc High School students (from top) Ben Doherty and Mac Guckenberger, and (from left to right) Chris Foyer, Kyle Beranek, Emily Hern and Daniel Gradinjan.

Hamilton High School Students (from left to right) Paige Schunke, Mike Swartzendruber, Kelson Zarling (way back), Evan Thompson, Matt Kline, Kristin Cox.

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