

OHS CooneyTech Robotics Team, FIRST Robotics Team 269
Press Release

Hello to our Friends, Fans and Sponsors,

The Robotics Team has a wild weekend at the FIRST Robotics Wisconsin Regional at the US Cellular Arena in Milwaukee. This year the challenge has 3 robots vs. 3 robots. Each robot tows a trailer and while the opponent tries to put balls in the trailer, the driver tries to evade them. There is also a human player who can shoot balls into the trailer. After the preliminary rounds Oconomowoc had 4 wins and 4 losses and was in 22nd place out of 53 robots. In one match Oconomowoc ruined a gearbox. Pit crew Dave Gedymin, Brittany Rusch and Ben Doherty worked fast to get the robot back into play. Thanks to student programmer Daniel Gradinjan the team's robot was one of the only robots in the nation to score in autonomous mode (where the robot is completely computer controlled) by tracking and catching another robot's trailer and dumping balls into the trailer. Because of this outstanding play the team received the Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control award on Friday.

On Saturday the team was selected into finals by the Franklin High School team. Oconomowoc was selected for two reasons. Drivers Kyle Beranek and Mac Guckenberger did an excellent job of both scoring and avoiding getting balls in their trailer. Also, human player Chris Foyer was exceptional at shooting and scoring. The three-team alliance of Franklin, Kenosha, and Oconomowoc won second place in the competition. The students learned a lot about teamwork! All the students joyfully received silver medals and another trophy.

The teams were surprised and pleased when Dean Kamen the founder of FIRST and inventor of the Segway opened the competition on Saturday. He reminded the audience that the students who participate in FIRST must use innovation, technology, and science to solve the problems that face society.

Other teams from the area also had great success. Waukesha's combined high school team received the Motorola Quality Award, the Underwriters Laboratories Industrial Safety Award and made it into the semi-finals. Hamilton High School in Sussex received the Judge's Award and made it into the quarterfinals. Brookfield East made it into the quarterfinals. Kettle Moraine and Arrowhead both had beautiful robots but not as much luck and finished 34th and 35th in the preliminary rounds. All the teams are winners because they had the opportunity to put their knowledge about science, technology, engineering and math to use building these complicated machines.

Please help us compete Dean Kamen's homework by going to <http://firstcommunity.usfirst.org/> and joining the FIRST community!

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