

"Martian Minds, playing some defense." - Announcer Guy



"Started from the bottom now we're here." - Drake

Competition Day!

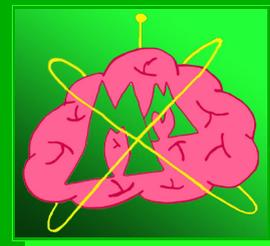
On November 15th our team competed at Eagan Highschool in Eagan MN! The competition was hosted by Team #7655, The Q is Silqent. Immediately after we arrived we had to report for our judging session. During the session we talked about our robot (Marvin 3.0), the Martian Minds newsletter, our team outreach and our specific roles on the team. Overall we think that judging went well. We were approached



several times throughout the day by different judges to talk more about our robot design, because we were one of the few teams there that employed a defensive strategy. After the judging session Lupe, Derek, and John had Marvin approved at inspections. Ramon, Phillip, Jon and Molly went to other teams' pits asking members about their robots and game strategies. Soon after the competition began. FTC competitions consist of two types of matches. First there are qualifying matches which take up most of the day and then there are the elimination rounds. In every match two alliances compete. Both alliances are made up of two teams so that members of different teams have to work together in order to score points. At the end of the match the alliance with the most points wins. During the qualifying matches the teams for each alliance are selected randomly, but during the elimination rounds

the four top scoring teams are chosen as alliance captains which get to choose their partners. During the qualifying matches we observed other teams in order to get a better idea of what we were up against. Additionally we observed the matches to plan ahead and narrow down our choice of an alliance partner in the event that we came out as one of the top four teams. In our first match, Marvin got off to a rough start. We couldn't get him to move at all! But we made steady progress throughout the course of our 8 matches, climbing from 15th place to 5th. We became captain of the 4th alliance and chose Green Girls, team 7190, to be our alliance partner. (www.greengirlsrobotics.com) We lost in the elimination matches, but nevertheless sat in anticipation during the award's ceremony. Teams don't have to have the most points or be the highest ranking in order to

Martian Minds Issue #3



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advance. There are other means through which advancement is possible, such as awards. We were a finalist for two awards: the PTC Design Award and Rockwell Collins Innovate Award. We won the Connect Award and received 3rd place for the Inspire Award which advanced us to state! All of the matches that we competed in were recorded and uploaded by the Q is Silqent. They are available for viewing on youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/playlistlist=PL4n7wN4sgITxzUeSGRwcJp3J5qUN6aKEv> Our team is shown competing in the following matches: 3, 5, 11, 14, 18, 23, 25, 28, Semi-Final Match 1-1 and Semi-Final Match 1-2.



Marvin's moving on!

Sponsor Spotlight!

In this issue we'd like to thank Notes From The River, who have graciously sponsored us for 3 years. Notes From The River is a photography shop based in Stillwater, MN that offers note/greeting cards displaying gorgeous scenery from the St. Croix river. They also sell enlarged photos which can be ordered in an array of different finishes and sizes! All pictures come with the option of being either framed or mounted. You can make your individual purchase now at:

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