

Success on the FIRST Robotics Front

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With voices hoarse from cheering and grins from ear to ear, the Penfield High School and Harris Robotics team returned home from this year's championship event in Atlanta on April 20. The 343 teams from all over the world took over the entire Georgia Dome and World Congress Center, and 60 members from our team got the chance to interact with teams from Hawaii to Brazil. The event included conferences where team members could learn everything from Drivetrain and Four Bar Linkage Designs to Game Strategy and Project Management. Two courses, Leadership and Motivation, were taught by one of our very own Harris mentors! Scholarship Row and Lego League and Vex competitions were also available for exploring.

Even with some tough matches, the drive team and robot danced around the field. The team was only able to seed 34th out of 84 teams in the division, but had some amazing matches, even pulling out a 2 robots vs. 3 robots win of 72 points! The pit crew spent countless hours helping other teams program, rework drivetrains and even source scouting information. Despite the seed, our team was selected by the 1st place alliance to join the Webster team and a team from Cocoa, Fla. Together, the three teams battled it out to the semifinals of the division, essentially **making it to the top 12 in our division!** The team's red camouflage and marked enthusiasm were noticeable through the competition.



Prior to the Atlanta competition, the team traveled to Philadelphia to compete in their second Regional Competition of the year. The team stormed out of the gate with great improvements in their autonomous programming and much more practice under the drivers' belts. The team's insane cheers of "I believe that Robots Rock," "G-O-O-D M-O-R-N-I-N-G," and "When I say Rolling, You Say Thunder," combined with the Duct Tape team from Mass. "ROLLING – DUCT TAPE," could be heard throughout the Drexel Gymnasium! The team again helped many teams with programming and upgrading their robots and spent a lot of time talking with judges and safety advisors.



The team got to take a bus tour of Philadelphia on Friday night, running up the famous "Rocky" steps together and even got asked by the tour guide when they would return, as they were the most fun group she had ever worked for!

Undefeated until their last match in Philly, finishing with a record of 10 wins and 1 loss, the team ran away with the third place seed! After selecting their alliance, they moved on to a tough set of quarterfinals, losing one of their alliance partners to a drivetrain issue, and was defeated in the quarterfinals. Despite the loss, they cheered for other teams and were excited at the impressive showing. For their continuous camouflage theme, constant cheering and painted faces, the team brought home the **Imagery Award**. And for their amazing improvements and impressive safety program they were also given the **Underwriters Laboratory Safety Award!**

