

Teen Technology

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Team Overdrive has strong showing at World Championship! Ranked 5th, finalist for Think Award

Team Overdrive competed at the World Championship in the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis MO on April 24th-27th. The team was very excited about competing at the World's again this year. Team Overdrive received the invitation after they were awarded the "Inspire" award at the NJ State Championship. Only 120 teams are invited from the nearly 2000 teams that compete in the FTC competition. The team started out their time at the World Championship by

being nominated for the Promote award, a great honor (please see article below). The team began the championship with some very stiff competition and although it was close, they lost their first match. Things improved from there and the team won its next two matches and were ranked in the top 10. A fierce battle occurred



in the next match and another close loss put the team at 2 wins and 2 losses. The team knew they had to win the next four matches to even have a chance at becoming a captain. The team stepped up and won the next four matches and ended the preliminary rounds with 6 wins and 2 losses. This was good enough to rank 5th out of the 60 (continued on page 2)

Team Overdrive Wins Promote Video Award at World Championship! Judges Impressed with Team's Creativity!

Team Overdrive was given an invitation to the world championship by winning the Inspire award at the NJ State Championship. They also won the Promote Award for their promote video. This award is given to the team that is "most successful in creating a compelling video message for the public designed to change our culture and celebrate science, technology, engineering and math". Because Team Overdrive was at the World Championship, they submitted their

P r o m o t e video "commercial" for the award with all of the other teams in attendance. The first night of the World Championship, the Promote video award would be announced. This award is based upon the professional production of the video, but also the content and creativity of the video. There were three (cont. on pg 2)



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Team Overdrive leaves their mark on St. Louis at the FIRST World Championship!! (continued from page 1)

teams in our division!! Then came the alliance selection. The top 4 teams chose alliance partners, the 2nd ranked team chose the 3rd team which then moved Team Overdrive into the 4th captains' spot and allowed us to choose our alliance partners. We chose two other strong teams using our excellent scouting data. Our alliance then met and planned out our strategy. We were then ready to take on the #1 ranked alliance. The match began and there was scoring and defense and both alliances played very well. When all the smoke cleared, the Team Over-



As the Team Overdrive Representative, Cara chooses two other teams for our alliance

were announced and Team Overdrive was one of the finalists! This award is given to the team for their Engineering notebook where the team documents the season. This year was the first year that the team used an electronic notebook this allowed the team to document the season during the team meetings but also when the

drive alliance had come up short, losing the first match in the best of three. The second match was another tough match and well played by both alliances and although it was even closer than the first match, again we were outscored by a very strong alliance. The team was disappointed, however satisfied with a good showing at the World Championship and a great season overall. The first place alliance also went on to win the division and then the World Championship. It appears that the Team Overdrive alliance came the closest to beating the World Champions out of all the alliance that played them. Team Overdrive was also nominated for the "Think" award. The finalists

students were at home working. This worked well for the team. The team would print out the notebook, sign and date the pages and bring the hard copy of the notebook to the competitions. Through the year the team was nominated for the Think award at several tournaments. The Championship in St Louis is the official end of the 2012/2013 FTC robot season. Team Overdrive will look back on the season with a great big smile, since it was a great year of learning, of competition and of growing together as a team. Congratulations Team Overdrive on another great successful year, Well done team—Well done!!!



Team Overdrive outside of the Edward Jones dome at the World Championship

Team Overdrive wins Promote Award at World's (cont. from pg 1)

teams that were listed as finalists for this award. Team 4251 from OH, Team 5200 from IL and Team Overdrive. All three promote video commercials were shown to all the teams in attendance. Coach Scalzo was overheard stating that it was an honor for our team even to be nominated

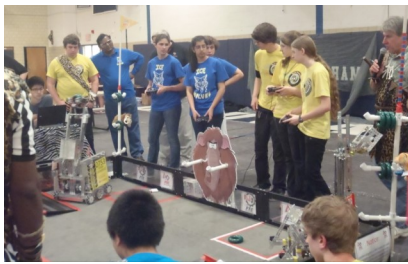
with the other teams because all the other videos looked like they came out of a Hollywood production studio, they were so good. Well when the winner of the award was announced, it was indeed Team Overdrive earning the Promote Video award for their very creative video promoting FIRST

and science and technology. The team was overjoyed and the their Coach was overwhelmed!



Team Overdrive “Off Season” a Busy One competes in two events

The off season for FTC robotics and Team Overdrive usually starts after the World Championship in April and lasts until the game release in September. This year the team looked forward to catching up on sleep and other activities pushed aside in order to go to the World Championship. This year, Team Overdrive found that there was not much “off” in the “Off Season”. The team started with an off season scrimmage held at Chatham high school called Flashback 2013 - Flashback to the Stone Age Post-Season Scrimmage. Team Overdrive changed their drive team with an all female drive



Team Overdrive competing at the Flashback scrimmage in Chatham

team to see how things would go. The team drove the robot well and was able to master the new game despite not having even 24 hours of drive practice. The team finished ranked 2nd and then went on to win the semi finals match. In the finals it looked like Team Overdrive would be the winner of the tournament, however the judges ruled a penalty and the Team Overdrive Alliance would take the 2nd place trophy. Mamouth burgers were served to all (only kidding) and everyone had a good time at a well run event! The next event was the Monty Madness event held in the Montgomery high school each year. The game was comprised of a competition part and a skills part and Team Overdrive used a new drive team for this competition as well. The team also volunteered as refs and helped another team that was short on team members by a Team Overdrive member helping coach the team during the competition. The new

drive team was not used to the controls so the team ended up placing last after the qualifying matches. Overdrive was picked by the 1st alliance captain in the alliance selection. The team put the regular drivers in for the elimination matches. The alliance had a bye the first round of elimination matches because they were the number 1 alliance. So they played during the semi finals and ended up winning them. So now it was time for the finals, they played the matches and ended up winning the competition! Everyone at the event had a fun day and the new teams were able to learn about robots.



Team Overdrive with the winners award at Monty Madness scrimmage

Team Overdrive demonstrates robot at 4H fair. Thousands visit the Somerset County 4H fair over three day event!



Team Overdrive was given the opportunity of presenting its robot at the Somerset county 4H fair. This is something that is near and dear to Team Overdrive as years ago, the team presented at this fair and many FTC teams and FLL teams were started

partly because of the demonstrations the team provided. This year, Team Overdrive brought their robot and field and allowed students to drive the robot. This of course caused a line to form from everyone wanting to drive a robot. The



team had everyone who drove the robot perform a task, the task was to put two rings onto the pegs. The team provided stickers stating “ I ♥ ROBOTS” which all the kids loved. Everyone had a good time driving the team robot and learning about FIRST.

Team Overdrive volunteers at Bridges at Bridgewater and Medford Moat FTC Outreach events!!!

Giving back to FIRST and encouraging students to join FTC is something that is at the center of Team Overdrive. Down through the years, the team has volunteered at many events to help promote FIRST, FTC and science and technology. This year is no different and the team has volunteered at two "Outreach" events to encourage students to join FIRST and NJ FTC. The first event "Bridges at Bridgewater" involved setting up and building a robot to compete in a game. New Jersey FTC created a mini game that could be played with regular tournament robots and mini robots. There were approximately ten new teams and ten veteran teams. The veteran teams were paired up with the rookie teams. The team's task was to build a mini robot that could do a simple task. In this case, it was get rings off of a modified dispenser. Overdrive paired up with a rookie team and immediately got to work. The team's objective was to teach the rookie team about the design process and simple engineering. Overdrive tried to encourage the new team to come up with different mechanisms that could be put on the basic frame that we were provided. The final design included an arm with a servo at the end that was connected to second arm. This arm's purpose was to knock the rings off. They also created another mechanism for picking the rings off of the floor. Both teams were proud of the design; however, it took them



too long to come up with. They weren't aware that they only had one hour for building and designing, so they spent their whole hour prompting the rookie team to think inno-

vatively. Thus they didn't have enough time to build the robot before the first match. However, the match was a veteran tournament robot and a mini robot versus a veteran tournament robot and a mini robot. So they were able to play with Overdrive's tournament robot while the rookie team continued to build their mini robot. They joined Overdrive for the second match. The alliance played four matches and wound up winning three and losing only one! Overdrive helped the new team get a feel for what FTC is really like. What a successful day!

The second outreach event was the Medford Moat outreach scrimmage for rookie teams. Overdrive was paired with a new team, the task was to design and build a mini robot to play a mini game. Overdrive encouraged the rookie team to take an active part in the design process. They taught them all about gear ratios, the difference between a DC motor and a servo, and the best way to mount an NXT. They also talked to them about what to expect on an actual competition day. Overdrive not only showed them their notebook, but also participated in a notebook forum for rookie coaches. They had several people come to their pit specifically to take pictures of the notebook. They played four matches with the rookie team they were allied with, winning three matches and only losing one. They had a lot of fun while doing so. Overdrive looks forward to the new FTC season!



Teen Technology Bridge

Building team begins preparation to defend its title—New Rules

Teen Technology bridge building team is starting up and is looking forward to this year's competition. Teen Technology has won (placed first) each year it has been involved in the competition, four years in a row. Last year the weight that the teen technology bridges held were in excess of 700 pounds and because of this, the organizers of the event were concerned for the safety of the students. It has been decided that there will be a weight limit for the bridges this year, much

less than previous years. This will reduce the amount of weight that a bridge can hold. This will also make the design and construction of the bridge even more important. The Teen Technology team will need to incorporate all the new rules into their designs. This year may be the most challenging of all, but the team will work hard and get excellent instruction from Coach Wittel. The team will have two new members. Let the bridge building begin!