

Tiger Robotics designed to win

Zadkiel Zabala
Joshua Shapiro

Staff Writers

Tiger Robotics, Jesuit's Varsity Robotics team, has created a robot to compete in the upcoming FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Regional Robotics Competition on March 8-10 at University of Central Florida in Orlando and the South Florida Regional Competition on March 29-31 at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

The Robotics program is comprised of students from both Jesuit and Academy of the Holy Names, and consists of two competition level teams: a varsity FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team comprised of sophomores through seniors, and a junior varsity level FIRST Technology Challenge (FTC) team comprised of freshmen and sophomores.

While the Varsity team led by senior Emil Burkley is hard at work on their robot, which will attend the FIRST Robotics Competition for its third consecutive year, the Junior Varsity team has been competing in their own FTC competitions.

Led by sophomore Ryan Lowman, the Tiger-Bots have been busy designing and building the "Tiny Shiny" robot to compete in local competitions against other high schools. The JV team steadily improved in each of the competitions so much so that they earned a spot in the Florida FTC State Championships in Daytona Beach. Team 4960 the Tiger-Bots, did exceptionally well finishing its season in the top half of the 32 teams competing at states.



Top :The Robotics team demonstrates their design at Citrus Park Mall in front of JC Penney, one of the teams many sponsors. Bottom: The robot practicing shooting various height baskets on campus

Photos courtesy of Mr. John Lacy



This year, the FTC team participated in a game call "Bowled Over" which is conducted on a diamond shaped field. Two alliances, each consisting of two robots, face off against each other. The teams try to score points by flipping over specifically colored

crates, getting robots in a specially marked zone, and placing racquet balls in overturned crates.

For the FRC Team 3164 Tiger Robotics, their challenge called "Rebound Rumble" emulates the game of basketball with a new twist of rules. There are

four hoops on each side of the field, and three sloped bridges for traversing half court, which is marked with an elevated barrier that is very difficult to cross. Each match consists of two alliances containing three teams each.

The goal of the game is to use the balls on the court to score baskets - the higher the shot, the more points awarded. Players may also balance on the bridges with their robots, and gain more points depending on how many robots are on each bridge.

One of the most notable members as well as the captain of the FRC team is Emil Burkley. As a student who transferred to Jesuit in his sophomore year, Emil has been an instrumental influence to the team's development.

"I am thrilled to be a part of this team at Jesuit. It has been a positive influence to the school environment, and it provides an excellent

opportunity for those who want to learn real-world applications of the science and math they are learning," Burkley explained.

Lowman, the JV captain added to Burkley's remarks saying, "I would recommend the Robotics Club to anyone who enjoys science, engineering, or math."

The Robotics team dedicates an immense amount of time to building their robots, working six days a week, and even working until midnight when it comes close to the deadline.

Tiger Robotics owes its success to the generous donations of their sponsors including JC Penney, NASA, Senior Home Care, Inc., Tampa Brass and Aluminum, Gulf Controls Company, LLC., Publix Supermarkets, and most recently Jesuit High School.

*Blue Tide's effect
on teams
See Page 3*

*An Update of Campus
Technology
See Pages 4 & 5*

*A closer look in to
the PH archives
See Page 6*