



2015 Season Kickoff in
00
Days

22
Hours

09
Minutes

34
Seconds


FIRST Team 230 Gaelhawks



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Shelton High School robotics team takes home the gold

Written by Gael Winds on June 24, 2014

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The team kicked-off the 2014 season January 4 in the high school technology room. Within the next six weeks the team faced the challenge of building and programming their robot to compete against teams from the New England Region. The Gealhawk robot "Talon XV" was built and operated by students from the SHS Robotics Team with the assistance of teachers and mentors from Sikorsky, OEM Controls, and United Technology Corporation. The Gaelhawk's took home two "Blue Banners" and four medals during their 2014 season, consisting of 3 District Events, 1 New England Championship and 1 World Championship competition.



The Gaelhawks started their 2014 FIRST Robotics Competition season with the Groton District Event at Fitch High School March 8 and 9. After two days of qualification matches the Gaelhawks ranked 14 out of 33 teams from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island with a record of 6-6-0. The team entered the elimination tournament as the 7th alliance with FRC Team 1991 Dragons from Hartford CT, and FRC Team 1699 Robocats from Colchester CT. The Gaelhawks made it to the finals where they competed against the 4th alliance – FRC Team 236 Techno-Ticks from Old Lyme CT, FRC Team 237 Black Magic from Watertown CT, and FRC Team 2064 The Panther Project from Middlebury CT. The team played an exciting set of final matches to become the Groton District Event Winners. The Gaelhawks received the Entrepreneurship Award sponsored by Kleiner Perkins Caufield and Byers which "recognizes a team, which since its inception has developed the framework for a comprehensive business plan in order to scope, manage, and obtain team objectives. This team displays entrepreneurial enthusiasm and the vital business skills for self-sustaining program."

Following the Week 2 Groton District event the Gaelhawks continued on to the Week 4 Southington District Event at Southington High School March 22 through 23. The Gaelhawks entered alliance selection ranked 18 out of 32 teams with a record of 6-6-0. They were selected to join the 3rd alliance with FRC Team 4055 NRG (Northwestern Robotics Gearheads) from Winsted and FRC Team 2836 Team Beta from Woodbury CT. The alliance made it to the finals where they competed against 1st alliance FRC Team 195 Cyber Knights from Southington CT, FRC Team 558 Robo Squad from New Haven CT, and FRC Team 999 MechaRams from Cheshire CT.

The following weekend in the 5th week of the competition season, the Gaelhawks attended the Hartford District Event at Hartford Public High Schools March 29 and 30. Several of the team members and their robot were featured on Fox CT the Sunday morning before the start of Day 2 of the competition.

At the Hartford District Event the team entered alliance selection ranked 11 out of 39 teams with a record of 7-5-0 and was selected to join the 3rd alliance with FRC Team 4055 NRG and FRC Team 1124 The Uberbots from Avon CT The "UberGearHawks" made it to the final round of eliminations where they faced FRC Team 177 Bobcat Robotics from South Windsor CT, FRC Team 558 Robo Squad and FRC Team 5129 Digital Devils from Plainville CT. They received the Industrial Design Award sponsored by General Motors.

Following the Week 6 district event, they are ranked 11th in the New England District and qualified for the New England Championship Event. The Gaelhawks attended the New England Championships April 10-12th at Boston University Agganis Arena in Boston, Massachusetts.

After three days of qualification matches they ranked 4th out of 54 teams from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut with a record of 9-3-0 and entered elimination rounds as 3rd alliance captain with FRC Team 177 the Bobcats and FRC Team 4055 NRG. The alliance battled their way to the finals before a crowd of about 2,500 students and fans against FRC Team 195 the Cyber Knights, FRC Team 558 RoboSquad and FRC Team 5122 roBOTies from Old Town, ME and after competing against three of the best teams in the region they became New England Champions and were proud to take home their second "Blue Banner" of the season. The Gaelhawks were 1 of 24 teams in the New England Region to qualify for the Championship competition featuring 400 teams from across the world.

The Gaelhawks competed in the Curie Division at the 2014 Championships in St. Louis April 23-26 with five fellow New England teams, including their alliance partners from the New England Championship competition. The Gaelhawks competed against 99 teams in their division from countries such as Mexico, Canada, Israel and China. With all three of the NE Championship teams competing on one field and a stacked list of competitors fighting for their chance on the Championship field, Einstein, the team faced difficult competition.

After three days of competition the team entered alliance selection with a record of 3-8-0 and ranked 80th. Out of 32 teams to continue on to the elimination tournament, the team was selected to join the 7th alliance by FRC Team 3478 LamBot from San Luis Potosi, SLP, Mexico, FRC Team 294 Beach Cities Robotics from Redondo Beach California and FRC Team 177 Bobcat Robotics. As the fourth alliance partner, the team was substituted for their alliance captain to play one match of the Curie Division quarterfinals before losing to the 2nd alliance.

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The team is proud to have made it to the Championship competition and been able to compete alongside teams from across the nation and from distant countries. The official season has ended, however the team will continue to compete at other offseason competitions.

Game Description:

This year's game, Aerial Assist, is played between two alliances consisting of three teams each. The object of the game is for teams on an alliance to work together to advance large exercise balls down the field and score in their alliance goals. Two large scoring goals are located at either end of the field, while two smaller scoring goals are located in the lower corners. Additional goalie zones are located at either end of the field below either goal, which the opposing alliance may defend. Assistance from alliance partners to advance the ball down the field earns the alliance additional points. Tossing the ball over a trust that spans the width of the field and having an alliance partner catch the ball will add additional points.

Written by Sarah Stuart

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Designed and maintained by Team 230 students.

