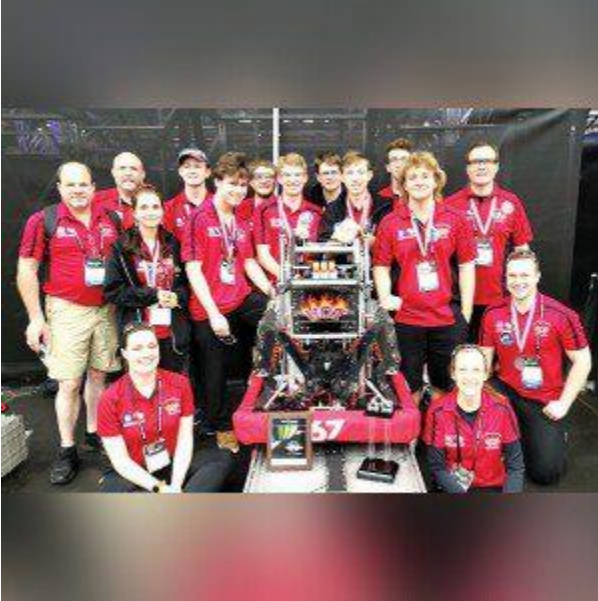


HOT Robotics Team named division finalists

By Spinal Column Staff | on May 18, 2022

BY ZACK BONZA BRODIE

HOT Team member and senior at Milford Special to The Spinal Column



The HOT Team with the HOTbot in Houston, Texas. The HOT Team was among the top teams in the world, finishing as FIRST World Championship division finalists.

The HOT Robotics Team rose to the challenge of global competition at the FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston, Texas April 20-23, emerging from the event as division finalists.

Four days after a strong state championship finish, the HOT Team arrived in Houston to compete with 454 teams from around the world.

“It’s been great to come back and compete and see all the different teams, especially teams that we don’t normally get to compete with,” said Jim Meyer, the team’s lead engineer and drive coach.

The practice matches were more important than usual because only a small fraction of the team traveled to Houston. They were both practice for the drivers and instruction for an inexperienced pit crew learning in the heat of the competition. The team connected on the first day of qualifying matches, finishing first in the division.

The second day, teams stepped up their offense and defense. The HOT Team finished the day ranked ninth, with the highest offensive power rating in the division.

“Driving at the Worlds brings a whole new level of excitement. The atmosphere was very competitive, yet you were still able to hang out and talk with some of the teams you just beat or just beat you. This is a memory I will cherish for a long time to come,” said driver Will Meyer.

The elimination tournament alliance, captained by the Black Hawk Robotics Team from Texas, powered through the quarterfinals and semifinals, posting a field record of 173 points in their first semifinal match.

The excitement built to the finals. The opposing alliance came out with heavy defense, winning the first match. The alliance adjusted, achieving victory in the second match. In the end the defensive toll on the alliance affected too much damage and the HOT Team lost the tiebreaker match. The finish was met with mixed emotions of disappointment that their run in the tournament had ended, but it was also filled with pride in all they had accomplished during the year.

“Our robot performed at an exceptionally high level. We were glad to see it meet our expectations.” said junior Evan Thompson.