

## Unveiling Triumph at Milford Districts with the Heroes of Tomorrow



By Marina S.

With a resounding crescendo of innovation and teamwork, the Heroes of Tomorrow displayed a fantastic performance at the FIRST® Robotics Milford District event at Milford High School, March 1-2. The HOT team made a strong appearance as hosts of this event, finishing first place and bringing home another FIRST robotics blue banner to the halls of Huron Valley Schools and their sponsors.

The HOT team started strong on the first of two days of tough competition against 37 teams from throughout Michigan, winning 15 out of 18 qualifier matches and ending the day as the second highest-ranking team. On the second day, their streak continued, winning matches despite encountering minor issues with the helper intake mechanism. The team quickly remedied the problems, claiming second place in the qualification rounds.

During alliance selection, the HOT team chose the division's 5th-placed alliance, Team 503: Frog Force. Cooperatively, they selected team 7660, the Byting Irish, to go into the playoffs. The formidable alliance exhibited an excellent performance during the quarter and semi-finals, leading to a nail-biting final. After losing the first match, the HOT team found that their helper intake was malfunctioning once again, which they quickly corrected. After fixing the issue, the alliance performed exceptionally in the second match, significantly outscoring the competition. Leading into the third match, the team was ready to perform their best and take home the banner, earning the highest score seen at the event and securing the first-place position.

The team was elated to have won. Additionally, the team earned the Excellence in Engineering Award, which celebrates a professional, elegant, and advantageous design in the field of play. Having secured a win during their first district competition of the year, the HOT team will advance to compete in the FIRST Ann Arbor District, March 16-17, at Skyline High School, having to be among the 40 Michigan teams competing. HOT Team members, coming from Milford, Lakeland, International Academy West, are excited to challenge their skills at districts and have a shot at advancing to the FIRST World Championship.