Success!!!

by Ryan Damewood and Derek Esp

After six weeks of rigorous work, Team 648 was ready to travel to competition. The first destination was the St Louis Regional, held at the Family Arena in St. Charles MO, where a total of 44 teams competed.

The first day of competition, March 10, was a practice day for all teams. We also used the practice day to scout and take pictures of all the other robots so we would have a better idea of what they might do as allies or opponents in the upcoming matches.

Practice went well for our team, the robot worked well, and we left the practice day in high spirits.

The next day, early in the morning, we returned to the arena for the first day of structured competition. Unlike previous years, three teams instead of two made up an alliance. Consequently, there were six robots on the floor during each match. We were randomly paired with two other teams for each of the eight matches we played that day. Our opponents were also randomly selected teams of 3 robots. We won 5 of the 8 matches on this first day of play. We also scouted the other teams as they played matches to determine how good they really were and what their favorite strategies were.

On Saturday, the final day of competition, we returned to the Family Arena ready to dominate. We completed our final matches, winning 2 of the 3 matches in the morning qualifying rounds, which brought us to a score of 7 Wins, 3 Losses. This placed us in eighth place, and in the quarter-finals of the playoff for the Regional Championship.

For the playoffs, teams finishing in the top eight selected two alliance partners. Our team chose Team 288 (Grandville MI) and Team 650 (Flora IL) to join us, based on their standings and our scouting reports. We defeated the fourth seeded alliance, and moved on to the semi-finals, where we defeated the number one-seeded alliance. This victory moved us into the finals, where we were defeated in the first two matches.

During the award ceremony, we received our regional finalist medals and trophies, and then received another pleasant surprise, the Daimler Chrysler Team Spirit Award, for our enthusiastic support of our team and other teams throughout the tournament. Needless to say, spirits were high as we boarded the bus for the trip home.

Team 648’s next big challenge will be the Chicago Midwest Regional on March 17-19. It will be held at the University of Illinois Chicago campus. We look forward to our next competition and are optimistic about our chances there.

It’s a win for 648!
1. Talking it over in the Pits.
2. Carrying three tetras to the goal.
3. Human player loading tetras.
4. Alexander the Great, our mascot.
5. The robot with mast fully extended, loaded with two tetras.
6. How we won the spirit award.
1. Team 648, celebrating their victory.
2. Regional Finalist medal, presented to each member of the team.
3. Daimler-Chrysler Team Spirit Award.
4. Regional Finalist Trophy.
Check Out FIRST at www.usfirst.org and QC Elite at www.qcelite.com

2004-05 QC Elite Team #648 Sponsors

American Muscle - LLC
American Society of Agricultural Engineers
Augustana Physics & Engineering Club
Batteries Plus
Bechtel Trust & Foundation
Bickle Electric
Big River Long Beards
Bob Ostereich
Bohl Machine & Tool Company
Carleton Life Support
CDI Computers
Community Foundation - Great River Bend
Con-Way Central Express
Creative Marketing
Davenport Community Schools
Day Foundation
Deere & Company Engineering
Deere Harvester Credit Union
Dennis Hill
Dr. Dan Stadleman
Duffy Law Office
Edgetech Industries
Egger Engineering & Land Surveying
Elden Corks
Exelon Nuclear-QC Generating Station
Farway Foods
Fluid Power Society
Genesys Systems Group
Gett Industries
Heinz North America
IEEE Iowa-Illinois Section
Institute of Industrial Engineers
Iowa Can Company
Iowa Fluid Power Inc
James Laas Company Inc
John Deere Harvester Works
John Deere Parts Distribution Center
John Deere Seeding Group
K & K Hardware
Karl Greve
KenTronics
Long's Carpet and Flooring
M/M David Horan
M/M Dennis Duffy
M/M William Bowser
McCarthy Improvement
McCleary Excavating
McClure Engineering Associates, Inc
Meyer Landscape and Design
Midwest Engineering Consultants
Miller Container Corporation
Moline Foundation
Mr Robert Kilstrom
Mr. Richard Hoexter
Mrs Thea LeClair
Ms. Shirley J Hall
Nesretep
Norcross Safety Products
Pebble Creek Golf Course
Pizza Hut - Moss Management
Premier Bath and Kitchen
QC Engineering and Science Council
Quad City Die Casting Co. Inc.
Randy McIntyre
Reynolds Motor Co.
River Valley Co-Op
River Valley Painting
Scott County IT Department
Sears Manufacturing Company
Sherrard School District
Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)
Society of Manufacturing Engineers
South Park Mall
Thoms Proestler Company
Three (3M) Corporation
Tri-City Electric
Valley Construction
Victory Enterprises
Wendy K. Henzen Agency
Whitey's Ice Cream
Packaging Technologies

Bold indicates donation for 2005