



Kickoff Update



Kickoff has come, and with kickoff we found out the 2015 game: Recycle Rush.

Recycle Rush:

RECYCLE RUSH is a recycling-themed game designed for the 2015 *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC).

It is played by two Alliances of three teams each. Alliances compete

simultaneously to score points by stacking totes on scoring platforms, topping those stacks with recycling containers and properly disposing of “litter;” represented by pool noodles, in designated locations. The Game

video can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTyCIYZQ_1s



Running to Wolcott:



Three of our students and a mentor attended the kickoff at Wolcott High School where they watched the broadcast with numerous other teams



from the area and speculated while waiting to receive our kit of parts. They were also able to see some game pieces such as the white scoring platforms on the field.



What We Did:

Today, as the game was released, all of the students and mentors gathered at the build site and eagerly awaited the release of the game. While patiently waiting we talked about the game hint, "Change is coming," and different ideas of what the game could

possibly be. Would we be recycling bottles? Or would it be a fabled water game?

After it was released, it became a contest of who can figure



out the maximum point totals for the game. The maximum point total we found was 474 points. Lunch was graciously provided by Nat Hayden's: a local Windsor business. We dined on pulled pork sandwiches,



macaroni and cheese, potato salad and coleslaw. The Marriott, another Windsor business, sweetened the meal with tasty cookies. A big thank you also goes to Windsor supporters for keeping our energy levels sustained. After filling our stomachs with food, we continued to discuss the “brain food” of the game. This included viable play strategies and component

options for our robot. Mainly we debated whether we should pick up totes or barrels, since we may not be able to pick up both. After our discussions, we sat down in the playfield to practice “playing the game” on our playing field using students as robots.



The theme of the game and brain storming brought us to talking about “recycling” ideas from other robots, mainly the “Dark Side of the Robot” (2005) robot because it already had a lifting mechanism. Since our team is so good at recycling, from our bottle and can drives to our recycling runs where we recycle metals, this game is made



just for us. Based on the clue, “Change is coming,” we realized with the release of the game that many things will be different this year. We have optional bumpers, there is no defense, meaning that both alliances will be competing with each other instead of against each other and you don’t have winners of each match. It will be interesting. With the new game announced, the team is now starting to brainstorm and design our new robot and play field for 2015.



We also explored this year’s KOP (Kit of Parts).



Brainstorming this year's game.



Student/Mentor Reactions and Quotes:

“Teamwork is needed”

-Nick

“Bazinga”

-Greg

“You really have to work together with your alliance.”

-Mr. Moore

“Innovative idea...Complex”

-Cody

“Very cool. Go recycling!”

-Juliana

“It’s lovely”

-Addison

“Different than what I was expecting.”

-William

“Complicated at first”

-Justin

From the Captains: ~ Matt & James

You can follow Team Paragon at www.teamparagon571.org