



## The Hartford Competition Update

The last Competition of the season has been played. Find out what happened, both before and after the competition.

### Drive Team Practice & Build Sessions:

Throughout the weeks leading up to Hartford, the team had build sessions and drive team practices. During the build sessions, team members focused on designing and implementing a new “plow” to clear the landfill extremely quickly and easily. The plow would get behind the totes in the landfill, then run along the



sides to push them on the scoring platform.

The drive team had many opportunities to practice and perfect this new strategy before the Hartford



competition. Students also worked on fixing any problems found at the Springfield competition like the problems with the robot's ability to drive sideways and incorrect gears in the gearboxes. Drive team also worked to plan out strategies

with the new plow as well as the overall game. The drive team's practice showed, and it was a huge help in giving the drive team the upper hand at the competition.



### **Board of Ed and Town Council Meetings:**

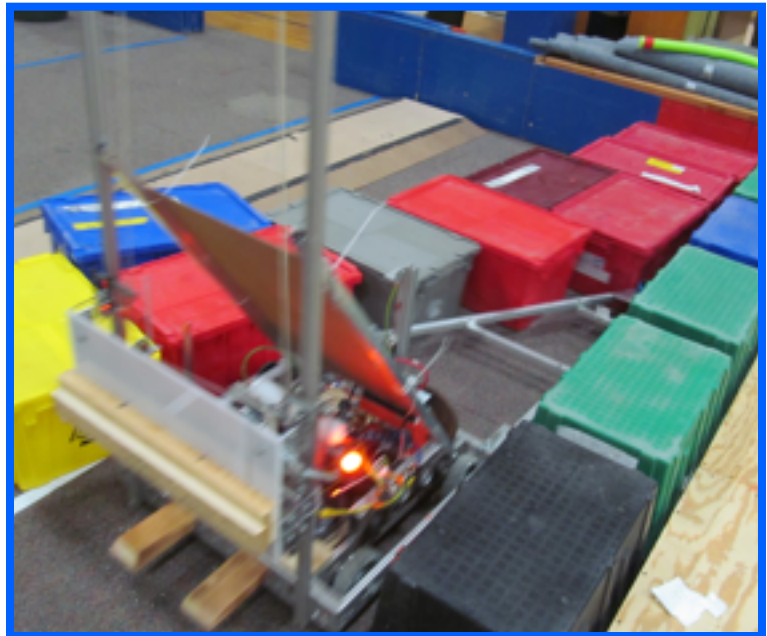
Team Paragon made appearances at the two Board of Ed meetings and at a Town Council meeting before the Hartford competition to help maintain our location in our present build site. We had a huge turnout of support, even breaking the BOE record of number of people to speak from the audience. At the meeting, many students, mentors and parents showed up and talked about all the benefits of our



program. Even members from the community went to talk and support us. Thank you to everyone who came out that Tuesday!

The Windsor Board of Education has been granted the wonderful opportunity with a grant to begin early education for those in need in Windsor. While this is a fantastic opportunity to Windsor, the

location of the program appears to be our present build site location, The Roger Wolcott School. At present we are not certain what that means for Team Paragon and where we will be able to meet in the fall. We will give you updates as information is forthcoming.



### **Hartford District Competition: Friday:**

The Drive team and the Captains went down to Hartford Public High School to prepare for the competition. After packing up at the build site, and

grabbing a quick bite to eat at Wendy's (so that last minute plans could be finalized), everybody headed to the venue to unpack and set up the

pit. After setting up and unpacking the robot, our robot was inspected and passed with no major problems.

Following the inspection, the drive team had the opportunity to participate in some practice matches. We then got to work attaching our new plow and the pneumatics to go with it to our robot "OTIS". At the end of the night, with the

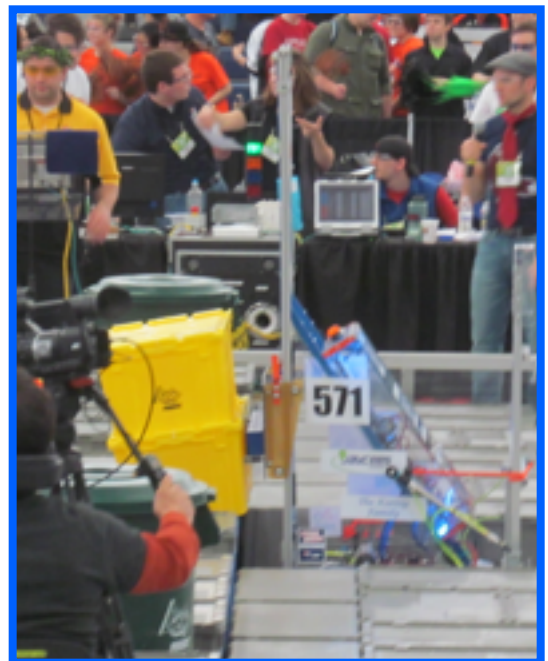
modifications completed, we passed inspection again before we headed home. Everyone was nervous for Saturday, but we knew that it would be a fun time, regardless.



### **Saturday:**

Saturday began competition matches and our roller coaster of rankings. We began the day at rank 20 and worked our way up all the way up to rank 7. We

ended up plummeting and raising as we went from 7 to 14, and then 14 to 28 and back to 14 to end the day. Despite the teams rank, the drive team performed incredibly well showing off our new plow and our stacking ability. We had a lot of





family, friends and other supporters come out to see us in inaction. A special thank you to Mr. Sills, WHS principal, for bringing down his grandson to introduce him to the adventures of robotics. We will only have about 10 years to wait to have him join us in action.

Spirits were high to start the day but slowly decreased as the team lost energy and voices. After lunch, graciously provided by The Pinckney family and desserts provided by the Collins' and Eleveld's, Dan gave the team a well needed spirit boost. Thanks to Dan, the team's spirits reached an all-time high with the numerous cape conga lines and loud

cheers.

### **Sunday:**

Sunday started with some team building and spirit building to charge the energy to bring us to the remainder of the qualification matches. We finally ended our roller coaster of ranks ending at rank 26th. The team managed to set and hold the event record high match score almost all of

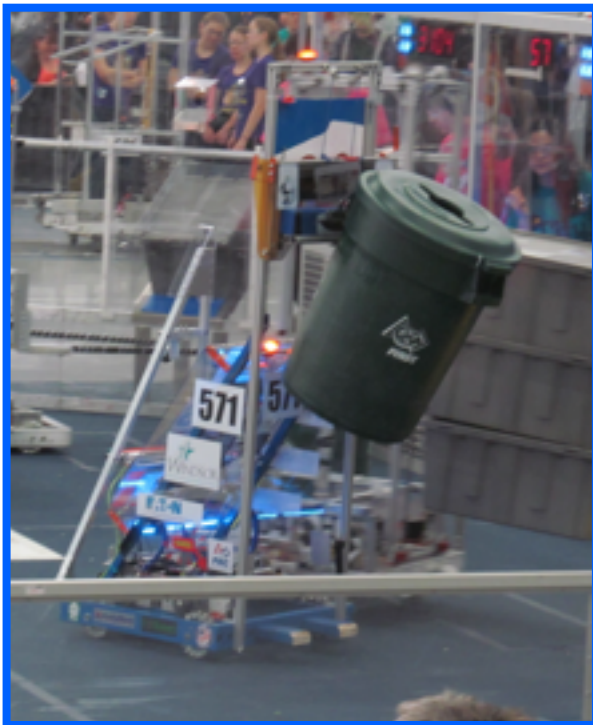




the qualification matches at a whopping score of 163 points. We were eventually beaten by a score of 190 about 50 matches later. Heading into eliminations we were inspected to

realize we were 1.4 pounds over the limit of .5 pounds between inspections. We were completely baffled as to what made us weigh 1.4 pounds heavier. Sometimes, some mysteries will never be solved.

Despite our valuable assets we were not



chosen by any alliance to participate in the elimination matches.





Congratulations to Teams 195 (Cyber Knights), 230 (Gaelhawks) and 2064 (The Panther Project) for winning the Hartford District Event.

### Awards:

Thanks to the efforts of our team, we won two awards this weekend. We won the imagery award for the overall energy and image of our robot and our team.

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3. The **Imagery Award** is in honor of **Jack Kamen**. This award celebrates attractiveness in engineering and outstanding visual aesthetic integration from the machine to the team appearance.

This team exemplified enthusiasm and excitement for this weekend's events! They unified engineering and art with this year's design, extending even to their team uniforms. Representing their lead sponsor and utilizing a character we can all recognize.

Congratulations \_\_Team 571 Paragon\_\_



We also won the #1 in Pit Safety Award for the organization, order, safety and cleanliness of our pit area.

A huge thank you goes out to our safety captain Amanda, as she did an excellent job at the competition showing off our team to the judges and keeping everyone safe in the pits. This helped set a great example for other teams to follow.

Our team also handed out our own custom 3D printed awards to teams that attended the event. Team 4557, The Fullmetal Falcons, won the imagery/design award for an amazing looking painted robot, and drive train.



Team 1124, The Uberbots, won the spirit award, as they helped us with making our cape conga lines.

Finally Team 1699, The Robocats, won the gracious professionalism award for being such a good sport to not only us but also other teams.





As we have completed our last competition of the year the team looks back on what a great ride it has been. The team learned a lot from this season and will expand upon this newfound knowledge into future years. Here's to another 15 years.



***From the Captains: ~ Matt & James***

***Upcoming Events:***

***April 23rd: OTIS Take Your Child to Work Day 8-12***

***May 2: Bottle and Can Drive on the Town Green***

***May 16: Shad Derby***

***June 12: Junior Robotics Day***

***June 13: Where's Wolcott***

