



Hartford District Regional Trials and Tribulations

We have been spending the past two weeks getting ready for the Hartford District event. We are not sure if we have

been testing things for the robot or if the things for the



robot have been testing us. None the less, the time has arrived for the competition.







After our initial R and D session at Wendy's, we got straight to work on our redesign using Julie Bot. The robot arm had to be modified. A platform needed to be constructed to hold our

collection device aka our laundry basket. This is where the testing started. We got the robot working beautifully,...then it broke. This process repeated itself frequently. Just when we thought everything was working great, it broke again ...and again. But we got the robot to a



working point just in time to go to Hartford, even kicking the ball over the truss. We were literally working up to the last available second before it needed to be rebagged.





Prior to heading out to Hartford, we also had to finish up the awards for the other teams. Before



heading off to competition we had a few house keeping items to address also. We had to put more work into completing our new battery charger.



Additionally, we did more organization to our tool chest to make it easier to find the tools in the pits.

After our difficulties with bumper inspection in Groton, we decided to make bumper gauges for all the teams in Hartford. This tool measures the minimum and maximum distance the bumpers need to be from the floor. Additionally, it measures the distance from the corner of the robot the bumper needs to cover. Forty bumper gauges got measures, cut, sanded, stained and stickered. Our bumper gauges were such a hit in Hartford that the judges requested their own set of them. On Saturday night of competition we headed back to the build site and made 6 more gauges to give to the judges on Sunday AM.





Finally we were off to Hartford for set up day. We got the pits set the way that we wanted them. At last we could unbag our bot. That is in deed what we did....and got to work on it. After an arduous inspection we were finally in business.



Adapt or die, Darwin's theory was our inspiration after Groton. After the work, it was time to play. We did very well in our matches, however it seemed that after every match, something else was broken, or at least not working the way we wanted it to. We spent the time in between



matches trying to figure out why the gear boxes for the arm were ceasing. Just as we thought that we had it fixed, the gear box would break again. Despite our difficulties we



performed much better than we did in Groton. We finished sixteenth out of forty.

Additionally we got better as a team with driving and spirit. Despite being smaller than other teams, we could be heard cheering in the stands. Our letter boards were loud and strong also. We even got



tweeted and retweeted with them. Our mascot was proudly displayed throughout the two days. Our



energy was up.

All in all it was a good competition for Team





Paragon, and we had fun.



In Team Paragon fashion, we presented our awards to the teams we felt were deserving.

This competition's spirit award went to Team 238, Cruisin' Crusaders for have the energy, guts and spirit to wear florescent yellow tutus (yes the guys also) and kilts!!.

Team 95 The Grasshoppers were awarded our design award for their articulated arms with expanding ball grabbers. And the Gracious

professionalism award went to Rage Team

1763 for their assistance with trouble shooting our gear boxes.

Congratulations to Team 177 The Bobcats, Team 558 RoboSquad and Team 5129 The Digital Devils for winning the Hartford District Competition.



Now it is time for the year to wrap up. We will be focusing on community service, fundraising and off season projects and competitions. We always welcome new students and new mentors. If you know any engineer or student who might be interested in participating with a robotics team, feel free to contact us at teamparagon571@att.net