



# HARTFORD Update



## Leading up to Competition:

Prior to Hartford's competition, Team Paragon accomplished a multitude small projects. We made some final modifications to the competition robot, including adding an omni wheel and Lexan fin to the base of the chassis, and manipulation of the robot software to make driving more intuitive and efficient. After testing, we deemed the additions great

improvements to the robot. The omni wheel

made the bot much more maneuverable, and the Lexan fin made crossing the cheval de frise (teeter totters) significantly easier. After making these final modifications, we spent our remaining time with the robot practicing driving, particularly picking up and scoring boulders. On the Thursday before the Hartford competition the team met to pack up the build site, filling numerous totes with the tools

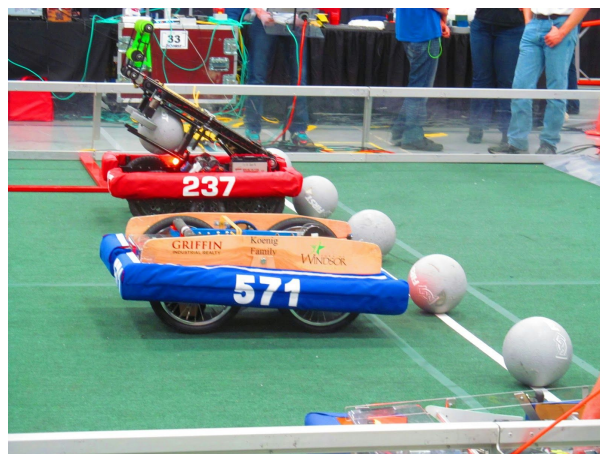
and materials that we would potentially need at the competition.



## Friday Load:

Following school on Friday the 1st, the drive team and pit crew met at our build site to load up our new trailer. We collected our competition robot, drive station, and totes of supplies and tools, and headed to Hartford. After stopping briefly at Wendy's for an early supper, we arrived at Hartford High School, where the weekend's competition took place, with plenty of time to spare. The pit's were soon opened, and we quickly unloaded our trailer and set up the pit and stands. Following this, we went through inspection, and our robot passed without a hitch. The inspectors appreciated the bumper checkers we manufactured for them, one in particular, as it was

it was his birthday and first inspection ever. He thanked us for making the inspection painless and overall a positive experience. Once we had passed through inspection we participated in a couple practice matches. Our robot operated as expected, and as such we had no need to make further modifications to the robot before the official start of the competition the next day. By this time it was only 9:00, so we had time for a good night's rest before waking up bright and early to head back to Hartford.



## Saturday Competition:

Early on Saturday the entire team met at the build site to board the bus to Hartford. This trip was much quicker than that of our Waterbury competition, and we arrived at the high school after a brief bus ride. Once arriving, the majority of the team set up in the





stands, while the drive team attended a meeting, and the pit crew set up shop in our pit. The day officially began with the FIRST opening ceremony, including speeches from officials, the national anthem, and an intro to the competition. We began qualifying matches once opening ceremonies were complete. Our robot performed as we expected, with minor issues including getting boulders stuck under our robot chassis and the new Lexan fin interfering with our crossing the ramparts. The former was the most significant problem, as it occurred on numerous occasions, interfering with our ability to drive effectively. The latter was soon remedied, as we realized that we just had adjust the way we approached the ramparts. We had a couple new options in terms of strategy, as we had determined that



our arm was functional enough to serve us in picking up boulders and either passing them to alliance members, or scoring them into the low goal. Prior to the competition the team had decided that it would be a good idea to play some defense. This meant we would interfere with high scoring teams, physically preventing them from reaching the goals and scoring boulders. Unlike the Waterbury competition, this competition preceded on schedule, and our matches continued uneventfully. Paragon performed well, both on the field and in the stands, with scouts scouting, drivers driving, and everybody cheering. Towards the end of

the day's competition, the team was pleasantly surprised to learn that our safety captain, Amanda, had won the Star of the Day. Members of other teams had noticed her work in the pits, and nominated her for the prestigious award. After a busy and fun day in Hartford, the day's competition came to an end. The team, tired and excited for the next day, headed home to get some rest.

## Sunday Competition:

Sunday, the finale of the weekend's competition, was upon us soon. The team awoke and reconvened at the build site bright and early. Once again we rode the bus into Hartford and prepared for the last qualification matches. Before long the competition resumed for the day. Team Paragon had an enjoyable set of matches, and soon the qualification matches were completed. When it came to alliance selections, unfortunately

Team Paragon was not picked, but we remained in good spirits, cheering with gusto for



other teams. We remained busy throughout the rest of the day, after enjoying a wonderful lunch prepared by the Pinkney family (Thank you!) we enjoyed the rest of the competition, watching other team's take on the Stronghold game, as well as giving awards to the other teams we had taken notice of. We decided to give Team 558 our gracious professionalism award, as they had been incredibly helpful when our robot's structural integrity became compromised. Without hesitation they donated a bracket of aluminum that we used to



brace the weakened arm of our robot, allowing us to remain operational for the rest of the competition. We also decided to give Tom, one of the FIRST volunteers, our spirit award, as he seemed to always have abundant energy, encouraging the teams in the stands to dance and cheer by leading by example.





## Upcoming Events:

We will see you out and about at the Shad Derby, and in the community doing community service and recruiting new students for next year.

~Addison & Sam