

Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference



NMRConference.org

E-Mail: nmrconference@gmail.com

Bemidji, MN (May 9, 2022) - The Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference (NMRC) would like to congratulate all of the teams and coaches who represented our region in grand fashion at the MSHSL (Minnesota State High School League) Robotics Tournament.

This event marked the 10th Anniversary of the State Tournament for HS Robotics. This year it was held at the University of Minnesota in Williams Arena with 36 teams participating.

This event also made some history with the collaborative partnership of the MRCA (Minnesota Robotics Coaches Association) which is a division of the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association. MRCA's efforts established and announced the first ever awards for coaches of the year at both the Section and State level elevating coaches in the sport of Robotics to that of their peers in other activities. Further efforts of this group also led to the establishment of the Minnesota High School Robotics Hall of Fame which also inducted its first class into this prestigious society.

The NMRC was represented by six teams in this tournament. They included team #2503 Warrior Robotics from Brainerd, team #2883 F.R.E.D. from Warrorad, team #5172 Gator Robotics from Greenbush-Middle River, team #5653 Iron Mosquitoes from Babbit, team #5913 Patriotic from Pequot Lakes, and team #6453 BogBots! From Kelliher.

This group included veteran success at this level with both Greenbush-Middle River and Warrorad combining to accumulate 4 State Tournament Championships and 3 Runner-Up's since 2015. Even more impressive since there has been no in person tournament for the past couple of seasons due to Covid-19. Our members also had two first timers to the tournament in both the Iron Mosquitoes and BogBots!.

At the end of the qualification match on Saturday our teams found themselves ranked in the following order.

- 4th - #5172 Gator Robotics
- 18th - #5913 Patriotics
- 23rd - #2883 F.R.E.D
- 27th - #6453 BogBots!
- 31st - #2503 Warrior Robotics
- 36th - #5653 Iron Mosquitoes

In Robotics teams compete in alliances made up of three teams. So in this instance the top four seeds choose two other teams to compete with them going into the finals. This is essentially a draft in which the higher seed gets first pick. Then the #1 Alliance faces off against the #4 Alliance and it is run the same as most other standard tournaments. These matchups are best 2 out of 3 in order to move on.

Once the Alliance selections were complete three NMRC member teams moved on into the playoff rounds. **#5172 Gators** lead their #3 Seed Alliance along with their two partner teams #4102 C.I.S. from Becker and #1816 from Edina. They would face off against the #2 Seed Alliance lead by #2823 from St Paul along with their first pick **#5913 Patriotics** from Pequot Lakes and #2491 out of St. Paul. The final NMRC team to make it into the playoffs was **#2883 F.R.E.D.** They found themselves as the second pick of #2502 from Eden Prairie. They would be the #4 Seed Alliance and take on the #1 seed lead by team #3630 out of Minneapolis.

When the playoffs where over the results would show that the underdog #3 seed Gators would be too much for anyone to overtake and the team from Greenbush-Middle River swept their way to their 3rd State Tournament title. They won all four playoff matches with scores of 110-98, 74-69, 96-93, & 136-112.

In the battle for third place it would be the team from Pequot Lakes, #5913 Patriotics, defeating their fellow conference member, #2883 F.R.E.D., from Warroad to secure their spot in tournament history. They did this with a 1 point victory in the winner take all match with a final score of 105-104.

On the judged awards side of the event NMRC teams found the winners circle here as well. There were three teams in the tournament that were awarded special recognition for "Outstanding Engineering & Design". This award was sponsored by Dunwoody College and also came with a \$500 award for teams to put towards their programs. Our members #2503 Warrior Robotics from Brainers and #5653 Iron Mosquitoes from Babbitt were deemed worthy of such recognition for their robot designs

As mentioned before coaches were also recognized for the first time ever during the state tournament. The State of Minnesota is divided up into 8 sections, like most MSHSL activities, and each of these had two coaches recognized as the coaches of the year from each section. The NMRC has teams in 3 of these sections. These award winners are voted on by their peers as the coaches of the year.

- Section 6
 - Curtis Robertson - Upsala High School - #4480
- Section 7
 - Brian Bordwell - Brainerd High School - #2503
 - Michael Grindorff - Crosby-Ironton High School - #6132
- Section 8
 - Susan Wachtler - Kelliher High School - #6453
 - Matthew Wendland - Cass Lake-Bena High School - #3134/3275

From the 16 Coach of the Year winners (2 from each section) The Minnesota Robotics Coaches Association annually recognizes two individuals as the statewide Minnesota State Coaches of the Year. The NMRC is fortunate to have both of this year's inaugural class of coaches within our conference ranks. They are...

Matthew Wendland from Section 8 - 3134 & 3275 Cass Lake-Bena High School
Curtis Robertson from Section 6 - 4480 Upsala High School

Finally the biggest of Honors at the state level any coach could have would be getting inducted into the State Hall of Fame. This year marked the inaugural class into the Minnesota High School Robotics Hall of Fame. The NMRC is pleased to announce the induction of our members Olaf and Kay Netteberg from team #3102 Tech-No-Tigers from Nevis, MN. They have been active in robotics within our region for well over a decade and it is safe to say the landscape for our sport would not be what it is today without their efforts. The following is an excerpt from the MRCA's induction monologue.

"This pair have impacted countless students within their school's walls and beyond through outreach events, assisting in the creation of the Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference, hosting Week Zero events, and more. With the motto of "Be the VEHICLE for Change", This Dynamic Duo have helped grow and support FIRST Ladies, Support increase Recognition for students first, and to grow the FIRST Community at large."

On behalf of all our member teams and our students the NMRC would like to congratulate all of our state level participants, winners, and nominees!

Respectfully,



Jesse Frost
President
Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference
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