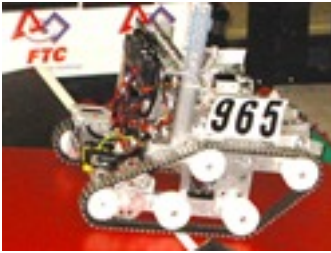


Written by Joseph Esposito

Tuesday, 01 February 2011 09:29



Saturday, Jan. 22, two robotics teams from GW Community & Coyote Robotics competed in the FTC Northern Virginia Qualifier Tournament against 23 other teams from Virginia, West Virginia, and DC. It was an exciting event due to its close proximity at nearby NVCC-Annandale. A special thanks to all those students, parents and friends who came by to support us on the closest thing we have to a “home” field.

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Team 3749 “Guilty Spark”, featuring GWCS students Eric Kramer (Team Captain) and Sam McKay, as well as Coyote Robotics Club members Ian Doten and Matt Apostolico, did a great job, with their alliances winning 4 out of 7 qualifying matches. They finished ranked 11 out of 25 teams, which was great for a team with four kids in their first year in the program competing with a robot only finished and operational for the first time at 6:00 PM Friday evening! Unfortunately, they were not asked to join an alliance for the elimination round.



Team 965 “Aluminum Falcon”, featuring GWCS students Josh Barton (Team Captain), Anne Marie McDonald, Matthew Gaughan, Max Doyle and Matthew Firsching, did even better, with their alliances winning 5 out of 7 matches. Again, this was a great performance for a team with only two returning second-year robotics students and three first-year students! They finished ranked 10, and were asked by the #1 ranked team to join their alliance for the elimination round.

Team Qualifies for FTC Regional Championship! - Coyote Robotics - Home of FIRST FTC Teams 965 & 3749

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Their top-ranked alliance of three robots won their best-of-three quarterfinal to advance to the finals, but were defeated in two exciting and very close matches. As a finalist team, 965 won a trophy, medals for the team members, and an invitation to compete in the FTC Virginia Regional Championship Tournament on Feb. 12 in Charlottesville.



This coming Saturday, Jan. 29, both teams will again compete in the FTC Eastern Virginia Qualifier Tournament at Norfolk State University in Norfolk. Team 3749 will be trying to earn an invitation to the regional championship and Team 965 will be refining their robot and their strategy in preparation for Charlottesville. If Team 3749 does not earn an invitation to Charlottesville, they may still receive one in the lottery for remaining spots. If they don't get an invitation, we will combine the team and everyone will work together.

Thanks again to all who came out to cheer us on. For those who missed this chance, don't miss it again next January!

Gary T. Lindner

GW Community School/Coyote Robotics

Team Coach/Robotics Teacher

FTC Team 965 "Aluminum Falcon"

FTC Team 3749 "Guilty Spark"

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