

VEX ROBOTICS

VEX Robotics is a world wide robotics competition that has a range of different games and every year special vex robotic members pick one of the many games and schools, companies, friends and family groups build a robot. 1st you go to little scrimmages (little competitions) and there you can qualify for regionals and if you rank in the top 8 you go to nationals and if you rank 16 or under you represent New Zealand in the Vex robotics worlds which is held in Anaheim, California.

To enter nationals there is a fee and it is quite alot but because my partner latrae and me registered underneath the Intel computer clubhouse a very kind man who goes by the name of Chris hamling paid the fees for me latrae and my dad (who was our manger). Earlier in the season Chris gave us a brand new robot controller and a vortex (Which is a USB stick-looking thing that helps control the robot).

On the first of March 2013 The VEX Robotics New Zealand Nationals was held at the Telstra Clear Centre up in Auckland With over 500 people inside and 360 robots with them. So at 7:30 my dad and me went to pick up latrae and then went to the clubhouse to get the robot and do the finishing touches so then at around 8:30 we set off to Auckland in our family car.

So when we arrived at around 9:45 we knew we had to get the robot inspected to make sure that there was no illegal equipment on the robot and also that it fit in the 45cm by 45cm square and when we got it inspected the robot was to big by only 3cm when we found out it was to big we were so bummed and so upset but we knew what we needed to do so we got straight to work I pretty sure we ended up with 4 different models but they were all still to big but then on our 5th model we decided to just cut off some of the claw so at 4:30 we finally got our robot to fit in the 45cm by 45cm square.

On the first day of the competition we had a little meeting in the arena area and then at 9:30 the first game started off everybody was watching it then just after 10:00 it was my turn and 30 seconds into the game the robot fell over and the claw pretty

much fell off but lucky enough we had a good partner with an insane robot and they were able to win the game for both of us. But right after the game we went back to our desk and got to work we had to tighten the claw make a stopper so the robot didn't tip and even the weight out. Just before 11:00 we had another game and nothing went wrong and we were able to win that game to. So by the end of the day we had 8 wins 4 loses.

So later on that day we went back to the clubhouse in Auckland and we stayed up till just past midnight trying to make the robot better like trying to make the claw work better so it moved more smoothly and one night we stayed up till 1:00 just playing X-Box kinect. But every single night we stayed up working to make everything work and look better.

On the second day of the competition I saw the best robot I have ever laid eyes on it looked like a plain metal box but as soon as the whistle went it completely transformed into a completely different thing it extend to 60cm long and 20cm high it scooped the VEX bags and stored it in a bucket and ten seconds before the game finished it went over the troph and dumped the VEX bags and would have had at least 60+ points although I didn't get to be partners with it, it was really cool to watch it.

I think the best thing I took from this opportunity was that you can go to this competition and think that your robots done but you can never stop trying to modify it and that no matter who you are you get treated with respect. And all that worked payed off as we ranked 29th out of 360 robots.