

Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference



NMRConference.org

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Bemidji, MN (May 8, 2023) - 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 was the 11th such State Tournament for HS Robotics in Minnesota. It returned again over the weekend to the University of Minnesota at Williams Arena with 36 teams participating.

The NMRC was represented by six teams in this tournament. They included team #2883 F.R.E.D. from Warrorad, team #3134 the Accelerators from Cass Lake, team #3297 Full Metal Jackets from Perham, team #5172 Gator Robotics from Greenbush-Middle River, team #5653 Iron Mosquitoes from Babbitt, and team #5913 Patriotic from Pequot Lakes.

This tournament featured nineteen teams fresh off of their World Championships Tournament in Houston just a couple of weeks ago. Two of them even made it into the finals. This ensured high levels of competition at this event. No team would go undefeated and all but one team in the state tournament would end up with at least multiple losses during the eight qualification rounds. At the end of the qualification round on Saturday our teams found themselves ranked in the following order.

- 7th - #5913 Patriotics (Rec. 6-2)
- 17th - #2883 F.R.E.D (Rec. 4-4)
- 15th - #5172 Gator Robotics (Rec. 3-5)
- 28th - #3297 Full Metal Jackets (Rec. 4-4)
- 25th - #5653 Iron Mosquitoes (Rec. 3-5)
- 31st - #3134 The Accelerators (Rec. 3-5)

In Robotics teams compete in alliances made up of three teams. 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 the first pick and so on. Then the #1 Alliance faces off against the #4 Alliance and #2 vs #3. It is run the same as most double elimination tournaments with the only exception being that the final Championship matchup is a two out of three set.

Once the Alliance selections were complete three NMRC member teams moved on into the playoff rounds. The #1 Seed Alliance led by #4102 C.I.S. from Becker drafted two of our teams onto their alliance. They first selected team **#5913 Patriots** from Pequot Lakes and then completed their group choosing team **#5172 Gator** Robotics from Greenbush-Middle River.

The other NMRC team that found themselves in the playoffs for their first time was team **#5653 Iron Mosquitoes**. They were the final pick of the #2 Seed Alliance lead by #6045 from Sartell along with their first pick team #2052 out of New Brighton.

This year's playoffs narrative seemed to be one of upsets. This was evident from the opening round as both the #1 and #2 seeds suffered losses pushing them down into the lower bracket. This set the table for a battle to secure a minimum third place finish and chance to stay alive. It would be the #1 seed featuring Pequot Lakes and Greenbush-Middle River coming out on top. With the third largest score of the tournament at that point putting up an impressive 174 points. This resulted in sending home their fellow conference member #5653 from Northeast Range HS with a fourth place finish. Final score 174-159.

The #1 Seed would be a single win away from the finals and a chance at a rematch against the #4 seeds. However first they would face the #3 Seed featuring teams from Fairmont, Cold Spring, and Cokato. This match would result in the largest offensive output by two teams in the entire tournament. Posting a final score of 185-184. The final result would mean a 1 point loss for Pequot Lakes and Greenbush-Middle River. However it did secure them a third place finish for the state tournament.

On the judged awards side of the event an NMRC team found the winners circle here. 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 robotics programs. Team #2883 F.R.E.D. from Warroad were deemed worthy of such recognition for their outstanding robot design and were one of these award recipients.

For just the second time ever during the state tournament coaches were recognized for their achievements by their peers. 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 had the following coaches recognized for their accomplishments in their respective sections.

- Section 7
 - Ryan Lindsay - Northeast Range High School - #5653

- Section 8
 - Linsey Strand - Cass Lake-Bena High School - #3134/3275
 - Matthew Wendland - Cass Lake-Bena High School - #3134/3275

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 students of the year at the state level elevating students in the sport of Robotics to that of their peers in other activities.

There are six categories in which coaches can nominate those students who excelled in their areas. These categories are Programming, Business, Design, Build Team, Competition, and Leadership. The conference was pleased to have the following students from our ranks recognized for their accomplishments.

- Design
 - Caraira Jensen - Cass Lake-Bena High School - #3134

- Programming
 - Abrianna Hanson - Thief River Falls, Lincoln High School - #3277

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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