

Crowbotics Crushes the Competition

DHS Crowbotics compete at UIC

by Blake Borgardt

Crowbotics recently competed at the UIC competition in the NIU Convocation Center, alongside 52 other teams from 52 other schools. "I was really impressed with teams whose robots could play every aspect of the game autonomously - without driver control. This is a difficult technical challenge requiring multiple sensors and a fancy tool called 'calculus.' I enjoyed watching other teams successfully pull off this challenge" said advisor Mr. Lofthouse.

"My favorite part about the event was definitely the atmosphere! There were 52 teams from all over the country competing and everyone dressed up for their own theme or in team colors. It's a really friendly and supportive environment. And it gets REALLY loud" said team captain Colette Leblanc.

If you'd like to join the Crowbotics team, it's looking for future engineers, coders, gamers, photographers, graphic designers, business owners, and even people who just like to build things. "I joined Crowbotics at the end of my sophomore year, when it was only an idea. We are much more established now! We've competed in two competition seasons, this year and last year" said Leblanc.

"The coolest thing that we've built is a whiffle ball cannon" said Lofthouse when asked about the coolest thing Crowbotics has done. If you have an interest to join Crowbotics, feel free to contact Mr. Lofthouse for more information.

When asked what his favorite part about Crowbotics is, Lofthouse said "I enjoy the coding aspect of robotics the most. Watching programs run on something other than a monitor can

be a really thrilling thing when they work as designed."

Crowbotics placed 32 of 53 at UIC. This is impressive considering that the team is still new to competing in the tournaments. Most teams have double the number of experience that Crowbotics has. "In the game this year, all robots have 30 seconds at the end of each match to climb to the top of a 5 foot rope for extra points. It's really cool to watch, but really scary too because there's limited time and some robots would break the rope and crash." said Leblanc when asked what the coolest thing she saw at UIC was.

When asked what he feels his teams greatest accomplishment was at UIC, Lofthouse said "DeKalb High School is one of the newest teams on the field, but we designed a robot that could play every aspect of the game. Last year, we had to omit some of the more difficult technical challenges, whereas this year we could do everything. I feel like the biggest accomplishment is simply that improvement, and knowing that we will continue to grow more competitive as time goes on." "The best part about Crowbotics is the team. We have a lot of fun building the robot and work well together" said Leblanc.

If you'd like to cheer on Crowbotics at their next competition, be sure to be at Rock Valley Community College on July 29th.



Matt Angel works on the robot at the competition photo taken Mr. Lofthouse