



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jenny Grigsby
Public Outreach Coordinator
jgrigsby@kipr.org
(405)579-4609 or (405)921-9612

Students From New England Will Participate in the 2008 Botball Season

Real Robots Don't Use Remote Controls

Norman, OK - January 27, 2008 - Botball robotics swept across New England on January 25-26, 2008 as representatives from 20 middle and high schools from Massachusetts and Connecticut attended the New England Regional Botball Workshop. The workshop marks the beginning of the 2008 New England Regional Botball Season that closes with the New England Regional Botball Tournament on April 5, 2008 at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

The purpose of Botball is to engage students from all backgrounds in using science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) as they work together as a team to achieve a long-term goal. Botball gives students the opportunity to be on the creative side of technology as they design, build, program, and document a pair of autonomous mobile robots to play in a competition.

Each regional program begins with its own hands-on workshop for educators and students, and culminates in a public tournament of student-built autonomous robots. As Botball focuses on system design and autonomous control (as well as mechanical design and strategy) there is never any joystick driving used, unlike many other robotics events. Students must learn computer programming and they must anticipate and plan, as they program their robots to play on a dynamically changing game board, in advance of the tournament.

KISS Institute for Practical Robotics, a Norman based non-profit company, will present 18 Botball Workshops and Tournaments this year - 13 in the United States and 5 based internationally. Teams who participate in their regional workshop and tournament are eligible to participate in the International Botball Tournament taking place this summer at the University of Oklahoma during the Global Conference on Educational Robotics on July 8-11, 2008.

2008 New England Regional Botball Teams:

Andover High School - Andover, MA
Ashland High School - Ashland, MA
Central High School - Bridgeport, CT
Chelmsford High School - Chelmsford, MA
Duxbury High School - Duxbury, MA
Garfield Middle School - Revere, MA
Greater Lowell Technical High School - Tyngsborough, MA
Haverhill High School - Haverhill, MA
Innovation Academy Charter School - Chelmsford, MA
Lexington High School - Lexington, MA

Littleton Middle School - Littleton, MA
Malden Catholic High School - Malden, MA
Needham High School - Needham, MA
Phillips Academy - Andover, MA
Roxbury Latin School - West Roxbury, MA
Sullivan Middle School - Worcester, MA
Trumbull High School - Trumbull, CT
Waltham High School - Waltham, MA
Wellesley High School - Wellesley, MA
West Middle School - Andover, MA

###

The New England Regional Botball Program is sponsored in part by: NASA Robotics Alliance Project, Solidworks Corporation, Innovation First, Incorporated, Robotevents.com, iRobot, and the X PRIZE Foundation.