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Students From Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas Will Participate in Botball in 2008

Real Robots Don't Use Remote Controls

Norman, OK - January 7, 2008 - Botball robotics swept across Norman, OK the weekend of January 5-6, 2008 as representatives from 27 middle and high schools from Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas attended the Oklahoma Regional Botball Workshop. The workshop marks the beginning of the 2008 Oklahoma Regional Botball Season that closes with the Oklahoma Regional Botball Tournament on March 1, 2008 at the Oklahoma Science Museum (formerly the Omniplex) in Oklahoma City.

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 Oklahoma Regional Botball Teams:

Alcott Middle School - Norman, OK
Buhler High School - Buhler, KS
Cheyenne High School - Cheyenne, OK
Creekview High School - Carrollton, TX
DeWitt Perry Middle School (3 teams) - Carrollton, TX
Dimensions Academy High School - Norman, OK
Edison High School - Tulsa, OK
Episcopal School of Dallas - Dallas, TX
Haileyville School - Haileyville, OK
Holland Hall - Tulsa, OK
Irving Middle School - Norman, OK
Kingston High School - Kingston, OK

Longfellow Middle School - Norman, OK
METSA (Math, Engineering, Technology, Science Academy) (2 teams) Carrollton, TX
Moore West Junior High - Oklahoma City, OK
Newman Smith High School (2 teams) - Carrollton, TX
Norman High School - Norman, OK
Norman North High School - Norman, OK
Okarche Public School - Okarche, OK
Pratt High School - Pratt, KS
Southwest Covenant High School - Yukon, OK
Whittier Middle School (2 teams) - Norman, OK

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