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Students From Texas Will Participate in the 2008 Botball Season

Real Robots Don't Use Remote Controls

Norman, OK - January 14, 2008 - Botball robotics swept across the Lone Star State on January 12-13, 2008 as representatives from 20 middle and high schools from Texas attended the Texas Regional Botball Workshop. The workshop marks the beginning of the 2008 Texas Regional Botball Season that closes with the Texas Regional Botball Tournament on March 8, 2008 at Sharpstown High School in Houston.

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 Texas Regional Botball Teams:

Alexander Hamilton Middle School - Houston, TX
Allen High School - Allen, TX
Clarksville High School - Clarksville, TX
Clifton Middle School - Houston, TX
Copperas Cove High School - Copperas Cove, TX
Faith Academy of Marble Falls - Marble Falls, TX
Gatesville High School (2 teams) - Gatesville, TX
Hartman Middle School - Houston, TX

Honey Grove Middle School - Honey Grove, TX
KIPP Houston High School (3 teams) - Houston, TX
Ms. Kosin's Garage - The Woodlands, TX
Robonauts - League City, TX
Sharpstown High School - Houston, TX
Smithson Valley High School - Spring Branch, TX
St. Mark's School of Texas - Dallas, TX

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