



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Includes complete list of teams and schools

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BOTBALL ROBOTICS COMPETITION: ROBOTS THAT DON'T NEED REMOTE CONTROL

Annandale, VA - April 16, 2009 - The KISS Institute for Practical Robotics announces the Greater DC Botball Educational Robotics Tournament, taking place Saturday, April 18, at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Gymnasium. The Botball Tournament is free and open to the public. Seeding Rounds begin at 10 a.m. and double elimination rounds start at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Forty one Botball teams from around the region will compete. Each team consists of about 5-20 middle and high school students who design, build, program and document a pair of autonomous (no remote control) robots to play in this year's open-ended game. The theme of this year's game is "Alternative Energy".

The Botball Educational Robotics Program engages middle and high school aged students in a team-oriented robotics competition that develops students' science, technology, engineering, computer science and math skills. Home schoolers and community teams are also encouraged to participate. In Botball, all the design, coding, and building of robots is done by students, and no machining is necessary.

The Greater DC Botball Program started with a two-day hands on professional development workshop for educators on February 21-22. At the workshop, teams received their kits of reusable robotics equipment. Each kit will be used for competition and will be kept by the school or team to be integrated into the classroom or extracurricular activities. This ensures that schools will be able to continue to grow their science, math and technology curricula through robotics after the Botball season is over.

NASA has sponsored Botball Robotics for over ten years. NASA uses autonomous robots in space and planetary exploration, which is why they use Botball to reach out to their future workforce and help them get relevant hands-on experience and skills.

KISS Institute for Practical Robotics, an educational non-profit organization, will present 14 Botball Workshops and Tournaments this year - 12 in the United States and 2 based internationally. All teams who participate in their regional workshop and tournament, regardless of how they place in their competition, are eligible to participate in the International Botball Tournament taking place this summer in Leesburg, VA, during the Global Conference on Educational Robotics on July 1-5, 2009.

Over 6,000 students participate in Botball every year and more than 60,000 have competed over the course of 11 years. In 2009, teams from 23 states and 6 countries will participate in Botball.

For more information about Botball please see: www.botball.org or contact: outreach@kipr.org.

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The Botball Program is sponsored in part by: NASA Robotics Alliance Project, Naval Research Laboratory, The Equal Footing Foundation, Fairfax Education Foundation, Solidworks Corporation, Innovation First Inc., iRobot, and igus, inc.,

Greater DC Botball Robotics Teams:

Annandale High School, Annandale, VA

Atholton High School, Columbia, MD

Bailey's Computer Clubhouse, Falls Church, VA

Ballou Senior High School, Washington, DC (2 Teams)

Cedar Brook Academy, Clarksburg, MD

Centennial High School, Ellicott City, MD

Dead Robot Society, Herndon, VA

Explorer Post 1010, Gaithersburg, MD (3 Teams)

Friendship Public Charter School - Blow Pierce, Washington, DC

Friendship Public Charter School - Woodridge, Washington, DC

Friendship Public Charter School- Southeast Academy, Washington , DC

Glen Burnie High School, Glen Burnie, MD

Great Mills High School, Great Mills, MD (2 Teams)

Gum Springs Computer Clubhouse, Alexandria, VA

James Lee Computer Clubhouse, Herndon , VA

Lake Braddock Botball, Burke, VA

Long Reach High School, Columbia, MD

Longfellow Middle School, Falls Church, VA

Model Secondary School for the Deaf, Washington, DC

Mott Computer Clubhouse, Herndon, VA

North County Botball Team, Glen Burnie, MD

Notre Dame Preparatory School, Towson, MD

Reston Teen Center, Reston, VA

South County Secondary School, Lorton, VA

Southeastern Alternative School, Midland, VA

Springbrook High School, Silver Spring, MD

The Holton-Arms School, Bethesda, MD

The Potomac School, McLean, VA

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (3 Teams) Alexandria, VA

W.T. Woodson High School (2 Teams), Fairfax, VA

Walter Johnson High School, Bethesda, MD

Willston Computer Clubhouse, Herndon, VA

Winston Churchill High School, Potomac, MD

Worcester Preparatory School, Berlin, MD