



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Includes complete list of teams and schools**

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

### **NASA Sponsors Botball Educational Robotics Program**

San Jose - March 18, 2009 - The KISS Institute for Practical Robotics announces the Northern California Botball Educational Robotics Tournament, taking place Saturday, March 28, at Mt. Pleasant High School at 1750 White Rd. in San Jose. 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.

Twenty five Botball teams from around the Northern California 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 welcome to participate. In Botball, all the design, coding, and building of robots is done by students, and no machining is necessary.

The Northern California Botball Program started with a two-day hands on professional development workshop for educators on February 7-8 at Mt. Pleasant High School in San Jose. 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. Seeding Rounds begin at 10 a.m. and double elimination rounds will begin at approximately 1:30 p.m.

NASA has sponsored Botball Robotics for over ten years, and students who have participated in Botball have become NASA interns. NASA uses autonomous robots in space and planetary exploration, and they use Botball as an opportunity to reach out to their future workforce and help them get relevant hands-on experience and skills.

Terry Grant, a NASA Associate, has been personally supporting the Botball Program as a volunteer for many years, going out to schools and teaching programming. He said, "In this environment they learn how to work together, connecting with the technology and understanding how it is relevant in a way that is impossible to get from lectures or books...and they come away inspired to learn more! My only concern is how to make experiences like these available to all our youth; I see it as critical to our future."

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](http://www.botball.org) or contact: [outreach@kipr.org](mailto:outreach@kipr.org).

### **Northern California Botball Robotics Teams:**

Anderson New Tech High School, Anderson , CA  
Crystal Springs Uplands School, Hillsborough, CA  
Evergreen Valley High School, San Jose, CA (2 Teams)  
Hillsdale High School, San Mateo, CA (2 Teams)  
Independence Electronics Academy, San Jose, CA  
Independence High: SpaceTech, San Jose, CA  
Los Altos Community Team, Los Altos, CA, (2 Teams)  
Mission San Jose High School, Fremont, CA  
Mt. Pleasant High School, San Jose, CA, 2 Teams  
Oak Grove High School Eaglebots, San Jose, CA  
Oak Grove High School Eaglettes (09-0090 ), San Jose, CA  
Peninsula High School, Gig Harbor, WA  
Ralph J Bunche High School, Oakland, CA  
Sacramento Waldorf School, Fair Oaks, CA  
San Lorenzo High School, San Lorenzo, CA  
San Lorenzo Valley Middle School, Felton, CA  
Santa Teresa High School, San Jose, CA  
Shasta High School, Redding, CA  
University Preparatory School, Redding, CA  
Willow Glen Middle School, San Jose, CA