



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Includes complete list of teams and schools

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

Botball Robotics Program teaches Science, Engineering,
Computer Programming and Math through Robotics

San Diego - March 14, 2009 - Twenty six middle and high school aged robotics teams from around the region participated in the Southern California Botball Tournament at the University of San Diego on Saturday. Each team consisted of about 5-20 students who designed, built, programmed and documented a pair of autonomous (no remote control) robots to play in this year's open-ended game. The theme of this year's game was "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. Botball provides new robotics equipment for schools to keep and use with classroom and extracurricular activities. Home school and community teams are also invited to participate.

Los Altos High School Team from Hacienda Heights won the overall tournament championship trophy with the highest combined score from Seeding and Double Elimination Rounds, On-Site Presentation, and ongoing Documentation of the teams' project management. Preuss School came in second overall. Torrey Pines High School won the Double Elimination head-to-head part of the tournament as well as coming in third overall, and Desert Robotics team 007 came in second in Double Elimination. La Puente High School won the highly coveted Judges' Choice Trophy. For more results and awards, please see <http://www.botball.org/season/2009/SCA/results>.

The Southern California Botball Program started with a two day hands-on professional development workshop for educators on January 16-17 at Cuyamaca College in El Cajon. At the workshop, teams received their kits of reusable robotics equipment. Each kit was used for competition and can be integrated into the classroom. 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.

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 past 12 years. In 2009, teams from 23 states and 6 countries will participate in Botball.

For more information about Botball, please visit: www.botball.org or contact: info@kipr.org.

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The Botball Program is sponsored in part by: NASA Robotics Alliance Project, Solidworks Corporation, Innovation First Inc., iRobot, and igus, inc.,

Southern California Botball Teams

BE WiSE	San Diego, CA
Challenger Middle School (2 Teams)	San Diego, CA
Christian High School (2 Tms)	El Cajon, CA
Desert Robotics (3 Tms)	Palm Desert, CA
Eagle Rock High School	Los Angeles, CA
Firebaugh High School	Lynwood, CA
Fountain Hills High School (Falcons)	Fountain Hills, AZ
High Tech High International	San Diego, CA
Indio High School	Indio, CA
La Puente High School	La Puente, CA
Lincoln High School/Center for Science & Engineering	San Diego, CA
Los Altos High School	Hacienda Heights, CA
Oceanside High School	Oceanside, CA
Palm Desert Charter Middle School (4 Tms)	Palm Desert, CA
Preuss School UCSD	La Jolla, CA
Sweetwater High School	National City, CA
Torrey Pines	San Diego, CA
Village Academy High School	Pomona, CA
Westview High School	San Diego, CA

KISS Institute's mission is to improve the public's understanding of science, technology, engineering, and math; develop the skills, character, and aspirations of students; and contribute to the enrichment of our school systems, communities and the Nation.