

TEAM 1718

KNOCKOUT NEWS

THE LATEST FROM THE FIGHTING PI



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Welcome back to the Knockout News!

Did You Know?



Using examples from ancient Greece and Egypt along with works of 17th century architects the FIRST logo invests the three composite shapes with specific interlocking qualities: the triangle provides a key connective form for designers, the circle relates to the divine, and the square signifies safety and enclosure.

Thank Your Parents

Thanks to all the wonderful parents for providing meals or cash for meals during the very hectic build season.

News Delivery

Knockout News delivery will be delayed until Mondays following competition events. This will allow us to focus on the Saturday competitions and to recap the weekend's event results.

1st District Comp

Gibraltar District, March 1-3
at Oscar A. Carlson HS,
Gibraltar, MI

2nd District Comp

Marysville District, April 5-7
at Marysville HS,
Marysville, MI

History of the Pi Business Plan

By Miles Mikolowski

Team 1718, The Fighting Pi, has a unique and critical business plan. The business plan started from nothing about a decade ago, with the help of a former team member. This early alumnus graduate of the team became an entrepreneur and business professional. He was so involved that he patented a small new product that eventually caught the eye of one of the biggest computer companies out there, IBM. He had learned a plethora of knowledge towards business and he approached the IBM purchase agent about presenting to our team. The IBM purchase agent was kind enough to provide several team members with a presentation explaining what is needed in a comprehensive business plan. With this knowledge, the alumnus came back to the team and developed a team business plan that is still used by the team today. The structure he founded here has been used to guide many other business plans for other teams. Our business plan was detailed enough to even catch the eyes of companies that took our structure and used it to help build their own business plan. Our business plan has won us the entrepreneurship award 6 times, 4 at district level and 2 at state level.

Our business plan highlights the following: the team's background, our robot development, the processes we use to keep order, sales & marketing, management of the team, team finances, our future goals as a team, our SWOT analysis, and the team's risk analysis. Each of these sections in the business plan have their own effect on the team and how well each portion of the team runs. The team's 'Background' goes into how the team "company" was officially started and the recognitions received to date. 'Development of the Robot' talks about how the team designs a robot for each new game. The 'Process' describes the rules and expectations of student leaders among the team. 'Sales & Marketing' is how we get funding from people and sponsors to keep the team running. 'Management' covers the student structure of the team and how the adult mentors help. 'Finances' is the team keeping track of all the expenses, incomes, and money the team needs. The 'Future Goals' state upcoming events the team would like to participate in. The 'SWOT' analysis states the team's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The team's 'Risk Analysis' notes the possible directions of risk to the team, the ways to prevent them from happening, and the solution, if these circumstances were to happen.

First Year Member Perspective

By Zach Schember

As a first year member on The Fighting Pi, I could not have prepared myself for what I was about to experience. Over the short span of my being on the team, I have already learned so much. Being on the electrical portion on the team, I was quickly taught basic wiring and programming, and I am already using these skills to contribute to the team. Not only that, but I have also learned teamwork and leadership skills. Despite being new to the team, I have learned many new skills and made friends throughout the season.

(Editor's Note: Zach is a first year "Freshman" team member)



What Drew Me to the Team?

By Ben Line

I was drawn to the team because I knew I was going to go to college for mechanical engineering so I figured this would help me to learn more about it. I also had heard a lot of really good things about it from my friends; they said it would challenge me to learn a lot of new skills including gracious professionalism as well as team work. It also seemed like it would be a fun experience because I had been to a few robotics tournaments before with the team because my dad is a mentor and they had always been a lot of fun. I basically joined the team to get more of an idea of what the field I was getting into would be, and to have fun. I've learned how to measure with a caliper correctly. I learned how to work as a team with multiple people working on the same piece at the same time. I also learned how to properly scribe a piece of metal and line up a hole so I could drill it with a drill press.

(Editor's Note: Ben is a first year "Junior" team member)



For more team updates, follow us on Twitter @FRC1718, friend us on Facebook at FRC Team 1718: The Fighting Pi, checkout some posts on our Instagram @ Team 1718 or on our website: www.fightingpi.org !

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If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to Contact our head mentor or send an email to our team at team1718@gmail.com

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