

TEAM 1718

KNOCKOUT NEWS

THE LATEST FROM THE FIGHTING PI



Volume 11 Issue 2

January 20, 2018

Welcome back to the Knockout News!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Team Meetings

Team meetings will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and also on Saturdays from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend please contact Mr. Roys in advance. Parents, sponsors and donors are welcome to visit anytime.

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

Team Articles

Thanks to all the team members who have submitted articles for the newsletter. If you do not see your article in this newsletter it will be posted in the coming weeks. We will use them judiciously (so as not to ask for additional articles too often).

First Year Team Member Perspective

By Harrison Haviland-Longo

Being part of FRC Team 1718, The Fighting PI, had been a goal of mine for quite a while and now that I'm finally part of the team it is exactly as I had hoped. All members of the team (whether in the same division or a different one) are extremely kind to me as well as other first year members, and some even have become good friends of mine in the time span of about a month. The mentors and captains strive to teach first year members everything they know to not only benefit first year members, but the entirety of the team.

The captain of the division I am in (Tony Romero: Electrical Captain) has been exceptionally kind to me and has gifted me the extraordinary knowledge he has obtained over the years, which is helping me become better within my specific role on the team. All of this aside, one thing I've come to learn is that though there are divisions of Team 1718, The Fighting PI, we all function as a single unit, work equally as hard on the same project, and do all of this to create something wonderfully unique.

(Editor's Note: Harrison is a first year "Freshman" team member on The Fighting Pi)



Tool Safety

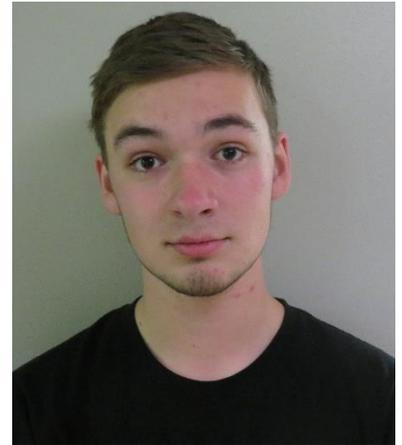
By Trevor Goretski

It takes many tools to put the robot together, all of which can be a blast to use but only if one is utilizing them correctly. There's nothing wrong with having fun while working with the robot and all the other machines in the build room. In fact, sometimes one of the best moments of the season is experimenting with the different materials and gadgets and discovering how they work; what they can be used for and exploring new ideas and new ways to use them. While you can enjoy working with them, it is still always important to be safe while using any kind of tool whether it is something small like a power drill or a hammer to something larger like a bandsaw or drill press. You still need to take precautions (understanding how a machine works to ensure your safety), wear proper clothing and safety glasses when working with the various tools and be careful and aware of your surroundings as well as what's going on right in front of you for both yourself and everyone else you're working with.

First Year Team Member Perspective

By Ian Donohoe

I joined Team 1718 because the community I've encountered surrounding robotics has been extremely open and inviting. The family we build is supportive and fun, all the while helping each other, our community, and solving problematic encounters with things both in and out of robotics. If there is ever something that I find difficult, I can grab anybody from robotics for their opinion and support, all the while keeping it light-hearted and achievable. Everything is made enjoyable when you work with a team as eccentric and diverse in personality as Team 1718, even smaller things such as school. If I'm having problems with homework or classwork, there is always someone to offer a helping hand.



Tied into the impressive community behind 1718, there is the matter of the game. This year's entire game and theme, Power Up, takes its stylistical inspiration from 8 bit games. There are going to be many challenges to overcome, including resource management, teamwork and communication between teams to have coordinated pushes and defenses, proper use of power-ups, all leading up to a mad dash in the last 30 seconds, where all the robots can expand outward as much as they want, to help their team ascend 12 inches off the floor for a sizable increase in points to end the game. This is my personal favorite part of the game because it adds a new layer of depth to building the robot, driving the robot, and using your robot to best benefit your team.

(Editor's Note: Ian is a first year "Sophomore" team member on The Fighting Pi)

For more team updates, follow us on Twitter @FRC1718, friend us on Facebook at FRC Team 1718: The Fighting Pi, or checkout some posts on our Instagram @Team1718 !

Head Mentor:
Craig Roys
croys@armadaschools.org

Student Editors:
Alex Lanni
and
Lauren Clemons

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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