

# TEAM 1718

# KNOCKOUT NEWS

THE LATEST FROM THE FIGHTING PI



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Welcome back to the Knockout News!

## Did You Know?

### The Pi Team Record

Team 1718 has won eight consecutive District Chairman Awards (only one of two teams in Michigan to do so), has appeared at the State Competition all nine years of its existence (only one of ten Michigan teams to do so), and has gone on to World competition for eight consecutive years.

### Team Meetings

The next team meeting will be on Saturday Mar 10. Beyond that watch your emails. The team met on Monday, Mar 5 to unload and go over plusses and deltas. We then took Wednesday and Thursday off. Study for exams.

### News Delivery Change

Knockout News delivery will be delayed until Wednesdays since this will allow us to focus on the Saturday competitions and to recap the weekend's event results.

### 2nd District Comp

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

## Gibraltar Competition Pi Performance

By Paige Drob

This weekend Team 1718 attended the Gibraltar week 1 competition. Our robot performed extremely well. Overall we had 10 wins and 2 losses in our qualification matches. We were ranked as the #5 seed and moved to the #4 alliance captain as a result of alliance selections, allowing us to be able to pick our partners for the playoffs. We put up a good fight with team 830, Rat Pack and rookie team 7225, WHCA Mustangs, but after winning our first quarterfinal by 2 points we lost the next two. At this competition, only one other team had a double ramp design on their robot, so many teams and judges were very interested in our design. This led to us to winning the "Excellence in Engineering" award for our unique ramp feature and effective hi-lo design.

## Fourth Year Perspective

By Hannah Comilla

Looking back at my first year on the team compared to my fourth year, I have changed and grown with the team so much. My first year I was on CAD (Computer Aided Design and Drafting) then sometime during my second year I joined the outreach team. Being on outreach has given me the opportunity to present to sponsors and hold a number of different events. This team has taught me not only CAD skills, but social skills as well. After I leave high school, I am confident in my ability to present myself in a professional way for any job or internship that I may apply for in the future. As a first year team member, I was very soft spoken and I never imagined myself speaking in front of sponsors and members of the team. Now I am able to organize events and delegate tasks, which are essential skills for any career that I choose to pursue in the future. Because of my time on The Fighting Pi, I have acquired skills that I will keep with me for the rest of my life.

## Works in Two Team Areas

By Devin Greenia

I'm Devin Greenia and I work in CAD and in Graphics. This means I'm a part of both sides of the spectrum of jobs. My experience in these jobs are fairly fun and keep me on my feet since I'm still learning both programs. Of course there are times where these two will fight over me and I have to make a choice to work on fixing the robot digitally or make shielding decals and awards for other teams. These do work hand in hand with the above example of shield decals. CAD first has to make the shield so graphics can make out a border and design for the robot.

# Gibraltar from the Eyes of a Student

By Paige Drob

I had a ton of fun at the Gibraltar Competition. I was selected for pit crew this year so I was able to go up for early load in on Thursday. On Friday and Saturday I was able to stay in the pits and help work on the robot during all of the action. I also was able to try out for human player, where I joined the drive team during matches. Students in the stands led cheers and encouraged our alliances during matches. I cheered so much that I lost my voice on the first day. Robotics competitions are truly a unique experience, I've never been to anything like it. Being on pit crew and rotating on the drive team was the most fun I have had in a very long time.

## Working on the Build Team

By Ian Donohoe

The build team has been working very hard to get everything on the "competition bots" up and running correctly, but like every great attempt, we were met with resistances and faults. The biggest hiccup during build was the frames. We sent out enough parts for two frames to be welded together, and once we got the two frames back, they managed to be unusable due to unforeseeable circumstances. Despite this, we were able to re-create enough parts to build two more frames, all while staying later and working on off days to get all of these pieces ready. The amount of dedication displayed by mechanical is astonishing, not to mention how well the entire branch of build cooperates in unison.

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](http://www.fightingpi.org) !

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