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CITRUS CIRCUITS ON EINSTEIN AGAIN AT HOUSTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the fifth consecutive year, Citrus Circuits made it to the Einstein field at Champs after again winning the Newton subdivision and finishing the season on the Finalist alliance at the first-ever Houston Championships.

After a rough first day at Champs, which included losing two matches by one point each, we piled up enough wins on the second day to seed third in the Newton Division, where we recycled our 2015 championship alliance with our friends Team 118 Robonauts. Rounding out the alliance were 4188 Columbus Space Program from Georgia and local Houston team 5892 Energy HEROs. With this powerful alliance, we made our way to the Newton Finals, setting a world high score of 555 along the way, before winning the final two elimination matches over the number two alliance led by 330 Beachbots..



Along with the other subdivision finalists, we moved our robot and pits to Minute Maid Park, home of the Houston Astros, for the Championship finals on Einstein. The matches between the six finalists were played in a round robin format, where each alliance played every other alliance and the two highest seeded teams advanced to the finals. We placed first in the round robin with a record of 4-1, heading to the Einstein finals to play the second seeded alliance representing the Roebing field, led by the Greybots Team 973. The Greybots outshot and outscored our alliance in the finals, taking the championship in two matches. It was an exciting finale to a great season, and we left Houston with not only medals and trophies, but some memories to last a lifetime.

ON A WIN STREAK IN LAS VEGAS

On April 6-8, Citrus Circuits competed for the first time in the Las Vegas Regional, competing with 47 other teams from the United States, Turkey, China, and Germany. We seeded second



during the qualification matches, which allowed us to pick our alliance partners: Team 1538 Holy Cows from San Diego and 2637 Phantom Catz from Rolling Hills Estates. Our alliance won quarterfinals and semifinals, continuing on to finals. During finals, our team went up against two past Einstein partner: Team 148 Robowranglers, who competed alongside us in the 2016 World Championship, and Team 118 Robonauts, our 2015 World Championship partners. We split the first two finals matches with the Texas alliance, setting up a tense tiebreaker match. The first tiebreaker ended with a field fault, resulting in a fourth match that our alliance won 486-368. In addition to our regional win, we were awarded our second Innovation in Controls Award, sponsored by Rockwell Automation, for innovative control of application of control components that to make the robot have unique functions.

DIGITAL MINDS HAS A SEASON OF SUCCESS

Team 5458 Digital Minds just completed their third and most successful season ever, finishing as an alliance captain at two regionals and a finalist on the Hopper field at Champs. Their robot, Synapse, is small but mighty, speeding along at 24 feet per second, scoring 4-6 gears per match, and consistently climbing the airship's rope at the end of the game. They competed in the Sacramento Regional and the Las Vegas Regional, achieving a record of 13-9, and were invited to World Champs in Houston off of the wait list. At Champs, 5458 was 7-3 and was selected by Team 4613 Barker Redbacks from Australia, which earned four regional wins this year, to join the fifth alliance. They made it to finals on Hopper, finishing with finalist medals around their necks. Devin Castellucci helped the mentor the team this year and provided support for them all through their successful Hopper run.

INTERVIEW WITH BRYTON MOELLER, OUTGOING CAPTAIN



Bryton Moeller was our captain, strategist, lead app programmer, and hat aficionado. He started as a freshmen with little experience in programming, and learned by working with app programming lead Donald Pickney the summer before his sophomore year. For three years, Bryton held the position of lead app programmer, developing our scouting system and working with Donald and current vice-captain Kelly Ostrom to grow the curriculum used to train all programmers. This year, Bryton juggled three official roles: captain and strategist, in addition to app programming lead. He plans to attend Dartmouth in the fall, and will major in environmental engineering.

Q: OUT OF THE THREE (CAPTAIN, STRATEGIST, AND LEAD APP PROGRAMMER), WHICH DO YOU FIND THE MOST CHALLENGING? WHY IS THIS ONE CHALLENGING? HOW HAS IT IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

A: Team captain is the most challenging; it's just such a broad, dynamic role. I am responsible for finding a solution to any problem not obviously under someone else's jurisdiction. I'm motivated by my love of this team, which makes it an incredibly rewarding job because I am in a position to have a big impact on the overall experiences of my peers, however it is simultaneously frustrating because I inevitably make a lot of mistakes and am extremely conscious of the negative impacts those mistakes can have. I am very lucky to have the opportunity to grow personally as a leader, and to do something meaningful for my team. The job takes a lot of hours and energy, but it's more than worthwhile.

Q: HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR TIME BETWEEN THE THREE ROLES?

A: I manage my time by analyzing how I can be least likely to be a bottleneck for those I work with. For example: before each meeting I prepare meeting notes for the general team meeting, so that Kelly and I can announce anything that students or mentors need to know to have a productive work session. I also have a task list for app programming, so that as soon as the team meeting breaks I can touch base with my programmers and make sure they are working towards the appropriate goals and are able to be independently productive for a little while. After that, I am no longer a bottleneck for either of those two groups (the team or the app programmers) so I can reprioritize my personal task lists as captain, app programming lead, and strategist. Most of my role as strategist occurs at competition, and I would say that my time outside of competition is split roughly evenly between the other two roles, while the majority of my time at competition is spent working with other teams or with Mike on match strategy.

Q: HOW DO THESE ROLES OVERLAP WITH EACH OTHER?

A: All of them involve a lot of people skills, social face-to-face interaction, as well as digital communication (email, google docs, slack). None of these are natural strengths for me, but they are all things that I've had the opportunity to practice and learn through robotics. App programming and strategy both involve a lot of the same game and statistical analysis. Captain and app programming lead both involve a lot of the same leadership skills (delegation, oversight, goal prioritization).

Q: WHO HAS HELPED YOU ADJUST TO TAKING ON THESE THREE ROLES?

A: Kelly and I have been working together on the team since freshman year, and she has worked with me to manage the new leadership responsibilities that I have this year as captain. The App programming subteam I have now led for three years, so I know the drill, but in the app programming and strategy area Mike and Richard have been amazing resources, since they are (I'm not exaggerating here) masters of FRC gameplay and draft list strategy.

Q: WHEN YOU FIRST JOINED THE TEAM, DID YOU EXPECT TO RISE TO LEADER? WAS IT YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL?

A: No, I didn't. I joined the team because I wanted to learn more programming, leadership was not something I even considered until a few months before I became the app programming lead in my sophomore year. I am extremely grateful that I was given the opportunity to lead, however, because it made my experience on the team into something far more transformative for me personally than it ever would have been otherwise.

LINKS

- www.citruscircuits.org
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- facebook.com/frc1678
- twitter.com/frc1678
- instagram.com/frc1678
- youtube.com/frc1678

GRADUATING SENIORS

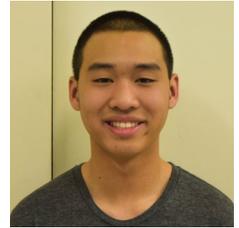
Congratulations to all of the graduating seniors! We wish the class of 2017 an amazing future!



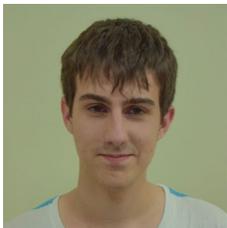
Alex Hill
Robot Programming
"Rain on my head, call that brain-storming"
-Lil Wayne



Alex Limon
Mechanical
"You don't have to like me, but you do have to follow my Instagram" -@a13x_pena



Avery Phimmasehn
Mechanical
"Don't forget, we are on the blue alliance this time"
- Kelly Ostrom



Berin Selimotic
App Programming
"Some people are like clouds. When they disappear it's a beautiful day."
-Anonymous



Bryton Moeller
App Programming
"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."
-Dr. Seuss



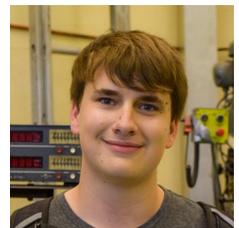
Joshua Bimson
Mechanical
"Fail fast, but don't fail 3 feet too short."



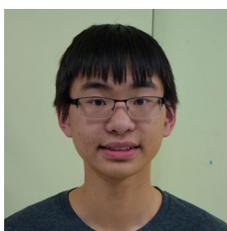
Kelly Ostrom
Robot Programming
"Never attribute to malice what can adequately be explained by stupidity"



Kyle Lavelle
Electrical
"I got in a fight one time with a really big guy, and he said, 'I'm going to mop the floor with our face.' I said, 'You'll be sorry.' He said, 'Oh, yeah? Why?' I said, 'Well, you won't be able to get into the corners very well.'"
- Emo Philips



Logan Wershing
"Mechanical" Science is the systematic reduction of ignorance"
-Adam Savage



Paul Ngo
Electrical
"What ever shall I do with my life now?"



Peter Carlip
App Programming
"Questions don't have to make sense, but answers do."
- Thief of Time, by Terry Pratchett



Sophia Hahn
Mechanical
"When life gives you lemons, make orange juice, and leave people wondering how you did it"



Wesley Apetekar-Cassels
Robot Programming
"A human is a system for converting dust billions of years ago into dust billions of years from now via a roundabout process which involves checking email a lot."
- Randall Munroe



Westley Kear
Electrical



William Fraser
Mechanical
"You can't make a difference alone, join a robotics team."