

A Satisfying End

The end of the 2016 season brought tremendous glory for Team 1678 Citrus Circuits! This is the fourth consecutive year we made it to the Einstein Field, the highest level a team can go, as the first seeded alliance captain or first pick, a feat that we are the first to accomplish.

Citrus Circuits competed in the Hopper sub-division, ranking third after qualifications with the highest autonomous score in the entire division. We unleashed our two ball autonomous routine for the first time in competition, which helped us edge out 971 for our third place ranking in the Hopper division. During alliance selections, we were picked by Team 148 Robowranglers along with 364 Team Fusion and Team 2990 Hotwire. Together, we wrangled the competition and overthrew Team 971 Spartan Robotics in an exhilarating series of final matches.

In Hopper Quarterfinals 1 Match 2, we achieved the highest score without penalties in the world, winning with an astonishing total of 270 that included the highest goal count of any match this season with 24 high goals.

Our success continued onward into the Einstein Field, where a clash against the powerful alliance from the Newton division in quarterfinals left us standing victorious and ready to advance to a highly anticipated semi-final showdown. However, after three grueling matches, we ultimately lost to the current 2016 World Champion alliance of Team 330 The Beach Bots, Team 120 Cleveland's Team, Team 2481 Roboteers from Tremont, Illinois, and Team 1086 Blue Cheese from Glen Allen, Virginia.

We would like to give a huge thank you to our good friends Team 971 Spartan Robotics and their amazing mentor Austin Schuh for all the support they have given us throughout the season. Austin demonstrated an exceptional act of gracious professionalism when, after his team was eliminated by our alliance, he reached out to help us troubleshoot some problems with our robot during the semi-final elimination matches on Einstein Field.

Thanks to all the teams we played against for a great season, and congratulations to the new 2016 World Champions! This has been one of the most incredible games so far, and we look forward to another extraordinary season in the FIRST Robotics Competition.

Robotics Summer Camp

Calling all kids, incoming grades four through eight! Interested in building awesome robots? Come to our Robotics Summer Camp, hosted by Citrus Circuits! This week-long camp, taught by Steve Harvey, Davis Senior High School educator and coach of the World Championship robotics team Citrus Circuits, along with experienced students from the team, takes students through a project-based robotics challenge which culminates in a fun and interactive competition. Students will discover and develop science, engineering, programming, and math skills, while also having a blast! No experience is necessary, so don't be afraid to come and join us!

The sessions are from 9 AM to 3 PM, from June 13 to 17 or June 20 to 24. Registration can be completed at <http://goo.gl/forms/1gNL6Hwx2h>, with a fee of \$200 for each student. If you have any questions, please contact sharvey@djusd.net for more information.

Surprise Award

Thank you to Team 1425 Error Code Xero for the Task Juggler Award! We received this award in a surprising visit in our pit during championships. While we're not completely sure what it's for, but we appreciate the recognition from our friends Team Error Code Xero.

Appreciation from Other Teams

Here at Citrus Circuits, we always strive to improve the competition experience for other teams by assisting them in any way we can. We wanted to pass on some kind words about our team and mentors from Team 2990, one of our alliance partners on Einstein.

Dear Frank,

Feel free to do with this what you will. Just felt compelled to type something up on the flight home.

I am the founder and Lead Mentor for FIRST FRC Team 2990, Hotwire Robotics out of Aumsville, Oregon. We just completed our 7th season competing and found ourselves on Einstein representing the Pacific Northwest District.

Although we had been to the World Championship before, we had not yet competed in the playoffs at any time in any capacity. This year was different, to say the least.

We were selected as the third pick by the number one alliance on Hopper. We knew we had a competitive robot that would nicely compliment the proper teammates. And we have the students capable of handling the pressures of the playoffs themselves. What we didn't predict was the increased level of intensity that comes with being picked by some of the top teams within the FRC community.

Which brings me to the point of this letter.

We had heard rumors of these top teams and the things they might do in working their way to Einstein. How they "take over" the second or third picked robot on their alliance and make that robot better or different in order to win. How they put winning at all costs above some of basic FIRST values.

For us and our experience, nothing could be farther from the truth. We want to say thanks and give our utmost of compliments to Collin of the RoboWranglers and Devin of the Citrus Circuits. These guys, along with the rest of their teammates, deserve a huge pat on the back for how they handled our robot and students.

Yes, they did come into our pit area and yes, they aggressively made it clear they were on a mission. Which was to give our alliance the best possible chance at success. A trait we agree with and promote as a team ourselves.

It's the manner in which they did it that was impressive. They worked through and with our students to accomplish the goals. They quickly talked through what they thought needed to be done. They included our students in the conversation and then allowed our students to do the

work. They included our mentors as needed and confirmed all parties were "good" with the changes and direction. It was just really cool.

The icing on the cake, and maybe it just worked out this way, was the Wranglers utilized both the second pick and third pick in matches that lead us to our success on Einstein. All four teams felt like they contributed.

I can't, and won't speak for the experiences of others. But instead, what ours was as we made it to the lofty vision of someday competing on Einstein. To the so called "God Bots" we hung out with for a brief period of time, thanks guys. You made it a very fun and rewarding experience for a group of students from the small town of Aumsville, Oregon.

Randy Rothweiler, Lead Mentor
FRC Team 2990