

News Release

For Immediate Release: August 15, 2001

Foothill High School Wins National Robotics Competition

East Side San Jose's Foothill High School Botball team won the Botball Nationals 2001 in Seattle, Washington last week. This two-day national competition pitted 47 of the top high schools in the United States against each other. The tournament is a creation of the nonprofit organization "The KISS Institute of Practical Robotics." This private nonprofit community-based organization works with schools to provide students with improved learning and skills development using technology, particularly robotics.

To prepare for the competition, teams of students build tabletop robots out of Legos with a small but mighty 32k microprocessor that must be programmed. The robot scores points by strategically moving ping pong balls around a complex 8' x 4' board. The teams compete against each other to see whose robot can score the most points. At the end of the two days the team with the most points is the tournament national champion. It should be noted that the "final 16" this year included teams from Foothill, Andrew Hill, W.C. Overfelt and Independence high schools, demonstrating East Side Union High School District's dominance in this field nationally.

This championship is the second national title for Foothill in robotics competition. Foothill teacher and robotics coach Jeneva Westendorf was bursting with pride over her team's success and stated, "Robotics is the best program to come our way; it has given our students the motivation and confidence they need to finish high school and go to college." Foothill is a very successful continuation high school serving over 500 students in East San Jose.

A press conference has been scheduled by Foothill's mentor, NASA-Ames Research Center, on August 15th at 10 a.m. at Foothill High School, 230 Pala Avenue, San Jose, to celebrate the success of the eight member Foothill Botball Team, and to honor their teacher, Jeneva Westendorf, and NASA coach Aaron Whyte.



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