

Notre Dame's Killer Bees Ready for Robotics Rivals

This is one of a continuing series covering local FIRST Robotics teams in their quest for glory in the 2013 FIRST season.

With their robot build completed, Notre Dame Preparatory FIRST Robotics team no. 133, the Killer Bees, were looking forward at press time to competing in their first contest.

It's all part of the journey for the Bees, a major step forward on the road to securing a spot at the national championship event.

Auburn Hills-based Notre Dame Preparatory is one of 19 local high schools entered in the 2013 FIRST Robotics competition that have received \$64,000 Chrysler Foundation grants.

The grants help teams cover some of the costs of items like parts and materials, registration fees and team apparel. Like many of the teams in the Southeastern Michigan area, the Bees have the additional support of Chrysler employees as volunteer mentors.

"Chrysler's support has been instrumental in the success and longevity of the Killer Bees. Not only the financial support provided by the Chrysler Foundation, but the generous support of our mentors," acknowledged Susan McGinnis, a chemistry and math teacher at NDP and the new moderator for the team.

"They provide the students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed, not only in FIRST, but into college and a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) career. They work many late nights and weekends, in addition to their career and family commitments to ensure success for our students."

Ellen Green, 17, a junior at NDP and aspiring engineer, has been involved in the FIRST program since

she attended middle school at Marist Academy in Pontiac and participated in FIRST Lego League. The program introduces younger students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface.

Green credits her Lego League mentors with encouraging her to get involved in the FIRST Robotics team at NDP as a freshman. She is very appreciative of mentors' aid to the Killer Bees.

"Some of my mentors have been doing this longer than I've been alive, and I think that's really inspirational," Green said, adding that the majority of team mentors are Chrysler people.

"Chrysler support has been the lifeline for our team," she said.

Green relates that she lettered on the varsity level in two sports, basketball and track, over the past two years, and also played volleyball. By the end of her sophomore year, she found herself devoting more of her time and energy to participation in FIRST Robotics.

"My freshman year I thought it would be fun, because I really liked my mentors from the Lego League. In my sophomore year I started to get really engaged with the engineering aspects and the processes behind building the robots," she said.

"My experiences with the team in my sophomore year led me to committing entirely to the team in my junior year through off-season leadership ... I became a leader during our build season, and I was able to teach freshman and younger students about engineering concepts. Through that involvement, I am the driver of our robot this season."

Green said that her dream is to



The Killer Bees of Notre Dame Preparatory take a short break from the hard work of readying their 'bot.'

become an engineer, and that she appreciates working on a FIRST Robotics team. "It provided the perspective and first-hand knowledge that pursuing your dreams is com-

pletely within reach, especially thanks to student relationships with mentors and sponsors."

"My freshman year, we had girls as 50 percent of the team,

and now as a junior, we have a majority of girls on the team."

The Bees head to Waterford-Mott High School for their first district competition March 8-9.

Mom 2 Mom Expo

Canterbury Village is hosting a Mom 2 Mom Expo March 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the village, located in Lake Orion.

The expo will feature baby and child care items, musical instruments, clothing and sporting equipment.

Fees are \$20 to buy a table and \$2 for admission. Children under 12 attend free. For additional information, visit the website at www.kingscourtcastle.com.

Student Chosen for Academy Seminar

Avondale High School junior, Theresa Hinman, is one of 2,500 young men and women chosen to participate in the 2013 U.S. Naval Academy Summer Seminar program in Annapolis, Maryland.

The program is a fast-paced leadership experience for promising high school rising seniors to help educate, motivate and prepare them for admission into the U.S. Naval Academy.

The summer seminar is led by active-duty Navy and Marine Corps officers and teaches prospective applicants about Naval Academy life.

With an academic focus, the seminar is comprised of a six-day sessions learning about the academics, athletics and professional training at the Naval Academy and the role each element plays in developing leaders.

During the six days, students will attend workshops ranging from information technology and naval architecture to oceanography and history.

The students will live on campus and participate in academic and leadership workshops, as well as in physical training sessions.

Additionally, they will take



Theresa Hinman, left, with her host, Heather Nearing of the U.S. Naval Academy.

part in seamanship and navigation classes and cruise on a Navy Yard Patrol (YP) Craft to apply what they learned in class.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for Theresa, and we are glad to see her hard work and dedication to academics, sports and leadership recognized beyond Avondale," said Dr. George Heitsch, Avondale Superintendent.

Theresa is a resident of Troy and the daughter of Wallace and Amy Hinman.



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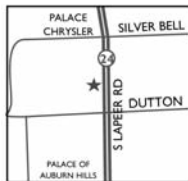
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