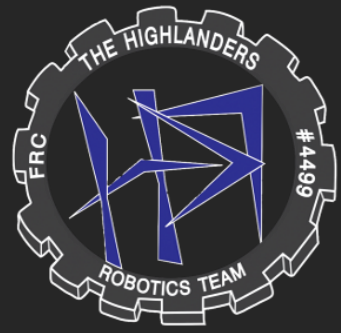
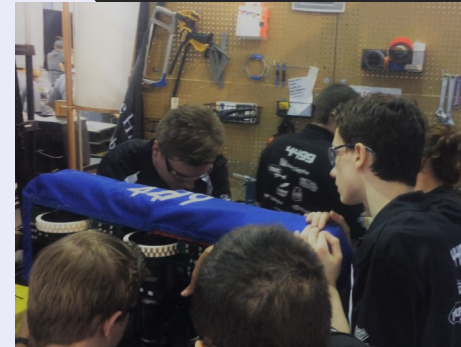
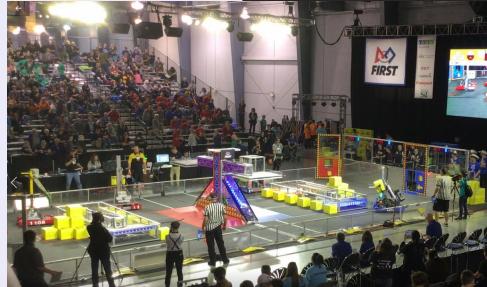


The Heartland Regional

The Cyber Cycle



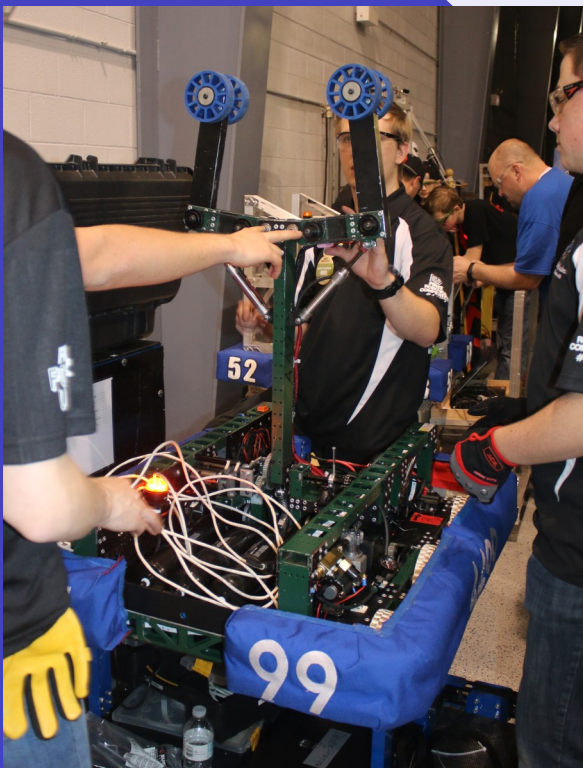
From March 8 to 11, Highlanders were hard at work at the inaugural Heartland Regional. From reaching the semi-finals to eating breakfast at the team social, Kansas city was a regional not to be forgotten!



Arm Trouble!

The team faced difficulty during inspection, the arm was slightly out of frame perimeter! Students and Alumni rushed to fix it. After some quick thinking, they decided to saw off part of the arm and then reattach it. After that, inspection was a breeze!

Later on, it was discovered the green wheels on the arm were cracked and partially corroded. Team 4388, Ridgebots, generously let the Highlanders borrow some of the extra wheels they had brought. How's that for Coopertition?

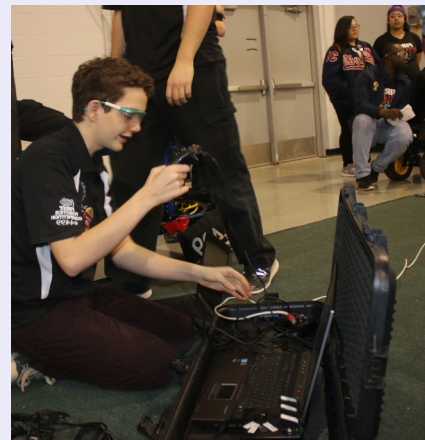


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2018



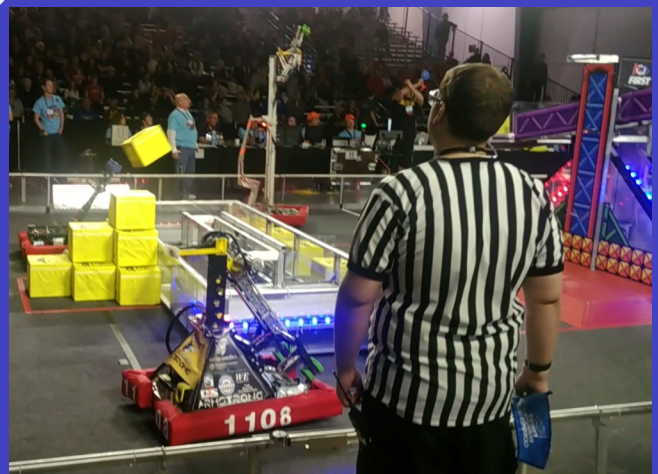
Kicking off the Competition Rounds!

By mid-competition everything began calming down, the arm was re-attached and fixing some camera issues allowed for the robot to run smoothly. Programming team lead Simon Hempel-Costello put a lot of time into creating multiple autonomous modes for the robot. Simatar can not only cross the line from all three starting positions, but also deliver cubes from all positions as well. Nice work Simon!



Joining the 7th Seed Alliance

During Alliance Selection team 3184, Blaze Robotics, chose both the Highlanders and Panther Robotics to join the seventh seed alliance. Team members and Alumni were stoked. As soon as selection was over, the alliance immediately began strategizing. Together, the alliance won both their quarter-final matches!



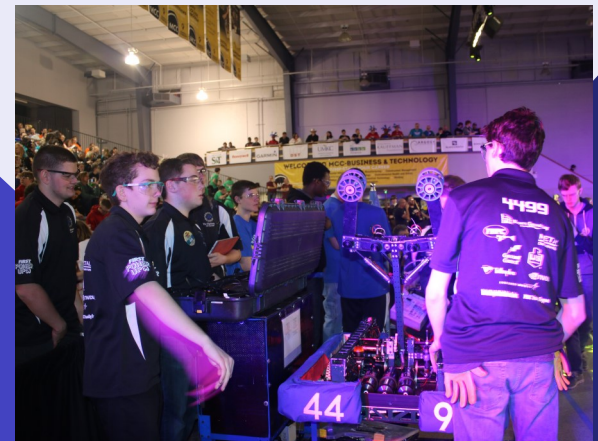
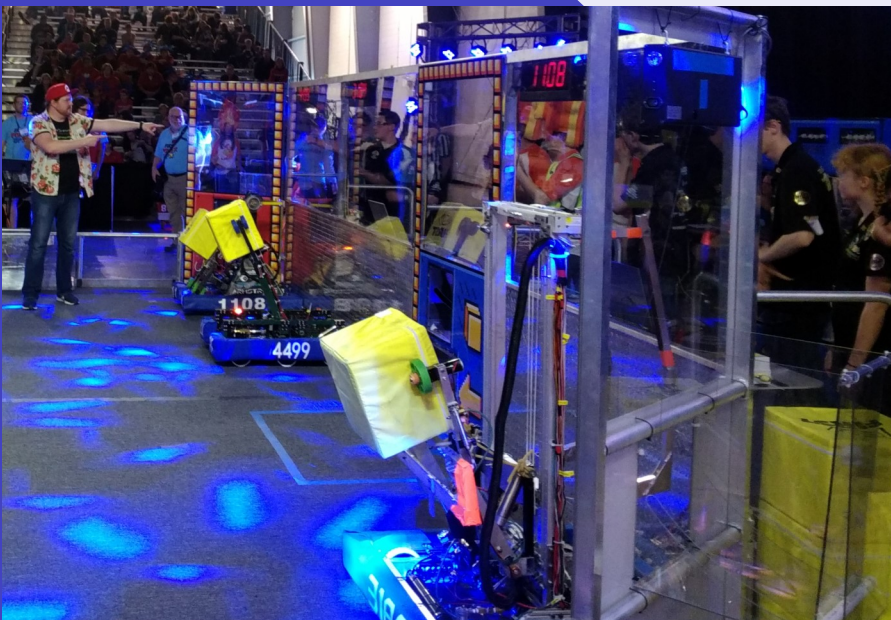
Highlanders in the Spotlight

Prior to the semi-finals, Kate, a FIRST volunteer, interviewed human player Cooper Ward. She asked questions about the game and the upcoming match. Cooper responded with optimism and enthusiasm. The two continued to speak for a few more minutes before Kate thanked him for his time. The semi-finals were about to begin!



The Semi-finals

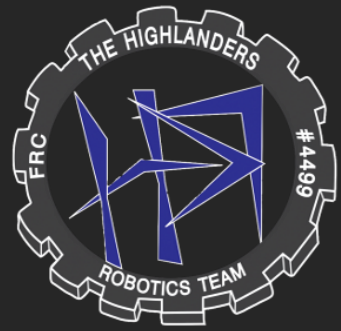
The semi-finals were a roller coaster of emotions. The match series started off with a loss of 304 to 331. The second match was inconclusive. Power ups didn't work when they were pressed and the timer continued counting points once the match ended—as a result the match was replayed, and the Highlanders won 354 to 344! The final match was close, both alliances put their best foot forward, but the Highlanders lost 335 to 377. Both alliances had a lot of fun and the Highlanders are looking forward to improving their strategy and design for the upcoming Colorado Regional. Good luck!



Pit Safety Award

On the final day of competition, the Head Safety Judge came to the Highlanders' pit and asked for the safety captain. He was quickly lead to practice field, where he awarded the Highlanders the Pit Safety Award. He said he liked the signs posted around the pit that pointed to safety gear: such as the first aid kit, the fire extinguisher, and safety glasses bin.

Highlander Safety Captain, Dawson Scheid, was honored by the award and looks forward to the next competition. He has some more ideas on how to make the pit even safer!



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