



FIGHTING PI WEEKLY

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

“PI” HELPS START NEW ROMEO TEAM WRITTEN BY: STEPHEN KLINE

FIRST:

The sport where anyone can turn pro !

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 9
TEAM MEETING AT
ACADEMY AT 4:00

NOVEMBER 14
BOWL-A-THON AT
STRIKERS ON
ARMADA RIDGE
12:00 NOON - 3:00

**TEAM CHRISTMAS
PARTY:**
TIME/DATE TBD

JANUARY 8, 2011
2011 KICKOFF

FEBRUARY 22, 2010
ROBOT BAG DAY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Team 1718 lost six members due to graduation but gained 13 new members
- All 18 non-senior team members returned for a team total of 31; 10 Freshmen, 4 Sophomores, 11 Juniors, 6 Seniors; 20 boys and 11 girls

This year our robotics team is not only helping start up a new team, we are going to actually be working hand in hand with them at our Ford Engine Plant build site. This team is made up of students from Romeo Engineering and Technology High School and is led by their mentor: Dan Gardner. One of the ideas that has been tossed around is to construct identical or

near-identical robots this year. Along with this amazing opportunity for our team and for Romeo Schools, we have been given a contribution of \$1000 from JC Penny’s for helping to start a team that they will sponsor. The plan is to help Romeo’s team until they grow more self-sufficient, at which point they will move to Romeo Schools as their build site.

KETTERING KICKOFF ENDS 2010 SEASON WRITTEN BY: KRYSTAL DIEL

On September 18, 2010, our robot had its final run at the Kettering Kickoff before settling down for retirement. This was the last off-season competition of the year. By the end of qualification matches, we ranked second behind Team 469: Las Guerillas. We chose Team 33: The Killer Bees as an alliance partner and made it to the semi-finals. During the match we had a battery that refused to run and shut the robot down on the field during the match. However, we did phenomenal at the competition. This off season competition

was an apotheosis of an opportunity for new students to learn what FIRST is about in a relaxed and entertaining environment. One of the ways new members were able to interact with the robot was by riveting tread onto the wheels. At the end of the competition, with Team 33: The Killer Bees and Team 2337: The EngiNERDS, we staged the season’s only triple suspension in which The Killer Bees and we were suspended off of The EngiNERDS which suspended off the tower as seen in the picture below.



“PI” DEMOS ROBOT AT ANN ARBOR MUSEUM

WRITTEN BY: TREVOR GOOLSBY

In the 2009 off-season, The Fighting Pi demonstrated our robot at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. This year, on September 22nd, The Fighting Pi once again went to the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum to demonstrate our robot. Also joining The Fighting Pi at the Museum was one of the FIRST Lego League teams from Armada, The Falcons. While The Fighting Pi was demonstrating our robot and its ability to kick soccer balls, the 9 to 14 year olds of The Falcon’s

team were demonstrating the FLL challenge, “Body Forward”, and explaining what their Lego robot will have to accomplish. In the downtime, members of The Fighting Pi also helped members of The Falcons program their Lego robot to complete the game challenges. In turn, The Falcons were also able to observe the FRC robot in action, renewing their interest in the fields of Engineering, Science and Technology.

“PI” ASSISTS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WRITTEN BY: MICHAEL GRAHAM

The Fighting Pi had a great time October 9th and 10th at the annual Armada Knights of Columbus Fall Fest. One cannot tell just from the name of the festival exactly what happened there and what it entailed, but had they been in Armada that weekend there is no way they could not know.

The Fall Fest was such a big event in Armada it seemed the whole town was there, and can be summed up in essentially one phrase: the Fifties. As I walked to the Knights’ hall I almost turned around to make sure my parked car wasn’t a DeLorean that had recently been driving 88 miles per hour, as in the *Back to the Future* trilogy, because it seemed like I had walked into the past. There were rows upon rows of all different kinds of older cars parked in the lawn around the hall; old Vipers, Chevys, Beetles, and more Ford Mustangs than I ever knew existed, just to name a few. There was an exorbitant amount of people milling about, shopping under the large tent full of stands observing the cars or just enjoying a hotdog, (they sold fudge there, which excited me a great deal).

And to complete the effect, 50’s and 60’s music was playing over the loudspeakers the whole time, creating a festive, generally good-feeling atmosphere. Having just attended my high school’s homecoming the night before, I found

myself wishing that the d.j. at the dance had played more of these classic songs; in my mind Elvis and the Coasters could take on T.I. and Lady Gaga any day.

As good a time as the Fall Fest was, the Fighting Pi was not there for just the festivities; we were also there to help the Knights of Columbus put on the event. Team members helped park cars (and there were A LOT to park) and change garbage cans, which helped the event run smoothly. In exchange, the team was allowed a very generous area to show off the robot and its capabilities to Fall Fest patrons. At one point the robot broke down, but our expert mechanical team quickly repaired it, and we were still able to use the downtime to talk to interested Festival visitors about FIRST. The best part of the whole weekend was a close toss-up between when Dan requested the playing of the unofficial team song, “Sweet Caroline” and when Eric Kosek drove the robot fifty feet away and began following unsuspecting passers-by, stopping innocently the second they turned around.

All in all, the team had a very good time at the 2010 Knights of Columbus Fall Fest. It was an awesome experience, complete with awesome cars, awesome food, and awesome music. We hope we can continue to be a part of it for years to come.