



TEAM 1718

# FIGHTING PI WEEKLY

FEBRUARY 18, 2012

## WEBSITE UPDATES BY: ALYSA BRICE

### FIRST:

The only varsity sport where every participant can turn pro.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 21**  
ROBOT BAG DAY

**MARCH 16 - 17**  
WEST MICHIGAN  
QUALIFYING EVENT  
DISTRICT COMPETITION  
AT GRAND VALLEY  
STATE, ALLENDALE, MI

**MARCH 30 - 31**  
TROY DISTRICT  
QUALIFYING EVENT  
DISTRICT COMPETITION  
AT TROY HS, TROY MI

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Team 1718 submitted their Website for competition judging on Monday, Feb 13 and their written Chairman's executive summary and essay on Tuesday Feb 14. These were both due by noon, Feb 16.
- Letters sent to all fifty governors asking if they would be interested in a *FIRST* presentation have resulted in 10 responses and Team 1718 has linked 3 of these with teams in their state to date.

In preparation for the *FIRST* Website Award, Team 1718 has been updating the team website. If you have visited our website, [www.fightingpi.org](http://www.fightingpi.org), recently, you might have noticed the change in format from the previous website and seen the sidebar with our Twitter feed. We have also loaded various resources onto the website to be available to the public: programming code, information about the different divisions of *FIRST*, sponsor packets, business outline, photos and videos from past years, and the all-new Rookie Start-Up Packet. FLL and FTC programs have links on the website, as well as a description. The Rookie Start-Up Packet contains

information on how to build a robot and get started with the business side of a robotics team. Newsletters are posted on the website as they are published. Photos and videos from all the years Team 1718 has been in existence are available. We have, available on the website, information about all our team members, mentors, and alumni. We also have information about our sponsors, past year animations, and various community events we participate in each season. We submitted the website award on February 13<sup>th</sup> and hope to win it at one of our district competitions. If you have not seen it yet, we hope you check it out, and see all that we do.

## FIRST FUTURE INNOVATOR AWARD BY: RILEY YAXLEY

For the first time in several years, *FIRST* has introduced a whole new facet to the competition with the Future Innovator award. The award focuses on creativity in effectively solving a real-world problem through the invention of a unique solution that goes far beyond the requirements of *FIRST* competition season and events. To quote the

*FIRST* website's awards section, "This award celebrates innovation and intellectual property creation inspired by the *FIRST* season experience." The *FIRST* Future Innovator Award will be judged by a panel of leading experts in the fields of engineering and patent law, including Dean Kamen, the famed founder of *FIRST* continued pg 2

**FUTURE INNOVATOR AWARD (CONTINUED FROM PG. 1)  
BY: RILEY YAXLEY**

and the inventor of the popular Segway. Abbot Fund, a new sponsor of *FIRST*, will present the award to the winner at the *FIRST* Championship in St. Louis, Missouri, April 26-28, 2012. Not only does the winning team get the *FIRST* Future Innovator Award, but they get to meet with a venture capitalist and discuss the

possibilities of their invention and the possibility of a business application. The award will be evaluated on the team’s ability to invent a solution that has the potential to better society through a unique and innovative technological application and the uniqueness of the team’s solution.

The *FIRST* Future Innovator Award is open to all North American FRC (*FIRST* Robotics Competition) teams registered for the current 2011/2012 *FIRST* competition season. The *FIRST* awards section goes on to state, “*FIRST* strongly encourages all teams to file for patent protection.....” Good luck teams!

**TEAM 1718 ROOKIES INTRODUCED  
BY: RACHEL KOSEK**

This week, as we introduce the last new members of the team, we have Jack Sabelhaus and Andrew Binkowski. Jack is a 16 year-old junior, who goes to Armada High School. He plays percussion in the high school band and was on the Boys Varsity soccer team in the fall. Jack also enjoys playing video games with his friends. As a member of the robotics team, he is a participant in the CAD (Computer Aided Design) and

mechanical teams. The business group that he is in is Community Service. Jack joined the robotics team because of the many learning opportunities that he can experience. After high school, Jack hopes to attend Lake Superior State University for a mechanical engineering degree.

robotics because he thought it would be a fun way to expand his knowledge of computer programming.

All of the incoming new members are excited to finish out the build season and experience competitions for themselves. They can’t wait to see what results from everyone’s hard work and to see how the team will do competitively.



*Jack Sabelhaus*

Andrew Binkowski, or Andy, is a 15 year-old sophomore who attends Richmond High School. Like Jack, he plays percussion in his high school band. His favorite hobby is computer programming. In the future, he hopes to go to college for computer programming. Andy is unsure of where he wants to go for this, but he says he has time to explore his options. Here at robotics, he is a member of the electrical team and also is in the Community Service business group. He joined



*Andrew Binkowski*

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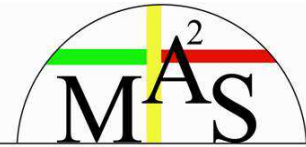
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1. Name on team shirts, website and newsletter
2. Logo displayed on robot
3. Company name announced at competitions
4. Name/Logo on team banner

If you would like to be a team sponsor, contact Team 1718 Head Mentor, Mr. Roys at:  
croys@armadaschools.org or work phone:  
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