

From Slop to Success: The Eaglebots' Pathways to Victory

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From Slop to Success: The Eaglebots' Pathways to Triumph

Organization

The Eaglebots' school, Oak Grove High School, has chosen several buildings that require maintenance. One of the buildings scheduled for maintenance this summer was the U building, which houses the meeting room of the Eaglebots. Following regionals, the Eaglebots were forced to move the game board that had been built in the meeting room to the house of one of the team captains. This created problems with transportation to meetings, though this was quickly solved with organization from the team captains. In order to prevent confusions with transportation and location, the Eaglebots will always have set plans for carpooling to future meetings, and will always inform one another to the locations and times of meetings.

The Eaglebots are self-funded, with the costs for each regular season being paid by and only by the club's advisor, Ms. Romanoff. The cost for one individual member to go to GCER was over \$2000 each. Oak Grove High School is located in South San Jose, a more low-income area in the city, and several members faced issues with the price needed for GCER. The Eaglebots plan to

fundraise to solve this problem and to solve any future problems with finances, as well as collaborate with individual costs and be flexible in fitting any financial needs.

Members

The Eaglebots have only 7 members in both teams. The team has a painfully recurring problem of a lack of commitment from many possible members. When many possible members come in groups, they also leave in the same manner. Eaglebots alumni James Lee stated that, “when [he] was in robotics, most people [were] not very interested in robotics”, and that “only the elite or the interested stay.”[2] However, thanks to the quick recruiting tactics of the returning members, several promising rookies were brought in and tasted Botball competition at regionals. Preparing both teams proved to be quite daunting, as the only two of the seven members have had previous experience in Botball, requiring them to teach their teammates the proceedings of a typical Botball competition.

The Eaglebots have but their one club advisor, Oak Grove teacher Ms. Romanoff, and one school administrator, Mr. Smith, who helped the Eaglebots in achieving their goals. Other than the two and one mentor, the Eaglebots receive no other assistance in their efforts in robotics. They receive no special training, other than the workshop before regionals, and rely only on each other to learn the basics of programming and building robots. However, this task proved to be made much simpler with the help of experienced leadership and the use of Botball resources such as the basic programming slides from the workshop.

Conclusion

The Eaglebots' 2012 Botball season has been plagued with adversity. Though, even with low funds, lack of administrative support, and inexperienced members, the Eaglebots rose above their flaws and powered through the regional competition with experienced leadership, collaboration between members, financial teamwork, and constant communication.

References

[1] Student interview, James Lee