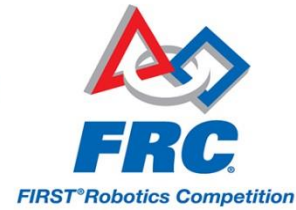




# **KINGSTON ROBO-CARDS TEAM 4994**



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## **2014 – Rookie Season Overview**

Kingston High School and the Kingston Robo-Cards Finished our first season of the FIRST Robotics Competition and were quite successful. Statistically the team finished 120<sup>th</sup> out of 284 teams in Michigan and 25<sup>th</sup> out of the 80 other rookie teams in Michigan.

During the build season, the team, being eager to build a robot, made a rookie mistake and did not check the FIRST website for rule changes. When we showed up to our first two day competition at Kettering University, we had numerous rule violations, including an illegal air cylinder, numerous pneumatic violations, a wiring violation, a bumper violation, and our robot's arms extended outside of its frame too far. We managed to correct all of these issues in the six prep hours leading up to the competition, thanks to the kindness of other teams and our own team's ability to think on our feet and make corrections on the fly. We passed inspection and were allowed to compete in the last minutes before the competition. Our programmers struggled with programming throughout the competition, but were able to get the robot operating exactly how we needed it by the end of the first day. Due to the team effort and the exemplary engineering of the robot, we were awarded the Rookie Inspiration Award at Kettering University!

Our second competition was just as challenging. We arrived at Waterford-Mott High School with confidence knowing we would pass inspection and be able to compete. That is until we had a major malfunction of the robot's launching mechanism and a failure of the pneumatic pump. We limped through the entire tournament without the use of our launcher. Through teamwork and communication with other teams, by the middle of the second day we repaired the robot and overcame our issues. We did such a good job that some experienced teams noticed and were chosen by the second seeded team to be on their alliance. We fought all the way to the finals. We were one match away from winning the entire competition and bringing home a banner! In the end the Kingston Robo-Cards finished the tournament with a second place trophy and finalist medals for every member.

We would like to thank all of the Kingston Robo-Cards team members and Mentors for such a successful rookie season. Members include:

Brandon Radecki

Seth Richmond

Charlie Goss

Brittney Giddings

Anthony Wilcox

Andrew Weidman

Kylan Pennington

Griffin Romain

Matt Nelson

Alex Purdum

Mentor – Russ Richmond

Mentor – Matt Ferguson

Due to the success of the Robo-Cards, our team mentor, Matt Ferguson will be offering a general robotics course at Kingston High School next year. This class will feature many electrical and engineering themes, as well as a programming and possibly a 3-D CAD segment. It is the very epitome of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) and we believe it will generate a lot of interest in these fields.

With your support, the Kingston Robo-Cards will be able to continue to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition. Aside from monetary contributions, we ask for your help to provide accessories, supplies and/or services such as team shirts, hats, buttons and banners etc. If your company can provide milling, welding or other machine shop time, we would be extremely grateful. Your contribution may be tax deductible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact mentor, Matt Ferguson.

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