

Meet the Team

Tech-No-Tigers team roster for 2019

Here are the amazing students of the Nevis / Walker Robotics Team of 2019. Each and every member has played a part in the successes of the 2019 season, including a berth in the FIRST World Championship in Detroit, MI. Congratulations to all!

12th grade	10th grade
Autumn Vogel	Deja Dobbelaere
Tom Aman	Reese Kline
Faith Mullenbach	Aidyn DeRoo
Kaylee Halik	
Lyssie Byer	9th grade
	Megan Lindow
11th grade	Mackenzie Mitchell
Wyatt Rech	Marlow Simkins
Megan Geraedts	
Madeline Mitchell	8th grade
Ethan Tauber	Sarah Boettcher
Sierra Woolie	Molly Lindow
Chase Munn	
Cole Mastley	Walker students
Kaia Dunham	Logan Wales
Anna Hennagir	Gabby Cairns
Emily David	Rayna Wood
Nicole Baymen	
Michael Wegschied	
Tye Majors	

Tech-No-Tigers team wins Regional competition and Safety Award

By Allan Olson
Cass Lake Times

Just like it takes builders, programmers and a whole lot of teamwork to pull off a successful space mission, the same could be said of the Nevis Tech-No-Tigers Robotics Team #3102 winning (with their alliance partners) the Lake Superior Regional Robotics Competition in Duluth on Saturday, March 9.

This huge win earns Team #3102 a spot in the Robotics World Competition at Detroit, Michigan. In addition, the Nevis kids were already registered to participate in the 10,000 Lakes Robotics Competition coming up at Williams Arena in Minneapolis. And now, due to the points they scored at this event, they will also be participating in another elite 36-team Minnesota State High School League event held at the Marucci Arena on the U of M Twin Cities campus on May 18. Teams qualify for this event based on their performance at their initial FIRST regional event.

This is the second time the Tech-No-Tigers have qualified for the World Competition; the last time was in 2016 when the event was held in St. Louis, Missouri.

"We are obviously very excited about the success of our team," said Mentor Olaf Netteberg. "We knew at the kickoff event that we had a very good machine, and everything worked really well for us in Duluth."

Now, he said they need to focus on getting ready for the next event at Williams Arena in Minneapolis on March 27-30. "Thankfully our robot is in good shape," he said. "We survived the first regional event without any damage. At the same time, we need to prep for Detroit. Our school has an overnight field trip permission requirement that needs to be addressed. Then it comes down to the logistics of transporting about 40 people to Detroit. The whole team helped win this competition, so the whole team deserves to go. A basketball team or volleyball team wouldn't only take their starting line-up to a tournament, and that's how we feel about our team. It's our goal to take them all. Admittedly, to do that will take a significant amount of funding. It takes planning - how do we lodge that many people, how do we get there? It will also take conversations with families, the school administration and school board. These conversations will need to take place soon, because we need to make plans for lodging, and the earlier we do that, the more options we'll have. Travel is honestly the biggest logistic we have to deal with."

Netteberg explained that it's not just taking 26 kids

along to watch the hands-on team compete; each student and each mentor has a job to do. "We do a lot of networking and strategizing. We have students working in the pits, scouting, on the drive team, and making sure we are doing things safely as well. They are all important."

At the regional event in Duluth, the team charged students \$10 per day to go on the trip, and with that they bought a large amount of groceries to feed them, including pizza one night and pulled pork another. "This was very efficient for us; we are trying to be considerate of our families' funds. We will need to be creative to go to Detroit, as well," Netteberg said.

He added that one generous family stepped up and paid the food tab for the unexpected extra day when they stayed overnight due to the weather. "They said, 'Congratulations, kids, dinner is on us!' The support of these families is incredible."

Netteberg recalled that in 2016 the team received checks large and small from Nevis alumni and others to help cover their trip to the World event in St. Louis, some with the newspaper clipping included with the check telling us congratulations. "It was very humbling, the support we received from everyone, and it was greatly appreciated," he said.

Netteberg proudly cited the fact that one in four kids in the Nevis School participate in the Robotics program, and on Monday, March 11, many were walking around the campus sporting their medals and robotics shirts. "This is great advertising for our program's success," he said.

Last weekend they took 26 students and eight adults to Duluth. They also brought their full practice field for other teams to use in between rounds. In addition, four adults served as volunteers at the competition. "Some students that went to Duluth

will not be going to Minneapolis; some of them have another school trip they are already committed to."

Netteberg gave the credit for the robot's success to the students - they built it, they drove it, they handled the field elements, and their scouting reports helped with the final alliance selections.

At the end of the qualification rounds, the Tech No Tigers were ranked number five in the entire field, and then they were selected by another Alliance Captain - the Badger Gators - to join their team. Together they picked Sub Zero from Esko as the third member of their alliance. The total combined population of these three towns is less than the high school enrollment of Edina, which won the prestigious Chairman's Award at the Lake Superior event.

"Our alliance partners are really what helped seal this deal," Netteberg said. "Sub Zero was ranked very low at the end of qualifications, but we knew, based on our scouting reports, that they were greatly underestimated, and they proved it in the finals."

The first round didn't quite go as we had planned, and due to Sub Zero getting hung up on another robot and receiving multiple penalties, we ultimately forfeited the first round of three. We talked to their driver and team members and told them, 'Hey, no big deal. You did what we wanted you to; you played defense. Just try not to get hung up.' The next two rounds, their defense allowed us and the Gators to handle the field elements, and together we won the competition. During the final rounds our alliance set the high score, and we tied it, and then we beat it."

Netteberg described how the Tech-No-Tigers evolved this year to become champions. "Just like a sports team, we made adjustments to our team this year," he said.

"We had one student who for years was on the drive team. This is her senior year, and we moved her to the pit crew. She wasn't happy at first, but it was a management/coaching decision - we need to move our best people to where they are needed the most. It worked out well for everyone."

In addition to being on the winning alliance and racking up the most points in cargo handling, Team #3102 also won the Safety Award in Duluth. Credit for that goes to Safety Captain Sierra Woolie, a third-year team member and a junior at NHS. She explained that the award is presented by Underwriters Laboratory, a global safety certification company, to one of the 63 teams competing at the regional event. "We keep our pit clean, and every team member has had CPR training and is certified. We showed that we are focused on being safe all the time. Injuries can happen at this event - serious injuries - and we want to prevent that."

Team #3102 also implemented a lock out and tag out system, something the judges reported that they had only seen a couple times before.

The team's \$5,000 registration fee for the World Event will most likely be covered by 3M - the team's primary sponsor. "That has been the policy of 3M in the past, and our initial conversation with them shows that it appears to be the case. That is approximately one-third of the cost of the trip," Netteberg said. "Obviously, this is not an inexpensive venture, and we will need to do some serious fundraising and get help from others in order to go on this trip."

For more information on how to help the Tech-No-Tigers make their trip to the World Competition, please contact Olaf Netteberg or any of the team members at the Nevis School, or through their website at: tnt3102.org.

Tentative

Championship Itinerary

**Subject to change*

- Tuesday, April 23: 3:30 am - Depart Nevis
- Thursday, April 25: 8:30 am - 5 pm - Qualification Rounds
- Friday, April 26: 8 am - 5 pm - Qualification Rounds
- Saturday, April 27: 7:30 am - Alliance Selection
9:30 am - 1:00 pm - Sub-Division Playoff Rounds
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm - EINSTEIN Round Robin Tournament(Cobo Lev 2)
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm - FIRST Championship Closing Celebration/FRC Einstein (Ford Field)
- Sunday, April 28
5:30 am - Depart Dearborn Mi
*7:30 pm - Arrive in NEVIS



Congratulations Robotics #3102!

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Go! GOOD LUCK TO THE #3102 TNT TEAM!!!

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