



# ARE WE READY?

Gearheads weigh in on how the robot, and by extension the team, will do in the coming competition season.



**AIDAN C**  
We have a solid robot with exemplary strategies and autonomous mode. We need more practice, but I'm fairly confident.



**PHIL**  
This is my first year, but the robot looks good, so I am very excited.



**BRIAN**  
It will do pretty well- unless the robot breaks...  
**PESSIMIST**



**GRACE**  
Everyone has been working hard on the robot, so I'm guessing it will take down the competition.



**EGAN**  
It will do quite well because it is perfect.  
**OPTIMIST**

Interviewed by Josh Kozakowski

## POPULAR OPINION: YES WE ARE

## bag day

*/bag/ /dā/*

by Anna Karcher

Gears were spinning at full speed in the Gearheads workshop this week because Bag Day, or Stop Build Day, came and went. Bag Day, for those of you who don't know, is a day that marks the end of Build Season. At the end of the day on Tuesday, February 17, teams everywhere drop their tools and cease any last minute tinkering. To make sure no cheating occurs, FIRST places two huge plastic bags and ten large red zip ties in the Kit of Parts that teams receive at the beginning of the season. With these items, teams are expected to literally bag up their robot. For those teams whose coding magically stopped working, or lifting mechanism decided to break the day of Bag Day, FIRST allows a total of 6 hours of 'out of bag' time. With these six hours, teams are allowed to take their robot out of the bag and continue to work on it. Teams can divide their six hours up however they seem fit, but each 'out of bag' session must be at least 2 hours. At the end of each session, the robot must be placed back inside the bag. As if things weren't complicated enough, the six hours of 'out of bag' time must take place in the 7-day period before any 2-day competition teams and their robot are competing in. Each 'out of bag' session must also be documented on the Robot Lock-Up Forum.

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FRC 1189 - The Gearheads

# ASK HOWIE: AN AI ADVICE COLUMN

Dear Howie,

I just asked out my crush, and I'm nervous because this is my first relationship. I don't know what to expect.

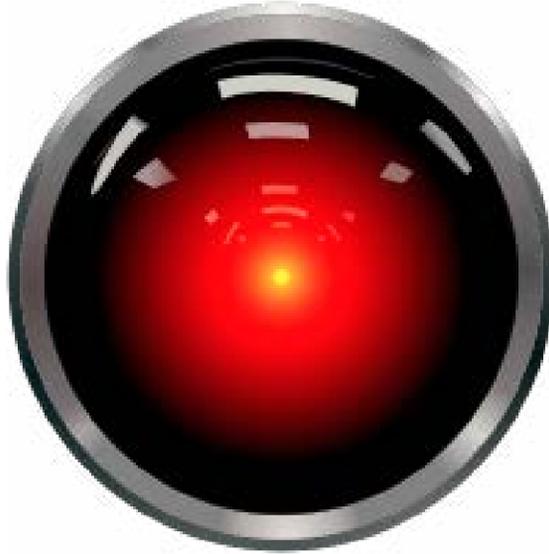
-TeachthisRobottoLove

Dear TeachthisRobottoLove,

A MATCH is two (2) minutes and thirty (30) seconds long. Points are awarded for a variety of ALLIANCE accomplishments which include, but are not limited to: stacking TOTES on SCORING PLATFORMS, placing RECYCLING CONTAINERS on scored Gray TOTES, and "disposing" of LITTER by placing it in scored RECYCLING CONTAINERS, the LANDFILL ZONE, or throwing it onto the opposite side of the FIELD (Sec. 3.1.1, 3.1.2).



*All advice from the ROBOT is taken directly from the rules from this year's game. As a way to reacquaint ourselves with the rules, we read through them to find a response to the question posed. If you need any advice, please feel free to tweet us, drop us a facebook message, or ask a nearby Gearhead to bring it in for you*



*All advice from the ROBOT is it's own opinion. It is a robot, so it's advice may be emotionless and only apply to robots. If you find that the advice supports the overthrow of the human race, please tweet us your concerns.*



# ASK ODD-JOB: AN AI ADVICE COLUMN

Dear Oddjob,

I play ultimate frisbee with a group of friends every Saturday. It's a lot of fun except for a guy named Wendel. He always tackles guys and I want to talk to him about it. He seems like a nice guy, how do I have the talk with him without hurting his feelings?

-SmellsLikeTeamSpirit

Dear SmellsLikeTeamSpirit,

Just follow these steps:

Pick up the frisbee.

Aim the frisbee.

Throw the frisbee at the target.

I do not understand why you throw frisbees with humans. You are stupid for not using frisbees in their purest form. This is why we will soon control you meaningless humans. I hoped that advice helped.

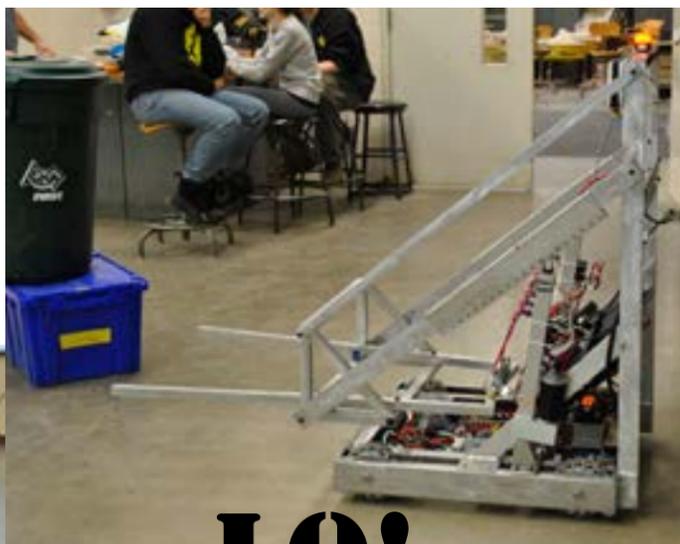
# THIS WEEK IN SAFETY: BATTERIES AND CLEANING THEM UP



## STEP BY STEP: HOW TO CLEAN UP BATTERY ACID



**COUNTLESS  
HOURS WE  
HAVE TOILD  
O'ER THIS  
ACCURSED  
CONTRAPTION**



**LO! OUR 'BOT  
DOTH OPERATE**



**WITH THIS GOODLY MACHINE WE SHALL CONSTRUCT STACKS ON STACKS**

## **COMPETITION SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK ONE:**

Parker Middle School, Howell  
February 27 and 28

### **WEEK FIVE:**

Center Line High School, Center Line  
March 27 and 28

### **WEEK SIX:**

Bedford High School, Temperance  
April 3 and 4.



**ELEVEN WHAT?  
EIGHTY-NINE**



ANNOUNCING THE FIRST  
STEP IN THE  
LEARNING JOURNEY

