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Shelton Student Teams Build Not Just Robots, But Also Character

By Patricia Villers
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SHELTON - The 12th annual FIRST LEGO League qualifying tournament was held on Nov. 21 at Shelton High School. A frenetic buzz was heard in the gym as students, parents, and mentors were from taking part in the challenge.

FIRST stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." John Niski, the FIRST Lego League Shelton Coordinator for Shelton Public Schools, said the competition was one of eight qualifying events held throughout the state.

The 22 teams worked with programmable Lego robots they had constructed. Several large tables were used as playing fields. The theme was 'Trash Trek.

'The Robot 'game' board was set up with different challenges that represented different 'trash' areas, i.e. landfill area, compost pile, sorting recycling, etc.

"Students had to identify a problem related to trash and come up with innovative solutions to that problem and then make presentations to a panel of judges about their solution".

After the day's contest, all three Shelton teams — the Brainiacs, Dominators, and Predators — qualified for the state tournament scheduled Dec. 5 at Shelton High School.

"FIRST builds people, and robots. It's more important what we learn than what we win"

Rick Vogl, Mentor

Shelton High School senior Henry Jiang, captain of the Gaelhawks 230 team, said he got involved with robotics as a because he always loved tinkering.

"The team is like a small company," he said, with everyone playing a key role. Jobs include pit crew, designing, building, marketing, and more. Jiang plans to major in mechanical engineering in college. "This (robotics program) was a deciding factor," he said. Read the story ***here:***

http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/shelton_students_build_robots_character/