

THE VARMINT WEEKLY



Written by Ben Chandra

Proofread and Edited by Vincent DeFillips

Special Competition Season Update

From March 8th to March 10th, Team 386 Voltage was proud to take part in the 20th Anniversary Orlando Regional where we finished in the quarterfinals along with our alliance members, Team 21 Combat, and



Team 945 Banana. Our team is proud to have brought home the Judges Award for our effort and is looking forward to keeping up the momentum in the South Florida Regional starting on the 28th.

Meanwhile, Voltage is working on improving our robot's

autonomous capabilities. We are also planning on attending the Melbourne Air Show in hopes of exposing more people to the exciting world of S.T.E.M.



The Competition

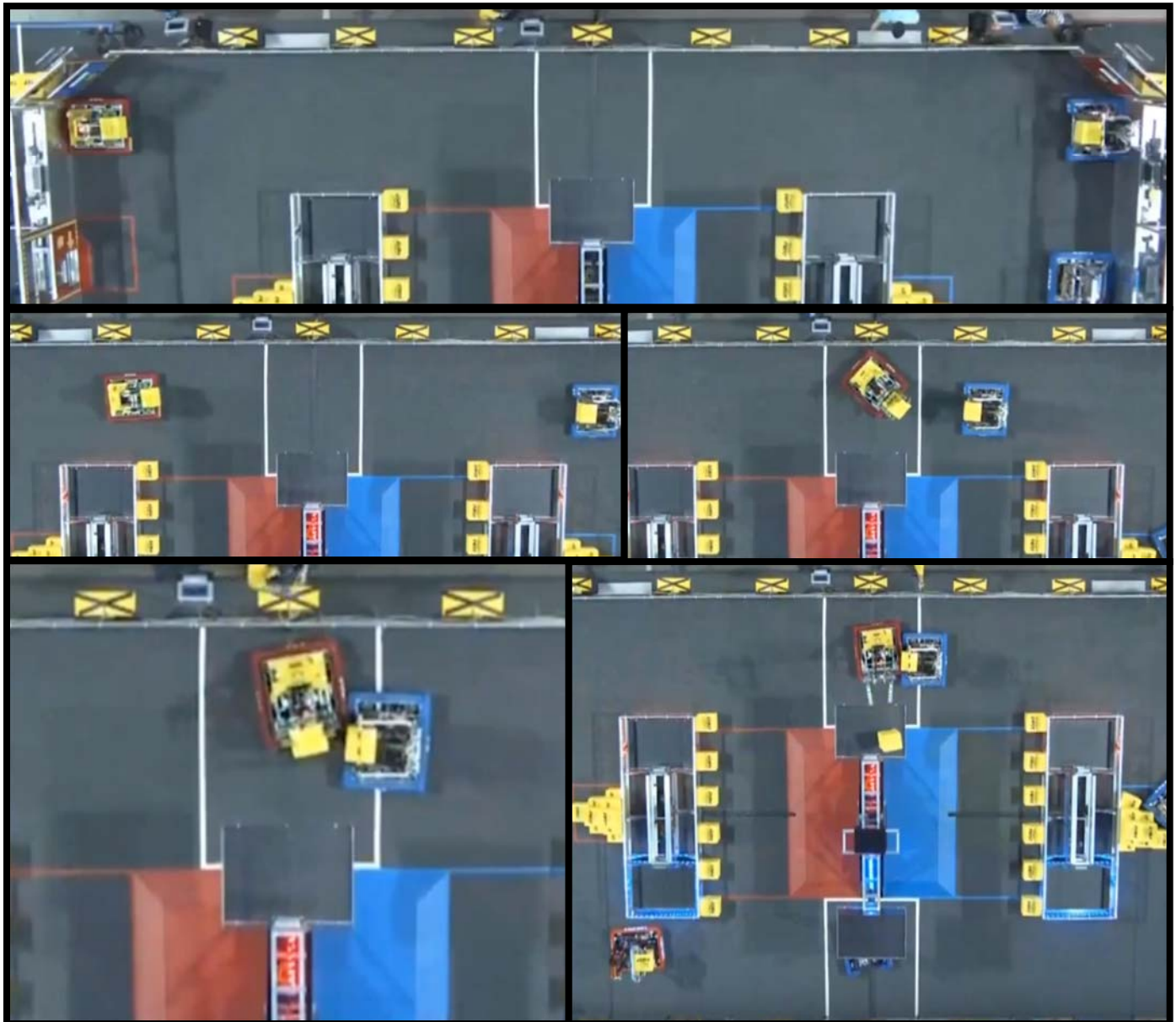
The Orlando Regional is a three-day event in which teams compete in that year's game. This year was the 20th year anniversary, it took place in UCF's Arena with 64 teams competing from all over the world. The First day consisted of Practice matches allowing for teams to calibrate their robot with the field as well as go through their inspections. The second day consisted of 60 rounds of qualifiers while an additional 26 qualifying matches would be held on the following day. Each win would award the team 2 ranking points while an additional ranking point could be awarded either by placing a cube in autonomous or by all three of your alliance robots climbing. The ranking points are averaged and teams are ranked by the highest. With the end of qualifiers, the top 8 ranked teams would each choose two alliance partners to form their alliance for the finals, a bracket-style, two out of three, elimination tournament, the winners of which would win a bid to the *FIRST* World Championship.

After passing inspection and setting up our robot on the first day we started off our qualifiers strong. By the end of the second day, we were ranked fifth in the qualifiers with three wins under our belt. On the third day, we finished our qualifiers with the 8th rank, 6-2-0 record and an average of 1.87 ranking points per match. Before we could choose our new alliance mates we were ourselves chosen by the 4th rank team Combat. We graciously accepted Combats offer and were later joined by Team Banana.

Sadly our alliance would lose to Team Exploding Bacon's alliance in the quarterfinals with a 2-0 loss. Despite this, our team left the competition emboldened by our success. Over the course of the game, our robot scored an average of 8.7 cubes placed on scoring elements an excellent score for our first completion. Team Voltage plans to use what it has learned on the coming South Florida Regional.

Autonomous Period

The Autonomous period entails 15 seconds in which robots must perform tasks without input from the drivers. Here the PID loop designed by our software team allows the robot to score despite being rammed by an opposing alliance bot. The PID loop graphs the velocity of the robot and integrates to find displacement thus allowing it to adjust to outside stimulus without any user input.



The Judges Award

“During the Course of the Competition, the judging panel encounters teams whose unique efforts, performance, or dynamic, merit recognition that do not fit into any of the existing award categories; Today the judges have defined the following special award as the Judge’s Award for one such deserving team. This team has an electrifying passion and powered up by their program to get their high score in several categories, they mean business and the customer hears the enthusiasm and spirit. This team’s vision and control system knows which way’s the beach. Congratulations to Team 386, Team Voltage.”

- Orlando Regional

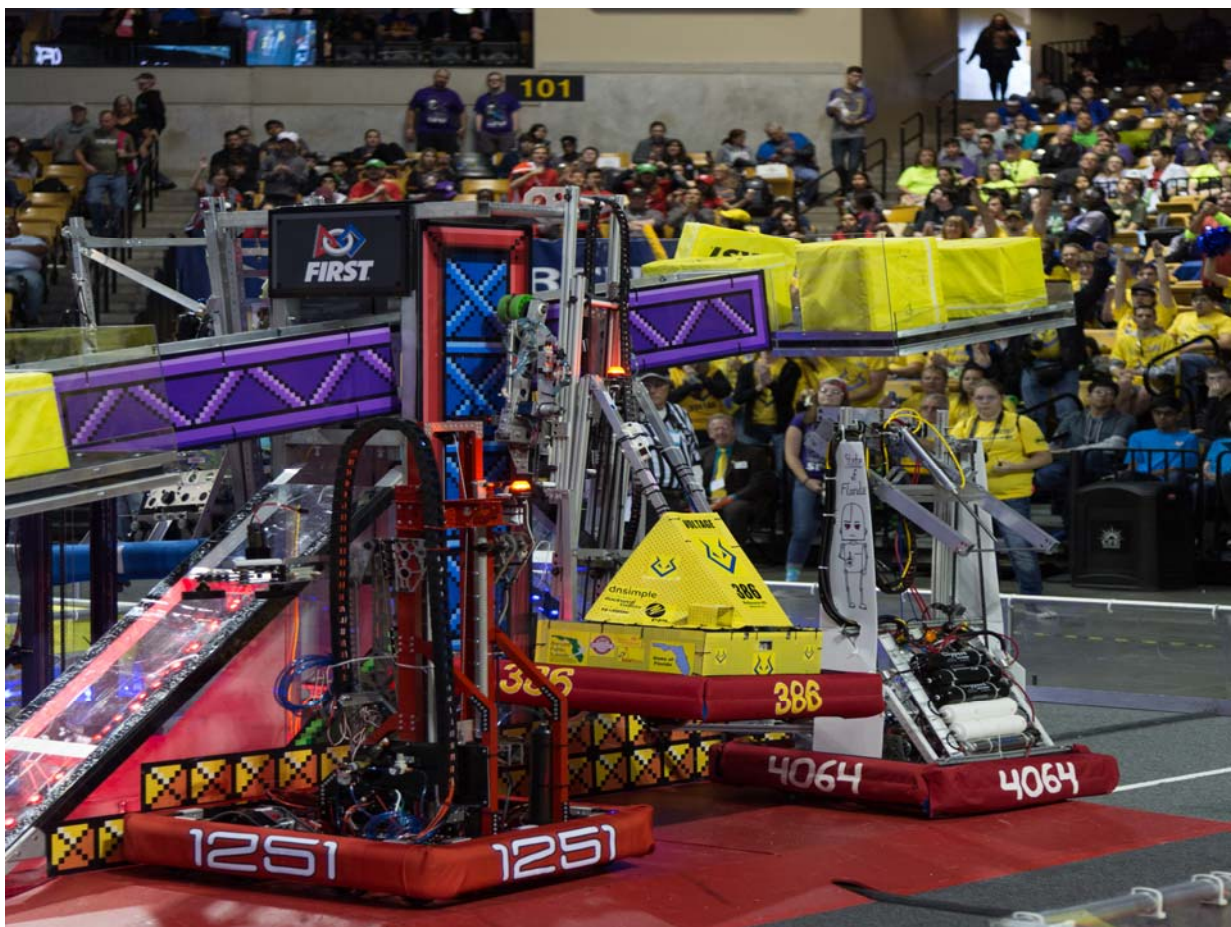


Melbourne Airshow

Team Voltage will be volunteering at the Melbourne Airshow on the 24 and 25th. Stop by to drive our robot and Meet the members of our team.

South Florida Regional

Team Voltage will be going to the South Florida regional from the 29th to the 31st. Admission is free to those who feel like checking it out. It will also be live streamed on YouTube.



Thank You to our sponsors for making this season possible

