

TEAM 316

THE LUNATECS

FIRST. IN
SHOW.
PRESENTED BY Qualcomm

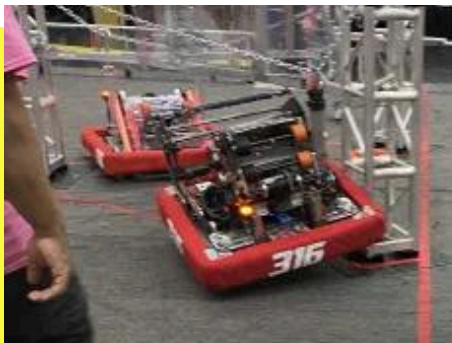
25 April 2024

LUNATECS Launch: Team 316's Stellar Rise, Inspiring Impact, and Cosmic Adventures at FIRST Robotics Championship Week!

The LUNATECS arrived in Houston as the 4th place team out of 127 teams in the FIRST Mid-Atlantic District. Amidst the competition buzz in Houston, Team 316 took the opportunity to tour the facilities of Team 118, The Robonauts (sponsored by NASA), who graciously opened their shop and practice field for tours. It was a chance to share insights, exchange ideas, and perhaps inspire future generations of robotics students while revisiting past robot designs and building bonds with other teams attending the championship.



On Wednesday, we set up our robot pit space and prepared for robot practice matches. We had a strong showing in our practice match against last year's World Champion, Team 1323 Madtown Robotics. Our hopes were high going into Thursday's qualification matches. Through two days and ten qualification matches, the LUNATECS ranked as high as 3rd overall—the highest the team has ever ranked at this level. This achievement is a testament to our team's dedication, creativity, and technical skills. Though we ended the qualification rounds ranked 27th out of 75 teams, we felt confident going into alliance selection that we had proven ourselves as a play-off worthy team.



<http://www.sjrobotics.com/lunatecs/>

Amidst the intensity of competition, there was also time for celebration and camaraderie at RoboProm. This annual event is hosted by Team 399 Eagle Robotics out of Lancaster, California, and recognizes that many students who attend FIRST Championship week are missing their own proms back home. The evening provides a chance for students to unwind, socialize, and bond over their shared love of robotics. Our team had 17 students get dressed up and attend a night of dancing and fun.



Saturday morning was alliance selection. Despite not clinching a top spot, our team's impressive performance caught the attention of the fifth alliance, who selected us as their final alliance partner. We had a long run through the playoffs, finishing in 3rd place against some of the best competition in the entire arena.





Our students showed amazing professionalism and poise as they presented our team's impact to a panel of judges during the FIRST Impact Award interview. At this high level of competition, they made us proud, telling our Impact story and answering questions about our team's outreach efforts, while also showcasing our team's engineering skillsets.

As Dean Kamen says, *we aren't having kids build robots, we are using robots to build up kids*. The FIRST Innovation Fair offered the opportunity for our students to see the myriad of possibilities for their futures through industry sponsors like NASA, Disney, BAE systems, Crunch Labs, and our own team sponsor, Novelis. There were also dozens of college and professional organizations who wanted to meet our students and recognize the caliber of student that FIRST Programs mold.

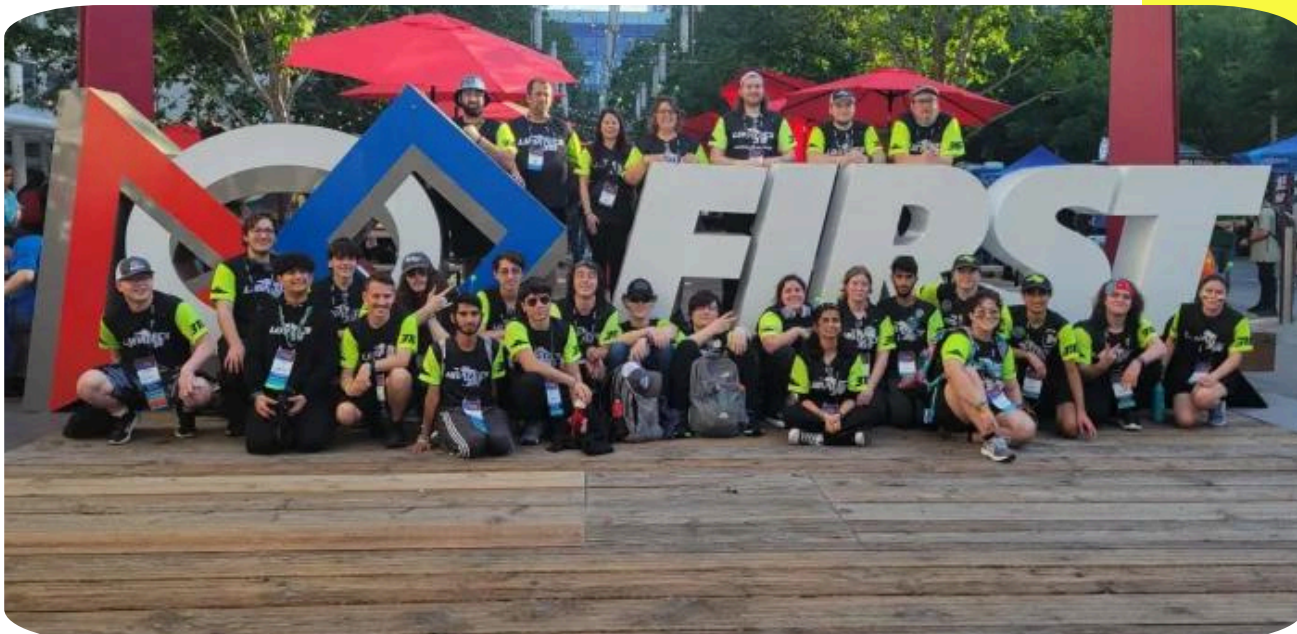


Students were excited to watch the event finals (and cheer on our fellow FMA teams), hear FIRST founder Dean Kamen speak, and celebrate the hard work that all of the competing teams put in. The atmosphere at the Einstein finals was absolutely electric!

To top off an already incredible week, the LUNATECS had the opportunity to visit the Johnson Space Center on Sunday. Exploring the center allowed team members to delve into the fascinating world of space exploration, including the new moon program, Artemis. It was an inspiring experience that reinforced the connections between robotics, science, and real-world applications.



Overall, the FIRST Robotics World Championship week was a whirlwind of excitement, learning, and achievement; leaving our team with cherished memories and a renewed passion for robotics and STEM. We cannot wait for next year, and we've already started planning!



Our team will soon get back into the engineering lab and will start working this spring/summer on our Adaptive Device Program. We are happy to report our Swim Fins will be used at the Easter Seals Camp for over 600 Adults and Children this summer! We love using our engineering skills to help those in need. We are always eager to take on a new engineering challenge, so please reach out to us if you have any new ideas we could consider.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



...and all our family and friends...

This experience would not be possible without you, our sponsors. From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank you for your generosity and support. We hope we made you proud!