2006 Rookie Factoids

- **Double Rookie All Stars**
  Three teams were awarded the Rookie All Star Award at two Regional Competitions. Team 1714 "More Robotics" received the award at the Buckeye and Wisconsin Regionals, Team 1846 "SFXRobotics" received it at Waterloo and Toronto, and Team 1885 "RoboCats" received it at NASA/VCU and Palmetto. Take a bow, Rookies!

- **#1 Seeds**
  Two Rookie teams ended the qualification rounds as the #1 seeds. "Exploding Bacon" Team 1902 reached the semifinals from this position, while "Team Argos" Team 1756 was able to take it all the way to Regional Champion! Way to dominate! Seven other rookie teams finished qualifications in the top eight. Very Impressive!

- **Boldly Go Where No One has Gone Before (Boldly Went!)**
  Team 1816 "The Green Machine" is Minnesota's only robotics team from a public school district, and one of only two from the state. Team 1906 "WeBeRoybotics" is the only FIRST team in the whole state of Utah. The USS Enterprise would be proud of you, and so are we!

- **The Phoenix Rises Again – Twice**
  This year two Rookie All Star Teams have named their robots "Phoenix." Team 1814 "Northview Robotics" from Toronto and Team 1719 "The Umbrella Corp" from Maryland are both hoping that their robots show the same strength and immortality throughout the Championships. Look for these mythical creatures as they both compete in the Galileo Division.

- **Missing the Action**
  In addition to the amazing rookies at the Championships, three other rookie teams qualified, but were unable to be here to compete. We wanted to take a moment to recognize two Rookie All Star winning Teams, Team 1712, Dawgma LM Robotics from Ardmore, PA, and Team 1713, K-Island Gears from Cape Vincent and Clayton, NY. Hats off also to Israel's Regional Champion 1955 Pitango & Belt Yerah from Emek Hayarden, Northern Israel.

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This information was gathered and organized by Team 1511, Rolling Thunder, from USFIRST.org, Chief Delphi Forums, Team Websites and local news reports. Care has been taken to be as accurate as possible. Since all of our summaries are intended to be positive, it is hard to go wrong. However, if we did, we humbly apologize!

Team 1511 Presents
Meet the Rookies of 2006!

During the 2006 competitive season, 226 rookie teams participated in 33 Regional Competitions (including Israel). All of the 226 Rookie Teams are winners, and we applaud their efforts and their accomplishments!

But, not all Rookie Teams can make it to the FIRST Championship… We hope you will agree that the 35 Rookie Teams competing this week in Atlanta represent the "Best of the Best"! To help you get to know them we have prepared this overview of each of the Rookie Teams.

These teams:
Competed at 46 Regional competitions
Received 32 Rookie All Star Awards
7 Rookie Inspiration Awards
15 Highest Rookie Seeds
They also picked up awards for imagery, website, creativity, Autodesk, and safety. Wow!

These teams:
Were alliance partners in 31 quarterfinal rounds, (sometimes as captains)
With 16 making it to the semi-finals,
10 moving on to the finals,
and 9 teams were Regional Champions!

These rookie teams represent a new breed of FIRST teams. In their rookie year, they have started and mentored LEGO and VEX teams and some have already laid the groundwork to start rookie FRC teams next year. They have influenced and inspired their schools and communities and some have reached across county and state borders with the message of FIRST.

They have come to regional competitions with robots that performed, strategies that worked, spirit that shined, unique imagery, awesome technology and savvy well beyond their rookie year. We are awed by their achievements! Welcome to the FIRST Championship!

Thanks to all the teams for welcoming the rookies, sharing ideas, tools, and expertise to make sure that they had a great first year. Thanks for picking them up when they fell, treating them gently when they were bruised and considering them as equals in competition! You make great role models!

From rookie team and veteran team alike, thanks to our schools and our communities and most of all our sponsors for their support and financial backing. We thank our teachers, advisors, and parents for teaching, advising, and giving us the opportunity to let us test our wings. We thank our mentors for giving up all of their free time to guide us, design with us, build with us, push us, and inspire us.

Rookies – we expect great things from you! And we know you will continue to amaze us in the years to come! Enjoy the ride!

1714 "More Robotics" — Archimedes

NASA/Quad Tech, Div. Quad Graphics/Pentair Water/Marquette Univ./MSOE/American Acrylics USA LLC & Team 1675 Ultimate Protection Squad & Thomas More HS, South Milwaukee, WI USA

Buckeye: Rookie All Star; Wisconsin: Rookie All Star, Highest Rookie Seed

With a plan to create a community engineering club, "More Robotics" has volunteered at FLL tourneys, founded the Milwaukee VEX League and hosted a VEX tournament "Who's got the Uber Tuber." Their robot "Holey Roller" saw quarterfinal action at both of the regionals they attended, and was able to play defense even as their shooter was disabled at one point during the matches.

1717 "D P Engineering" — Curie

NASA/Raytheon & Dos Pueblos High School Engineering Academy, Goleta, CA USA

Arizona: Rookie Inspiration Award; S. California: Rookie All Star

Celebrate Penguinocracy! DP Engineering Robotics team participation is linked to a senior level Engineering course on robotics at their school. Quite the crowd pleaser, the team does the "penguin dance" whenever their robot "Penguinbot" does something cool. The team and robot reached the semifinals at the Arizona Regional.

1718 "The Fighting Pi" — Newton

Ford Motor Company/Industrial Extrusion Belting/L & L Products/Morse Metal Fab & Macomb Academy of Arts & Sciences, Armada, MI USA

Great Lakes: Rookie All Star; Western Michigan: Participant

Having a quote from Voltaire *"No problem can stand the assault of sustained thinking"* as their motto, "The Fighting Pi" of MA^{2}S tested their robot at two regionals, winning the Rookie All Star at the first. Check out their cool treads, custom made by their sponsor.

1719 "The Umbrella Corp." — Galileo

NASA/Ginny & Tony Meoli/Constellation Energy Group, Inc./KLMK/National Lumber Co./Kinsley Construction Co Inc/Hollander Dental Practice/Direct Dimensions/Swales Aerospace/Black & Decker Corp./The Bovis Corp./Lion Brothers Corp. & The Park School of Baltimore & The Science & Math Academy of Aberdeen HS, Brooklandville, MD USA

Chesapeake : Rookie All Star; Philadelphia: Rookie Inspiration Award

Look for the umbrellas and you will find "The Umbrella Corp, a team from several schools which started and mentors a FLL team. Their robot is the Phoenix, a robot that rises out of the ashes.

1723 "First Bots of Independence" (FBI) — Archimedes

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation & Independence School District, Independence, MO USA

St. Louis: Rookie All Star

Uniting the fiercest of cross-town rivals into one fabulous team has prepared the "FBI" to meet any competitive challenge. But don't ask them how they did it, because according to their motto, "if we told you, we'd have to eliminate you." However, you can ask them how their robot, Agent X overcame its pre-competition weight problem.

1726 "Nifty Engineering Robotics Design Squad" (N.E.R.D.S.) — Curie

NASA/SSVEC/Thomas McMillan Snap-on Dealer/US Army IEWTD/ Westech Int'l & Buena HS, Sierra Vista, AZ USA

Arizona: Participant; Davis Sacramento: Rookie Inspiration Award, Highest Rookie Seed, Regional Champions

After gaining valuable experience at their first regional, the N.E.R.D.S took their second regional by storm, seeding 4th and leading their alliance in becoming Regional Champions. MegaMaid, their overgrown cheese grater robot, was built at Fort Huachuca Army Base, the home of IEWTD.

1918 "Packmon" — Newton

DaimlerChrysler/ITT & Fremont High School, Fremont, MI USA

Western Michigan: Rookie All Star, Highest Rookie Seed

"Packmon" had a great time at their regional where their helpfulness, especially in the pits, was noted. A rookie team helping the other teams? Way to go! Their robot is rather short and has good defensive ability, in addition to high and low goal scoring, and ramp climbing capabilities. Did you know that the first use of the word "robot" was in 1918, in a Karel Çapek short story?

1922 "Oz-Ram Varsity Robots" — Galileo

Osram-Sylvania & Hopkinton Middle High School & John Stark High School, Contoocook/Weare, NH USA

BAE: Rookie All Star

Now, this is an Ozum team! It's "Oz-Ram Varsity Robots" dressed as the characters from the Wizard of Oz. This two-school, both of them PLTW Schools, team has build their robot "Tin Man" and he showed a lot of heart at their regional. A highlight of the regional (along with the Rookie All Star Award) was having a team photo taken with the New Hampshire Governor, John Lynch.

1941 "Douglass Academy Robotics" — Archimedes

D.R.M. Stakor and Associates/Daimler Chrysler/ITT Technical Institute/Shelby Lawhorn & Friends & Frederick Douglass College Preparatory Academy, Detroit, MI USA

Detroit: Rookie All Star, Highest Rookie Seed

Frederick Douglass Academy Robotics blew into the Detroit Regional with their robot "The Hurricane" to represent the Rookie Class of 2006. Although the road has not been easy, this ten-member inner city team made its school and community proud.

1942 "Ort Tel Nof" — Curie

Israel Air Force & Ort Tel-Nof H.S., Tel-Nof, Central Israel

Israel: Rookie All Star, Creativity

The Rookie All Star from the Israel Regional, "Ort Tel Nof" is here with their robot, Sinderela. Winning over fifteen other rookie teams in Israel wasn't easy, but this team best demonstrated the young but strong partnership and had a highly competitive robot as well, making it into the semifinal rounds. Be sure to give them a warm welcome, along with the three other Israeli Teams.

1977 "Virtual Commandos" — Newton

Loveland High School & Surrey Robotics, Loveland, CO USA

Colorado: Regional Champions, Creativity

The "Virtual Commandos" thought outside the box (What box?! The Jumping Jukebox!) and formed a team that includes members from urban Loveland and rural Surrey, separated by over 750 miles. They work through face-to-face and virtual participation (hey, that's where they got their team name!). They have a great website full of the top events of the year 1977.

Brought to you by

Harris Corporation RF Communications — Penfield High School, Penfield, NY USA

1880 "East Harlem Tech" — Archimedes
East Harlem Tutorial Program/NASA & Central Park East High School, New York, NY USA

New York City: Rookie All Star, Highest Rookie Seed, Regional Champion

"East Harlem Tech" or EHT is a diverse and determined team. It has used its robot, Jackie, in community outreach and has plans for spreading the message of FIRST to local middle schools. They have a great newsletter format as their website. Jackie and the team were part of the winning alliance (with 395 & 375) in NYC. With their black and silver shirts, EHT is sure to shine!

1885 "RoboCats" — Curie
Lockheed Martin/TKC Communications/TKC Global Solution/NASA/DeVry University/Aurora Flight Sciences & Battlefield High School, Haymarket, VA USA

NASA/ VCU: Rookie All Star; Palmetto: Rookie All Star

The "RoboCats" are a large group from Battlefield HS, with one member from Woodbridge HS. Their robot is also "RoboCat." As a double Rookie All Star winner, the team has been recognized for their well-rounded approach to using the team's diverse skills and talents. They join the proud RoboCat tradition of FIRST along with teams 379, 1449, and 1699.

1887 "Russet Robotix" — Newton
Idaho State University/NASA & Shelley High School, Shelley, ID USA

Pacific Northwest: Regional Champion

Showing Idaho State patriotism, "Russet Robotix" has named themselves after one of Idaho's finest, the Russet Potato and their robot "Burbank" which is the leading variety of Russet, as well as its notorious botanist namesake. The team flourished at the Pacific Northwest Regional as part of the winning alliance (with 254 & 753), and kicked off a fundraising flurry to compete in Atlanta.

1897 "Red Hot Chile Dragons" — Galileo
NASA JPL/Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES) & South Valley Academy, Albuquerque, NM USA

Arizona: Rookie All Star, Regional Champion

This team is hot, red hot! The "Red Hot Chile Dragons" with their robot of the same name, came out as the Champions (with 1006 & 60) in Arizona. While the team might be hot, the robot keeps cool with air conditioning ductwork for its shooter and ball storage. Strong in defense, they can score high, low, and on the ramp. It might not breathe fire, but it can stop other robots cold!

1902 "Exploding Bacon" — Archimedes
Siemens Power Generation & Winter Park High School, Winter Park, FL USA

Florida: Rookie All Star, Highest Rookie Seed, Regional Finalist; Lonestar: Rookie Inspiration Award, Highest Rookie Seed

This team's "OINK, OINK, BOOM!" resounds throughout the arena whenever "Exploding Bacon" is in action. Known for reliable autonomous mode and defensive ability their robot has seen semi-final and final round activity during its regionals, accompanied by the team mascot Wilbur. When not in competition, the team has done unique fundraising and community service events.

1906 "WeBeRoybotics" — Curie
NASA & Roy High School & Weber High School, Roy, UT USA

Las Vegas: Highest Rookie Seed, Rookie All Star

"WeBeRoybotics" was reborn from team 1505 and now includes three schools: Weber, Roy, and Ogden High Schools and represents the whole state of Utah. Their robot, R.O.W.bot (one initial for each school, and a grand robot name is formed!) was in the quarterfinals in Las Vegas. She (this robot is a girl) has a good ball delivery system and an ingenious collection mechanism.

1727 "Dulaney Robotics" — Newton
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center & Dulaney High School, Timonium, MD USA

Chesapeake: Highest Rookie Seed; Pittsburgh: Rookie All Star, Website

A great first year and big plans for the future, "Dulaney Robotics" has developed a world class newsletter for its team and community (find it on their award winning website), and plan to spread the FIRST message to elementary schools and mentor other HS teams in Maryland through the "Baltimore Alliance." Their robot, Rex, has a consistent high goal scoring autonomous mode.

1730 "Team Driven" — Galileo
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation & Lee's Summit High School, Lee's Summit, MO USA

Colorado: Rookie All Star, Website

"Team Driven" a team that is truly driven, driven by the team, has already started to help other rookie teams with its award-winning website featuring rookie team resources and a great promotional video. Their robot, DaNazBot, has 4-wheel drive and 180 degree firing range with high and low goal capabilities. It saw quarterfinal action at the Colorado Regional.

1743 "The City High Short Circuits" — Archimedes
NASA & City Charter High School, Pittsburgh, PA USA

Pittsburgh: Regional Champions, Rookie Inspiration Award, Highest Rookie Seed

Standing out in bright pink shirts, to be a member of the "The Short Circuits, " you need to file an application including a résumé, since the robotics team is only for Juniors and Seniors and is part of their charter school curriculum. Their robot "110 to Ground Only" showed its great pushing ability in assisting its alliance (with 395 & 1038) in winning the Pittsburgh Regional.

1745 "P51-Mustangs" — Curie
ITT Tech. Inst./Holi Frijoles Tex-Mex/Houston Robotics Org./McKool Smith/Pavillion Bank/Richardson Bike Mart/Richardson ISD/Richardson Regional Medical Center & J.J. Pearce HS, Richardson, TX USA

Lone Star: Rookie All Star

As part of J.J. Pierce Robotics, the "P51-Mustangs" compete in BEST Robotics in the pre-season. Their lightweight robot, Air Raid, has a 320-degree rotating turret. The team was especially thrilled when their mentor, Robert Acosta, won the Lonestar Woodie Flowers Award.

1746 "Forsyth Alliance" — Newton
Automation Direct & Forsyth Alliance Robotics Team, Cumming, GA USA

Peachtree: Rookie All Star, Imagery

Look for the black cape with the big green smiley guy and you will find "Forsyth Alliance." Their robot is a big black box. Really. This cross town rival school combination supports the Georgia Alliance and rookie team #1848, helping at the County and Georgia State technology fairs, and mentoring the VEX teams of Forsyth County.

1747 "Harrison Boiler Robotics" — Galileo
NASA/Purdue FIRST Programs & William Henry Harrison High School, West Lafayette, IN USA

Buckeye: Rookie Inspiration Award, Highest Rookie Seed, Autodesk; Boilermaker: Rookie All Star

Be sure to wear your shades when spotting the blinding neon green shirts of "Harrison Boiler Robotics." Their robot, "The Spirit of Luke," is named for Luke Frist, the 20-year-old son of one of their sponsors, an Army Reservist who died form injuries received while serving in Iraq. What an awesome memorial to give from an awesome team.

1756 "Team Argos" — Archimedes
Caterpillar Inc/NASA & Manual High School & Peoria High School & Peoria Notre Dame High School & Richwoods High School, Peoria, IL USA

Midwest: Rookie All Star, Highest Rookie Seed, Autodesk, Regional Champion

A six-school coalition, "Team Argos" did it all at the Midwest regional: Top Seed, Regional Champion and Rookie All Star! The team had an active pre-season using VEX kits for training as well as publicity. They have been working on a PBS Documentary since the Fall of 2005.

1761 "Tekclas" — Curie
GE Aircraft Engines/NASA & Lynn Classical High School & Lynn Vocational Technical Institute, Lynn, MA USA

Boston: Rookie All Star

Two schools have combined to form "Telclas," which was called a class act at their regional. They are reaching out to draw middle school students to technology. Their team shirts ask, "Are you ready for some Sirius Biznes?" Sirius Biznes just happens to be their robot! So be ready!

1778 "Mountlake Terrace Hawks" — Newton
NASA & Mountlake Terrace High School, Mountlake Terrace, WA USA

Pacific Northwest: Rookie All Star

"MTHS Robotics" has a matching robotics course at their school. They have named their robot "Herky01" as in Herky the Hawk, based on their school mascot. Herky01 has a chute that pivots from the floor up to a 45-degree angle, sucks balls in, and shoots them into the low or high goal; it also has a clever spiral hopper in a clear plastic box for a ball holder.

1784 "Litchbots" — Galileo
NASA/Litchfield Education Foundation/SSyD/Terrasyn Group, Inc./Keller USA & Litchfield High School, Litchfield, CT USA

UTC/ New England: Rookie All Star

The "Litchbots" started their season as part of the winning alliance at the Winter Warzone Scrimmage pre-ship rally. Their robot, Roboshizzle, is maneuverable and known for great defense. A member of New England FIRST, the team held a "Hitting Jamboree" as a fundraiser.

1803 "Wood Works" — Archimedes
Port Washington Public School, Port Washington, NY USA

Long Island: Rookie All Star, Highest Rookie Seed

From the Technology Education Team at Schreiber High School, "Wood Works" and their robot, Woody, saw quarterfinal action at the Long Island Regional. Woody is appropriately named, as it is primarily made from wood, and features a trap door for unloading all the balls it has collected into the lower goal.

1807 "Redbird Robotics" — Curie
Bristol-Myers Squibb/NASA/TAH Industries & Allentown High School, Allentown, NJ USA

New Jersey: Rookie All Star

"Redbird Robotics" was hooked after participating in an off-season event, the Brunswick Eruption 4, using a borrowed robot from Team Mercury. This team, wearing red, went on to design their first robot, which has been described as a dumping robot that can deposit up to 25 balls into the corner goals. They made it to the semi-finals at the New Jersey Regional.

1810 "Mill Valley Robotics" — Newton
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation & Mill Valley High School, Shawnee, KS USA

Midwest: Regional Champion

Whew, what a final at the Midwest Regional! Mill Valley Robotics was part of a two-thirds rookie alliance (along with 1756 & 111) and won the regional. Their robot has been recognized for its great defensive abilities. The team is one of the Kansas rookies that have doubled the number of Kansas teams this year, and made nightly runs to the hardware store during the build season.

1814 "Northview Robotics" — Galileo
TDSB & Northview Heights SS, Toronto, ON Canada

Greater Toronto: Rookie All Star

"Northview Robotics" wrote a great Chairman's essay to set them apart from the other terrific rookies at their regional. Their robot is the Phoenix, and they have the motto "Let your knowledge soar as you fly high with the Phoenix." They have divided their team into three divisions that work together or separate as needed: Technology, Programming, and Marketing.

1816 "The Green Machine" — Archimedes
NASA/Medtronic/Edina Education Fund/Cooper Research, LLC/Big Image Corporation/Kaemmerer Group & Edina High School, Edina, MN USA

Wisconsin: Regional Champion

The "Green Machine" and their robot, Zorgatron, played defense in helping their alliance (with 111 & 1625) win the Wisconsin Regional. The robot is a corner goal scorer, and can push other robots, even up the ramp. They hope to help with two new rookie teams for next year, and are proud the team has made science look fun and not just for nerds at their school.

1834 "Team Evolution" — Curie
Google/NASA Robotics Education FIRST Sponsorship Program/San Jose Job Corps/MetroED & SIATech, San Jose, CA USA

Silicon Valley: Rookie Inspiration Award; Davis Sacramento: Rookie All Star

Recognized for team spirit and enthusiasm, "Team Evolution" pulls its students from six districts, and all are members of an electronics class at the Central County Occupational Center. Their robot, EVO, has great defensive abilities and saw quarterfinal action at both regionals. They are planning to start an after-school robotics club to help support and expand the team next year.

1846 "SFXRobotics" — Newton
Ecole Secondaire Saint-Francois-Xavier, Sarnia, ON Canada

Waterloo: Rookie All Star, Highest Rookie Seed; Greater Toronto: Rookie All Star, Safety

With a motto of "You can eat an elephant one bite at a time," "SFXRobotics" took on two regionals, winning Rookie All Star Awards at both. Their robot, Elmo, saw quarterfinal action in Waterloo. The team has a Health and Safety sub team and with that focus, they won the safety award in Toronto.

1868 "Space Cookies" — Galileo
NASA Ames Research Center & Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County & Harbor High School, Moffett Field, CA USA

Silicon Valley: Rookie All Star, Highest Rookie Seed

"Thin Mints, Carmel DeLites and now 'Space Cookies'" is the start of the NASA press release, highlighting this rookie team. As an all-girl team, they have been a great publicity boost for FIRST and the Girl Scouts. And it is not just hype; the team has a great entrepreneurial spirit, and an amazing robot, built at NASA Ames Research Center. It saw quarterfinal action at Silicon Valley.