

Channel 8 News

Rochester Rally 2010

Local FIRST (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics teams brought their robots to Penfield High School on Sunday, to test their creations.

It took the teams about six weeks of hard work to complete their robots. A full scale replica of the competition field was being used. The field was built by the Penfield Robotics team 1511 Rolling Thunder students and mentors. The team is sponsored by Harris RF Communications and many local businesses.

Rochester Rally allows teams to scrimmage using the 2010 game Breakaway rules. Local teams competed against each other in this practice session to test out their robots, refine their designs, and enjoy some friendly competition.

This is the 6th annual Rally. Breakaway will be played by teams in full official competition during March and April. Breakaway is a highly interactive game that's loosely based on soccer. The challenge for the teams is to design a robot which can kick soccer balls into any one of the four goals in each corner of the field. Divided into three sections, the field has two 13.5" bumps that robots can choose to go over, or under! Each match is 2 minutes and 15 seconds long, with opposing three-robot alliances. At the end of the match, robots can suspend themselves on a tower for extra points!

The event allows the teams to try their robots out on a replica of the final field, before an audience of their peers and parents. In addition, since one of the goals of FIRST is to encourage cooperation, the teams end up helping each other finalize the designs and work out bugs. The event was free and open to the public.

FIRST Robotics is set in three levels for elementary, middle, and high school students. Its primary goal is to inspire students to enter the fields of engineering. Each year, they release a new game challenge for each education level, and each of these games is designed to test the engineering ingenuity of students that participate.

