



NOTEBOOK

Building helpful robots

Fifteen teams from Long Island schools were winners in various categories last month at the 12th annual Long Island FIRST Regional Robotics Competition held at Hofstra University.

The competition required student teams to build and program 120-pound robots in a six-week period that could perform a series of tasks ranging from grasping and hanging inflatable tubes on pegs to deploying a "mini-bot" that climbed a metal pole. Varying numbers of points were issued based on each task's level of difficulty.

Patchogue-Medford and Malverne high schools won the top two awards by taking home the Chairman's Award and the Engineering Inspiration Award, respectively. They are eligible to compete this weekend at the FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship in St. Louis.

"Our mini-bot made it to the top in 1.4 seconds," said Patchogue-Medford co-team leader Danielle Oldis. "Our team has such an amazing love for this and truly put their heart and spirit into the competition."

Other Suffolk County high schools to win awards were: Smithtown, which won the



Patchogue-Medford High School students pose for a picture at the 12th annual Long Island FIRST Regional Robotics Competition at Hofstra University last month. The team won the Chairman's Award.

Musical Performance Award and Judge's Award; Bay Shore, which won the Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control Award and Regional Finalist No. 1 Award; Hauppauge, which won the Delphi Engineering Excellence Award; Westhampton Beach, which won the Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award; Longwood, which won the Chrysler Team Spirit Award and Regional Finalist #3 Award; Brentwood, which won the Rookie Inspiration Award; Half Hollow Hills, which won the Rookie All-Star Award; Hampton Bays, which won the Highest Rookie Seed Award, and William Floyd, which won the Regional Finalist No. 2 Award.

About 1,200 students from 50 metropolitan area schools — including 43 from Long Island — competed in alliances on a 27-by-54-foot floor in two-minute, 15-second sessions. The competition was sponsored by the School-Business Partnerships of Long Island.

PHOTO COURTESY PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT