



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Zephyrs VEX Teams Experience Success Leading Up to State Tournament

The St. Mary Catholic High School VEX teams enjoyed many successes in tournaments across the state since the beginning of 2016. In fact, Team 1200F Z-Ballers has been part of the championship alliance that won each of the last four competitions they participated in. Overall results in recent weeks included:

Ishamon Harris Memorial VRC tournament (January 30)

Teams 1200E Nutz 'n Voltz and 1200F Z-Ballers joined a third team to form the winning allowance, making them tournament champions. Z-Ballers also won the Create Award.

Bay Port High School VRC Tournament (February 6)

Team 1200F Z-Ballers were part of the winning alliance, making them tournament champions. They also won the Excellence Award.

Oconto Falls VRC Tournament (February 16)

Teams 1200E Nutz 'n Voltz and 1200F Z-Ballers joined a third team to form the winning allowance, making them tournament champions. Z-Ballers also won the Excellence and Programming and Robot Skills Awards and Nutz 'n Voltz took the Energy Award. In addition, 1200C Technical Breakdown won the Design Award, 1200H Mainframe Meltdown won the Judges Award and 1200 Syntax Error won the Build Award.

FVL VEX Robotics Tournament (February 23)

In this tournament, all seven SMCS teams from the middle school and high school made it to the semi-finals, and three teams (1200C Technical Breakdown, 1200E Nutz 'n Voltz and 1200F Z-Ballers, competed in the finals.

Teams 1200E Nutz 'n Voltz and 1200F Z-Ballers joined a third team to form the winning allowance, making them tournament champions. Z-Ballers also won the Excellence Award. In addition, 1200C Technical Breakdown took second place, 1200D Error 404 won the Judges Award and 1200G Robot Revolt (the middle school team) won the Amaze Award.

2015-16 SMCS VEX TEAMS

1200 Syntax Error: Fred Bergholz, Robert Engelhard, Greg Gurta, Pat Knapinski, Josh Lacy, Will Mai

Operation Maui: Thomas Jedwabny

1200C Technical Breakdown: Caileen Fahrenkrug, Spencer Juchniewich, William O'Brien, Russell Stark, Kyle Vande Venter

1200D Error 404: Caroline Connolly, Jack Hageman, Mike Kerwin, Nick Purcell, Ethan Unruh, Max Van Rossum

1200E Nutz'n'Voltz: Kobi Coggins, Jakob Franda, Noah Johnson, Dominic Lehner, Jackson Miller, Connor Trader, Nathan Zelinski

1200F Z-Ballers: Nathan Berg, Matthew Glen, Colin Higgins, Joseph Kerwin, Erik Meier

1200H Mainframe Meltdown: Grant Boyson, Ignas Mickevkius, Peter Papp, Charles Ullman

1200G Robo Revolt (8th grade team): Megan Berg, Annie Higgins, Will Houlihan, Wesley Blashka, David Brumbeloe, Mitchell Lambert

Six of the high school teams will compete in the state tournament on February 20 at St. Francis Xavier High School in Appleton, and several have already qualified for the U.S. Open, April 7-9, 2016 in Omaha, Nebraska; the middle school team will compete in the middle school tournament.

The St. Mary Catholic Schools robotics teams are a part of the school system's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education Club. The STEM Education Club responds to students' interests by developing hands-on opportunities that align with educational standards to explore areas such as robotics, electronics, electricity and aeronautics.

St. Mary Catholic High School (SMCHS) a regional high school, is part of [St. Mary Catholic Schools \(SMCS\)](#). The system also includes St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha), as well as St. St. Mary Catholic Middle School in Neenah. SMCHS is dedicated to the individual development of each student by providing an education focused on faith, academics and service.



Team 1200F Z-Ballers (L to R: Joseph Kerwin, Matthew Glen, Colin Higgins, Nathan Berg and Erik Meier) has won each of the last four competitions they participated in.

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