



Week 8 was marked by intense preparation for the Pinnacles Regional, where our team showed incredible resilience and worked tirelessly to overcome challenges

Build & Design

In the final days leading up to the competition, our build team focused on preparing spare components in case any mechanical failure occurred. Most notably we constructed a full spare manipulator – an essential subsystem responsible for handling game pieces. We also cut spare plates for the elevator subsystem, ensuring quick replacements in the event of structural damage or malfunction. Additionally, our build team spent this competition week organizing the pit case in order to streamline the setup process once arriving at the venue. Despite these preparations, the competition outcomes gave us a lot to think about before our second regional.



Programming & Electronics

Both our programming and electronics subteams were at the center of competition performance this week. On the electronics side, we spent this week cleaning up and reorganizing the robot's wiring, improving accessibility. Still, we struggled at competition with CAN wiring faults and software issues. Meanwhile, our programming team focused on refining subsystem behavior and debugging during drive practice. Much of our time was spent fine-tuning presets and making adjustments to autonomous routines. Although testing was limited, we pushed to get the robot as competition ready as possible.



Rookie Track

Our rookies, led by Nihal V., Sophia D., and Mentor Eric L. finished building our team's new battery cart, in time for Pinnacles. The cart improved our pit efficiency and organization throughout the weekend, giving our rookies the chance to make a direct impact on the competition setup.

Pinnacles Regional

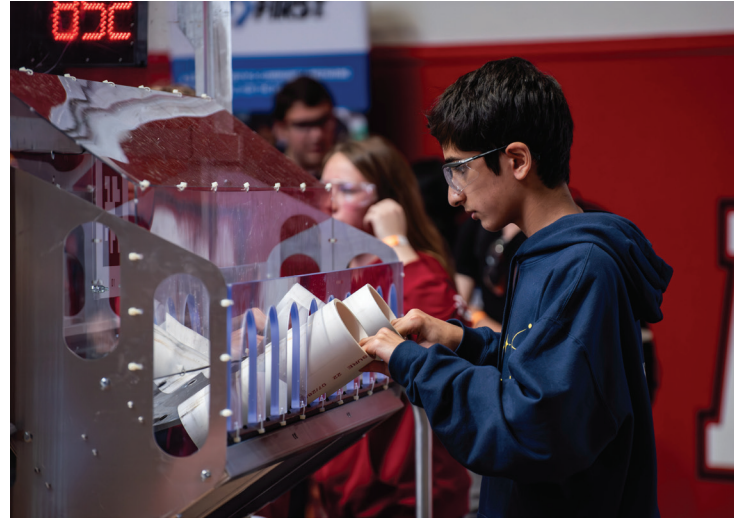
Our team departed for the Pinnacles Regional on Thursday afternoon, arriving at Hollister High School at around 7 PM. A small crew began the pit set up, laying the stage for a busy competition weekend. Friday morning was focused on final pit set up, robot inspection, and field calibration. From 12 to 6 PM, we participated in five practice matches, allowing us to test our robot under competitive field conditions. While the robot successfully scored in several matches, we quickly discovered issues with elevator reliability and scoring presets. In one practice match, our elevator broke down, and by the end of the day, it was apparent that mechanical weaknesses and faulty code behavior would require serious attention.



Pinnacles Regional

Saturday's qualification matches brought a series of unexpected challenges that pushed us to adapt quickly. In early matches, issues with the drivetrain, combined with autonomous code errors, caused the robot to stall and stop entirely. In Qual 11, the drivetrain failed mid-match. In Qual 17 and 23, the robot stalled again due to code overloading the processor. After extensive troubleshooting, we made the decision to disable autonomous entirely in Qual 28. This crucial fix gave us the momentum we needed. With a renewed focus on manual control and a strategy shift towards algae and barge scoring, the robot performed smoothly and we saw consistent improvement in Qual 35, 41, 47, and 51.

On Sunday, we continued to demonstrate growth in performance. We started strong in Qual 55, with multiple barge and processor scores, and our pit crew was able to quickly repair code issues in Qual 59 and fix our robot fall in Qual 66. Despite finishing ranked 32nd, we were selected by Team 3045 as the second pick for Alliance 3, alongside Team 9470. In the playoffs, our alliance delivered a series of competitive matches. We played a critical defensive role while our partners focused on scoring, advancing to semifinals.



Despite a variety of technical challenges, our team's spirit and adaptability was notable. We were honored to receive the Team Spirit Award for the second time in our team's history. Pinnacles was an eye-opening experience that revealed both the strength of our preparations and the areas for growth. It also set the stage for our next big step: a complete rebuild of our robot in under 3 weeks, while maintaining the original software. Though the competition may be over, the season is far from finished and we'll be coming back stronger.