



HICKMAN MILLS C-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT

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HMHS ROBOTICS TEAM EXCELS AT COWTOWN THROWDOWN

It may be “Lunacy” to some, but for the Hickman Mills High School “Cougar Pride Robotics” team, it all makes perfect sense! Participating against 31 other schools from Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa and Illinois, the team advanced to the quarterfinals of the CowTown ThrowDown FIRST Robotics Competition sponsored by Cerner Corporation and held at Cerner’s World Headquarters in North Kansas City.

Students built their robot, named “Coubot,” to compete in a game called “Lunacy,” where the goal is to collect game pieces, called “Orbit Balls,” and score by placing them in trailers attached to the other teams’ robots. Hickman Mills finished 10th in the qualifying rounds by winning three out of four matches, the school’s highest finish ever.

“Each team has four students involved in controlling the robot,” said Richard Bellotti, robotics coach at Hickman Mills. “It’s like the different positions on a football team.”

Team members include Samantha Yarber, Garrett Johnson, Jerry Novak and Mark Gibeson, the four robot controllers and Jameson Collins, Kaylee Granberg, John Gibson, Ronnell Gillespie, Marcell Lightsey, Diego Perez and Nick Shute.

Inventor Dean Kamen founded FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. To learn more about FIRST, go to www.usfirst.org.

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