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WSD Robotics Team Ratchet Rockers Win Fifth Place Overall at the FIRST® Robotics World Championships

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The Wentzville School District Robotics Team, the Ratchet Rockers (Team 1706), won fifth place overall at the FIRST® Robotics World Championships, held April 20-23 in Houston, Texas.

At the World Championships, the Ratchet Rockers competed in ten qualifying matches in the Hopper Division, which consisted of 75 teams from most states in the US and eight countries. The team ended up with

ten wins, no losses, and a perfect 4.0 ranking point average, which is the first time any team in any year has accomplished this feat, setting a world record. The team went on to win six elimination matches with their alliance partners and were undefeated to win the Hopper Division Championship. In the final match of the World Championship, the Ratchet Rockers finished in fifth place in the round robin tournament.

“I am so proud of our entire team, it is wonderful to see how far they have progressed,” shared Narelle Deatherage, Ratchet Rockers Club Sponsor.

“Cooperation and gracious professionalism are hallmarks of the FIRST® robotics program and our team really exemplifies this. They are learning lifelong skills and making lifelong connections, all while having fun.”

“It was such an honor to play with and against teams we have looked up to for years teams that we have aspired to emulate and teams that have budgets of hundreds of thousands of dollars per year,” shared Darrell Wodrich, long-time Ratchet Rockers coach. “We not only competed against them, but defeated many of them. We have many new friends from around the world and across the United States. This is such a great experience for the team, and I can’t wait to see what’s next.”

To qualify for the Robotics World Championship, the Ratchet Rockers won two regional competitions, the Heartland Regional in Kansas City, and the St. Louis Regional at Chaifetz Arena. This is the first time in the team’s 17-year history that the Ratchet Rockers have won two regional competitions.

The Ratchet Rockers are composed of about 35 students from all four high schools. Their robot’s main functions are to pick up cargo (balls) through two intake systems and shoot it into a hub to score points; climb rungs, with more points being scored for reaching a higher rung. To learn more about the Ratchet Rockers Robotics Team 1706, visit their website.

To learn more about the FIRST® Robotics, visit their website.

Watch the Racket Rockers welcome home video.

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