

STRONG ROBOTICS SHOWING CAPS SUCCESSFUL SEASON

BY ALBERT QIAN
News Editor

With a flick of a robotic arm, Robotics Team 604 is finding success at its tournaments, both on and off the field of play.

From March 2 to March 5, the Robotics Team 604 attended the Pacific Northwest regional, making it to the quarterfinals and finishing 8th out of 46 teams. Team 604 compiled a 7-3 record in preliminary rounds and scored an average of 19.6 points per match. However, they lost in the quarterfinals by a score of 42-36.

The team won the Judge's Award, an award given by the judges for a specific aspect of the team. Team 604 won the Judge's Award for being the best all-around. They won based on the fact that the team was near the top in each award category and had contributed back to the community.

In addition, the team also won the prestigious Safety Award, given to the team that demonstrates the keenest eye to safety for the duration of the tournament.

Junior and team president **Amy Qian** said, "I am very pleased with how the tournament went. The Judge's Award was a very pleasant surprise and we are very happy to be the second year defending champion of the Safety Award."

This year, the team's challenge is to design a robot to manipulate foam balls into low-corner goals and large circular goals over ten feet high. The team spent six weeks building the robot and shipped it out during ski week. During competition, the team forms alliances with other teams as they work towards the highest point total.

From March 16 to March 19, Team 604 also attended the Silicon Valley Regional at the Event Center in San José State, finishing 5th out of a total of 40 teams. The team compiled a 5-5 record in preliminary rounds and was the fifth seed with other alliances. However, the team lost in the Quarterfinals by a score of 62-28.

Here, the team once again won the safety award and General Motors Industrial Design award, given to the team whose robot successfully achieves the game challenge.

Junior **Jinghao Yan** said, "Before joining the Robotics Team last fall, I could not foresee the excitement of seeing the product in action."

Because Team 604 did not final in either tournament, they will not be going to nationals, held in Atlanta in late April. The rest of the school year will be devoted to fundraising for the coming season, demonstrating for other schools and planning for the years ahead.

Sophomore and vice president **Alejandro Arambula** said, "Even though we didn't make our goal of attending nationals, we still had an extremely successful year, with four awards and quarterfinals at both tournaments."

