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FOUNDATION, INC.

YMWIC Robotics Team Competition

YMWIC Varsity Robotics Team Wins Outstanding Programming Award

The YMWIC Varsity Robotics Team competed in the Greater DC Regional Botball Competition held in Great Mills, MD, on April 26th. Over the course of the season, members of the team met at HQ during the Robotics SIG (Special Interest Group) meetings to design, build, program and test the robots. They also needed to document their process, design, code, and do outreach as part of their final score for the competition. The team (pictured left to right), Vafunsia Sirleaf, Tisya Dinesh, Romuald Jean-Baptiste, Jr., Xavier McClanahan, Elwood Fahnbulleh, and Mohammed Kamara, brought two autonomous robots to the competition, which had to work together without any human intervention, to move pieces on the Botball Game Board. The Scholars had been working with the full-sized 2025 Game Board Table located in the Robotics Lab at Headquarters.



At the competition, teams have three seeding rounds during which teams play by themselves; and the top two scores are averaged to populate the double elimination bracket. This year, the competitors were placed into two separate brackets based on their place in the seeding rounds. During double eliminations, teams go head to head on the same board. The YMWIC team came in 7th out of 18 teams after the seeding rounds, which put them into the First Course bracket. The team easily won their first double elimination round. In the second double elimination round, the YMWIC faced the second seed team, and came in two points behind, which knocked the YMWIC team to the consolation bracket, where they won their first match. YMWIC team came in the top 8 of the First Course bracket, when the DE rounds were over.

The Botball judges were extremely impressed by the programs the team wrote to control the robots, and awarded the team the Judge's Choice – Outstanding Programming Award. The team worked extremely hard throughout the season and did a fantastic job!