

January, 2010

Highlights:

- December's Rhino Caffe fundraiser earnings: \$37.62*
- December's Pizza Hut Fundraiser earnings: \$20.00
- January 13—Chik'Fil'A fundraiser night 5-8pm
- Rhino Caffe fundraiser night—February 16
- Pizza Hut fundraiser night—February 7
- Kick Off January 9—Breakaway!
- San Diego Regional—cancelled due to lack of funds
- 2010 robot planning starts!
- Team 1013 builds and programs—Mon-Fri, 2-6pm

***Subway has yet to contact or answer any calls regarding the December fundraiser**

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Phoenix News

2010: Breakaway

On January 9, 2010, Dean Kamen announced the 2010 FRC game at the nationally-viewed Kick Off. Eagerly, thousands of F.I.R.S.T. participants awaited to hear their new challenge: design soccer-playing robots.

The object of the game is to score more points than the opposing team, or "alliance." Each alliance consists of three separate FRC teams.

The carpet covered field consists of two foot-high bumps, a seven foot high tower in the middle of each bump, an 18 inch tunnel under each tower, and four goals. Each alliance

has two separate goals they can score into.

Scoring is simple. Each robot can score a point for their alliance by "kicking" one of the twelve balls into one of their goals. Once scored, human players return the balls to the field by placing them on a track suspended above the field that slopes down towards each tower, dropping the balls back to the middle of the field to be used again.

The catch is, six inch tall ramps at a 45 degree angle at as a barrier before each goal. In addition, a robot can only control one ball at a time—just like soccer.

Bonus points can be earned, if, by the end of the match, the robot has elevated itself at least 20 inches above the ground while attached to the tower closest to its alliance's goals. Or, for even more points, the robot has suspended itself off the ground, hanging off another robot that's attached to the tower.

As usual, this year's competition immediately got all the cogs in everyone's minds turning. With so many creative minds on the job, who knows what will turn up on competition day in six weeks time.

School Project

Finally, The Phoenix's tree-planting project has taken root! At one of the weekly club meetings earlier in the year, we discussed the idea of "going green" as a team - both within FRC and without. For an outside project, tree-planting was suggested. A couple members of the QCHS Robotics club approached Mr. Brain Mabb, the school's assistant principal, about doing a potential on-campus beautification

project. He immediately loved the idea, and not only granted permission to do the project on school grounds (saving us transportation costs), but offered his personal assistance to help get everything ready to go. The student coordinators have turned in our final plant selections and locations for his review and approval. Once we get word back from him, we will order our plants from the nursery, set up a planting date,

and grab our shovels!



