Vex Robotics Essay Challenge

This year for the first time our school entered the vex robotics challenge game “round-up.” At first my teacher was unsure that starting a vex team was a good idea but, a summer workshop he held had put 3 new EDR kits in our hands along with all the elements. I had begged him for one to try out and had a lot of fun with it. My robot was an inspiration to some of the kids and we had ended up with two teams. (My team 2439 and the other 2439B). We had a blast building these so we went along with it, paid our fees and entered the Maui County Fair competition. For first year teams we had done well, but that did not stop us. As student run teams, each team came up with their own money to fly to Oahu and compete at the West Oahu regional. Team 2439 did great and went to the finals beating out the fourth and first alliance. We lost by 1 point in the end. After this our Major sponsor “Maui Economic Development Board” had granted us a check to send our two teams to the Pan Pacific Championship in December. Team 2439 did great ranking between first and sixth throughout. In the end we ranked sixth overall in the ROC division. For the first time in the history of our team in all programs (FRC and VRC) we had won a trophy! A judges award “Go For Broke” which my team had won for our hanging and scoring design (2439). These three competitions were amazing and encouraged both my teacher and I to continue Vex next year.

Our team in the middle of the Pacific gets a lot of support. As a first year team we have received much community support. We have one main sponsor and they have helped us buy many vex product and support with travel to outer island competitions. Other organizations have helped us buy cortex classroom bundles and eventually a full field and new elements adding to my experience with vex. We now have 6 classroom bundles and 6 cortex units. Along with receiving support we also give a lot out. As a group we have helped setup the Pan Pacific Championship and Maui County Fair Competition. We brought our own homemade field and elements. As an individual I have mentored Intermediate Schools, Iao and Maui Waena, and Molokai High School. We have also gone up to Carden Academy and persuaded the students to start a team and next year they will with our help. I love to help and am always willing to.

Vex has really changed my life and I hope to continue it throughout my life. Vex allows me branch out to others and build myself as a person. Each year I will look forward to a new game and come up with an inventive way to solve that problem. My goal is to eventually win a competition and go to the world championship to see all the other ideas and the creative ways others have solved it. Vex is a program that anyone can try and should. It's a creative and innovative way of solving modern day problems and feeling good about it. Vex will always be apart of my life.