Team 5150D

Benjamin Albano, Team Captain, High School Senior

 “AND JUST WHERE DID ALL THE COLLARS RUN OFF TO? MY SPROCKETS ARE SLIPPING AND THIS CHAIN IS ON AN ANGLE.”

 My life long passion to work for NASA led me to the last place I would have imagined, a compilation of the anti-social geniuses in my school which I now call family. I had never imagined I would find what I wanted to do with the rest of my life in a tech-ed room full of people I barely knew.

 But I did and the connections we forged and welded (though against VEX Competition rules) have become some of the strongest I hold today. Engineering and team dynamic dominate our lifestyles as each day comes with an improvement and a desire to better ourselves and the team. And so as the season progressed, we grew better.

 From 0-8 at our first competition we came back and took third in qualifiers the next, then second in the next, and finally on January 11th we took first in qualifiers, robot skills, programming skills, and excellence. Not a day has made me more proud than to see our team, my team, my family, breaking all odds and proving ourselves through a show of ingenuity and a feat of engineering.

 This exposure to robotics has molded me into the young, driven engineer I am today. My team has become second kin, and my passion is alive and sparks more than our flaming motor controllers.

TEAM 5150D THE MAD HATTERS