We threw our hands up in despair. How does this even happen? I looked at the axle again in disbelief. It had torn its way through a C-Channel, as though it were a makeshift Dremel tool. It was 9:30 PM on December 13th. We had less than 12 hours to fix this, or our robot would – quite literally – tear itself apart during the competition. At that moment, I probably wasn’t particularly happy. But those late nights, when nothing seems to work – that’s when you truly see what you and your team are made of. And you know what? We pulled through – and were tournament finalists the next day.

To me, VEX is about pushing the boundaries of what I can accomplish. My experience with VEX has taught me that, with enough effort and hours of hard work, I can accomplish more than I think. My friend and I, in our two-person team, spent a long time learning everything we could about VEX. We built a trophy delivery robot over the summer, we spent innumerable hours building and refining our first competition robot, and despite our lack of experience, we were able to win the first tournament we ever participated in, something we never expected. That tournament was only in October, and already we’re definitely beginning to rethink what “possible” means to us.

So, here’s to the late nights. Here’s to the times when you’re faced with seemingly insurmountable odds, and you discover what you’re truly capable of. Here’s to VEX.