

ADVOCATE.



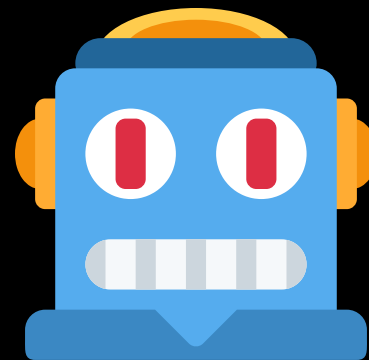
PRESENTED BY: TEAM 11400G
DISCOGIRLS

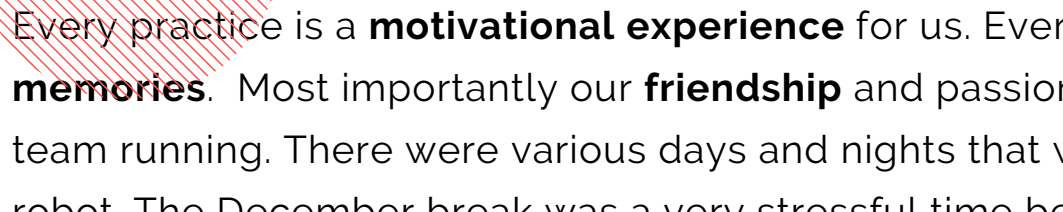
There were only five seconds left before the buzzer rang. We **HAD** to make sure that we scored a high hang. We **HAD** to tie with the winning team. This was our chance to go to provincials. Everything depended on our robot's final move—but **WAIT**, before we tell you how this ended, you should know how it all began.



A few months ago we met one another's unfamiliar faces at Pankaj Saxena's, our coach, robotics centre. **On August 24th, Team 11400G was born.**

We consist of **four members**: Hargunpreet Kaur Kalra, our primary builder, Nina Soor, the artist who created the blueprints of our robot and is our first driver., Gurleen Kaur Dulley, programming assistant and our second driver, and Ekjot Kaur Juneja, the primary programmer and team captain. Even though we have assigned jobs that we specialize in, we all partake in all discussion and share our perspectives in order to help each other when required. Although our relationship began as strangers, we have now become good friends and teammates by developing many qualities that our strong bond is built upon including lasting trust, comfort and perseverance.





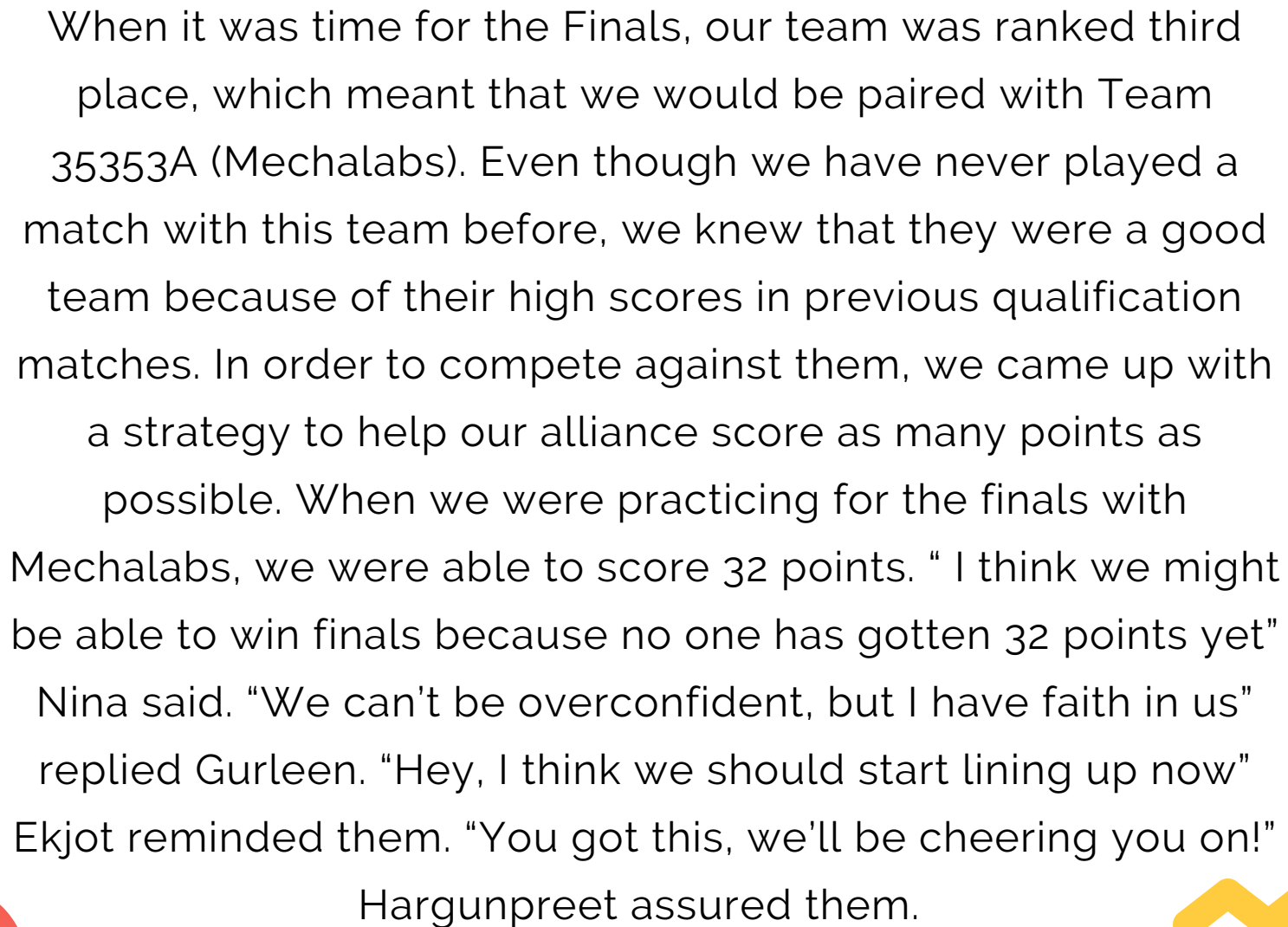
Every practice is a **motivational experience** for us. Every mistake and achievement are **memories**. Most importantly our **friendship** and passion for STEM are the glue that keeps our team running. There were various days and nights that we spent practicing and building our robot. The December break was a very stressful time because, instead of going to fun events and other amusing places like most students, we spent it practicing for hours on end and getting ready for competition season. The Saturday before school started was a jam-packed day for the team. We were practicing driving at the field in Gurleen's apartment. We had been there since nine in the morning and it was currently ten at night. All of our mothers were there to motivate us while we practiced. "Ugh, my head hurts," Nina cried. "If I close my eyes I'm going to pass out," Hargun exclaimed. "I can no function anymore. I mean I can't function anymore," Ekjot whined.. We were extremely tired of practicing, so we decided to take a break. There was a lot of awkward silence between us at the time. There was music playing in the background as well. Then all of a sudden the song "Baby Shark" plays. "Baby shark, do do do do do," Hargunpreet sings. Everyone else joins in singing and dancing along too. This was one of the great bonding experiences that we had together. It reminded us that even though we're in a robotics team, our bond is beyond just STEM. And that this bond can be strengthened with little moments like these! Not only that, but we shared many other great memories such as going out to eat lunch together, playing Just Dance, singing karaoke and constantly bringing up all of our inside jokes. Our incredible friendship makes stressful environments a ton of fun.

We weren't the most experienced bunch at the start, but we didn't let that define us as a weak team. Other teams showed little faith in us and did not believe that we were capable of doing well at competitions, but we made sure that never got into our heads because we believe in hard work and determination no matter the stereotypes.




On January 12th, 2019 we participated in our first competition. We were not completely clueless about what was going on since we had gone to watch a competition in December to understand how competitions worked. After our first match we were at eighth place. Then as the day progressed we rose to fifth, fourth, third and so on. Eventually we had reached FIRST PLACE! Everyone was quite surprised with our achievement as they didn't have much faith in us before this. Throughout the competition, some people still didn't believe that we were a good team and told us that we were being "carried" (this means we were paired up with good teams, which is why our ranking was high). After awhile we had gone back and forth for awhile between first and second place.










When it was time for the Finals, our team was ranked third place, which meant that we would be paired with Team 35353A (Mechalabs). Even though we have never played a match with this team before, we knew that they were a good team because of their high scores in previous qualification matches. In order to compete against them, we came up with a strategy to help our alliance score as many points as possible. When we were practicing for the finals with Mechalabs, we were able to score 32 points. " I think we might be able to win finals because no one has gotten 32 points yet" Nina said. "We can't be overconfident, but I have faith in us" replied Gurleen. "Hey, I think we should start lining up now" Ekjot reminded them. "You got this, we'll be cheering you on!" Hargunpreet assured them.





It was time for the FINALS. Our chance to go to provincials. Gurleen and Nina were in a lot of pressure. This match put a lot of weight on their shoulders. The buzzer rang and Nina tried her best to complete her part. "Drivers must switch NOW." yelled the Emcee. Gurleen took a deep breath trying to finish it all up. We only had five seconds left before the buzzer rang. We HAD to make sure that we scored a high hang. We HAD to tie with the winning team, 1235K (MarioBots) and 1140D. THIS was our chance to go to provincials. Everything depended on our robot's last move. "And that's the end of the game" the emcee announced. Our team prayed that we were able to achieve a high hang. The other team's mentor was insisting to the referee that it was a low hang. It took them fifteen minutes to decide if the hang qualified as a high hang. Unfortunately, after awhile, the robot started slipping off the bar, which is why they declared it was a low hang. We didn't say anything about it because we were scared that they wouldn't listen to us as we are girls, but looking back, that experience taught us a valuable lesson about advocating for ourselves. And we didn't make it to provincials from our first VEX competition ever, but we still have a chance at the competition on January 26th.





On that day, we gained many interesting experiences that taught us new lessons to help us as a team in the future. The main lesson: if you don't stand up for yourself you will never get what you deserve in life. As we are an all-girls team who faced a lot of doubt from others and sometimes ourselves, we have learned that if you are proud of who you are, you can achieve whatever you desire in life. We have many perspectives and ideas of the world, and with these principles, we believe that we can change the world for the better.

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Girl⚡Powered

When we hear the phrase '**Girl Powered**,' we think of not only the opportunities that lots of girls don't have, but also the opportunities that we are giving to young girls in the STEM field. This reflects in our team's approach to robotics because after all, we are an all girls team. We feel like we are role models for other young girls, and we are looking up to older girls as role models. This has taught girls to not be discouraged by stereotypes and other negative comments so that they can achieve what they want in life. To summarize, we think of Girl Powered as a universal bond between females that can't be broken and represents who we are and what we stand for.

