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Team 254 Attends Houston Championship

23 April, 2019 – San Jose, CA – Team 254: The Cheesy Poofs, based out of Bellarmine College Preparatory, recently competed at the Houston Championship in the Turing Division, where they accumulated a record of 15-1-0 in the division and went on to amass a record of 6-2-0 on the Einstein field, ending the season as a championship finalist.



About FIRST

Founded in 1989, *FIRST* (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded to inspire young men and women to become the leaders of tomorrow by equipping them with the necessary skills in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills. *FIRST* organizes several robotics competitions, including *FIRST* Lego League, *FIRST* Tech Challenge, and *FIRST* Robotics Competition.

About Team 254

Team 254 was founded in 1998 by NASA engineers Dave Lavery and Mark Leon and has since grown from one of the smallest programs in the country at a struggling high school to a large, multifaceted organization. Based out of Bellarmine College Preparatory, the team is composed of over 150 high school students and is advised by twenty-nine mentors, twenty-seven of whom are industry mentors that work at companies such as Apple, Google, Auris, and Surgical Intuitive. Every year, Team 254 participates in both the *FIRST* Robotics Competition and VEX Robotics Competition. Since the program's inception, Team 254 has won thirty-eight regional events as well as the World Championship in 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2018. In addition to these awards, Team 254 was decorated with the Chairman's Award, *FIRST*'s most prestigious award, in 2004 and has since been inducted into the FRC Hall of Fame.

Houston Championship

Of the six divisions at the Houston Championship, Team 254 was placed in the Turing division. Once the Turing division qualification matches had ended, Team 254 had gathered a record of 9-1-0, and placed as the first seed. Next, they invited Team 3310: Black Hawk Robotics (Heath, TX), Team 6986: PPT bots (Nanjing, Jiangsu, China), and Team 948: NRG (Bellevue, WA) to form an alliance. During eliminations, the alliance went undefeated in six consecutive matches, winning the division competition and advancing to the Mass & Energy fields, where a round robin was played between the winning alliances of each division. Additionally, Team 254 was also awarded the Turing-Hopper divisional Industrial Design Award. During the round robin tournament, Team 254 and their alliance members again went undefeated for five straight matches, and advanced to the Minute Maid Park field, where they played the world championship finals against the Newton division alliance, composed of Team 973: Greybots (Atascadero, CA), Team 1323: Madtown Robotics (Madera, CA), Team 5026: Iron Panthers (Burlingame, CA), and Team 4201: The Vitruvian Bots (El Segundo, CA). Ultimately, the Turing alliance won the first finals match, but the Newton alliance won the second and third matches, and were declared the winners. Team 254 ended the season as Championship Finalists with an overall competitive record of 51-4-1.