

Estill Robotics Teams Are Back-to-Back State Champs

The Estill County Robotics team are back to back state champions. The 15 high school and 15 middle school team members traveled to Rupp Arena last week to compete in the STLP Sumobot state championship.

Sumobot is a contest where two autonomous robot contestants try to push or flip each other out of a circular ring. The first robot to touch the floor outside of the ring loses. The last robot remaining in the ring wins the round. The robot that wins the most rounds wins the contest. While pushing your opponent out of the ring is the most common way to win a round, disabling your opponent (flipping, lifting, etc.) is also encouraged. LEGO Sumo takes place in a circular ring four feet in diameter with a two-inch white border along the ring's perimeter. The robots are made completely of Lego parts and have light, infrared, and ultrasonic sensors, motors, and a computer block that is more powerful than the computers used in the first rocket to land on the moon.

The high school team was represented by Caleb Bishop, Levi Fike and Kyle Bainter. They were able to make it all the way to the championship match in the double elimination tournament. How-

ever they were defeated by Fairview High School and were forced into a final match.

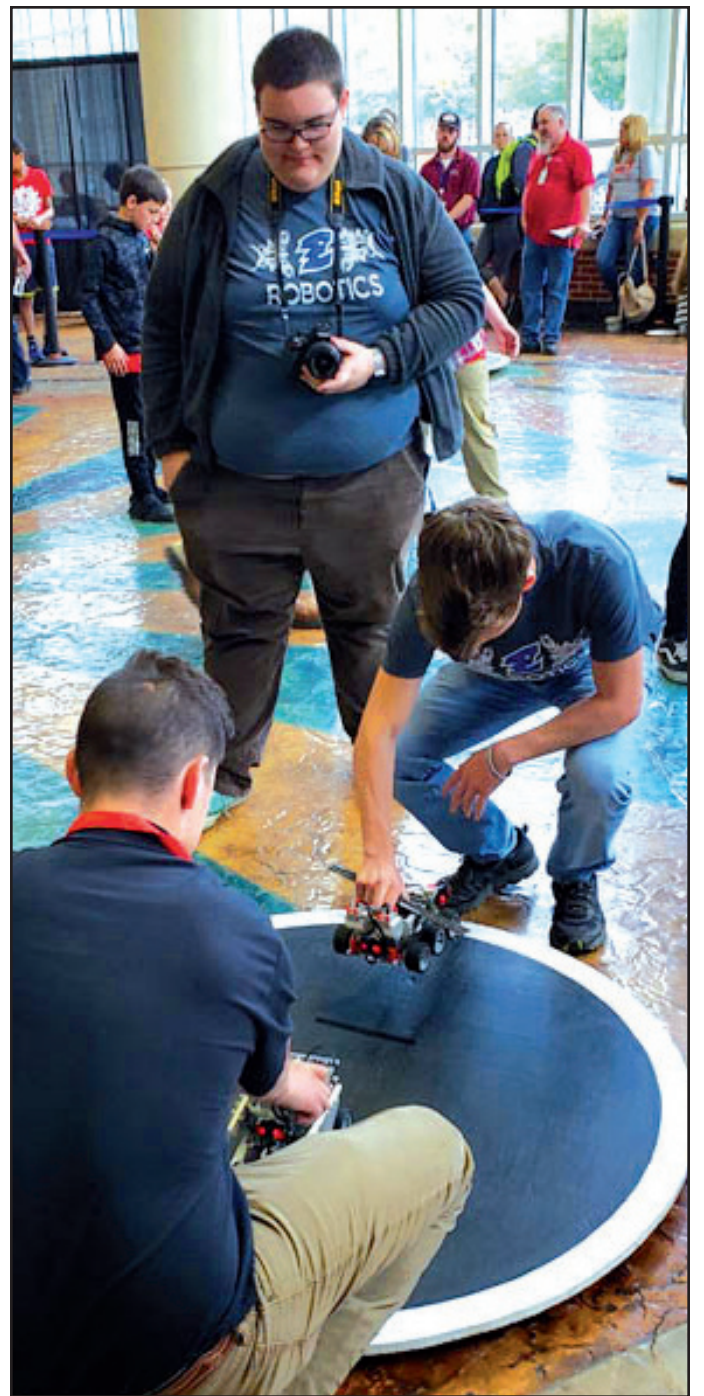
Each match consists of three rounds. In the final match, Fairview won the first round which meant Estill now had to defeat them 2 straight rounds. Estill won the next round which meant the winner of the final round would be the state champion. Estill's robot quickly found Fairview's robot and immediately began pushing it towards the edge of the board in what looked to be an easy victory. Then, at the last second the robots began to turn in a direction that was going to force Estill's robot out of the ring. Both robots were now slowly inching towards the edge and both robots went off the board. However Fairview's robot touched the ground a split second before Estill's, which gave the Engineers the victory and their second straight championship.

The middle school team was represented by Trace Babb, Alyssa Clark, and Edward Swanson. Estill easily won the first match in the 41 team tournament. Disaster struck in the second round when the Estill robot failed to move and was defeated. A programming error had occurred and the defeat meant that Estill would now

have to go to the loser's bracket. Estill reeled off five straight wins to make it to the final match of the loser's bracket, but was defeated by eventual state champion West Jessamine.

After forming the robotics team 7 years ago, Coaches Brian McKinney, Adora Williams and Allyson Banks have been a part of 4 state championships, 1 runner-up and 2 third place teams. The robotics team has also won numerous 4H regional, FLL league, and state fair competitions. In addition to Rupp Arena, The team has also competed at Western Kentucky University, Hazard Community College and Morehead State University. Coach McKinney said "This year's team has worked really hard and the results show it. We have members of our robot team now looking at careers in engineering after being a part of the team". Coach Banks adds that "This year's team has a lot of experienced members and that experience really helped us this year."

8th grader Alyssa Clark said she "felt very happy about representing the middle school again, but hopes next year she will be get to represent the high school team and improve upon her third place finish this year."



Caleb Bishop and Levi Fike - ECHS

Photo and story courtesy of Brian McKinney, ECMS



Edward Swanson and Trace Babb - ECMS



Trace Babb and Alyssa Clark - ECMS

Estill Engineers

2019 Middle School Baseball Seth Martin, Coach

April 30th (Tues)	Powell County	H
May 3rd (Fri)	Madison Middle	H
May 4th (Sat)	Powell	
	Whitaker Bank Park	
May 6th (Mon)	Clark-Moores	H
May 8th (Wed)	Foley	H
May 9th (Thur)	Berea	A
May 10th (Fri)	Model	H

Estill County Engineers

2019 Boys Baseball Brian Crowe, Coach

Apr 30	Owsley County	A	5:30
May 1	Magoffin County	A	6:00
May 2	Berea	A	5:30
May 6	Buckhorn	A	6:00
May 7	Powell County	H	5:30
May 8	Menifee County	A	6:00
May 10	Model	A	5:30
May 11	Hazard	H	
May 14	Bath County		6:00
May 15	Perry County Central	A	6:00

Estill Lady Engineers

2019 Girls Softball Amy E. Kaylor, Coach

Apr 30	East Jessamine	H	6:30
May 1	Frederick Douglass	A	6:00
May 6	Powell County	A	5:45
May 8	Madison Southern	H	6:00
May 9	Montgomery County	A	6:00
May 10	Model	H	5:30
May 13	Somerset	A	6:00
May 14	Wolfe County	H	6:00
May 16	Breathitt County	H	6:00
May 17	Madison Central	A	5:45

Estill Lady Engineers

2019 Middle School Softball Shayla Carroll, Coach

Apr 30	Madison Middle	H	5:30
May 2	Farristown	H	5:30
May 6	Rockcastle County	A	6:00
May 7	Powell County	H	5:30
May 8	Clark Moores	A	5:30
May 9	Foley	H	5:30
May 10	Powell County	A	5:30