



Photo by Kyle Reitan

Miller Place robot drivers Zach Wilson, left, and Ryan Smith position their machine during the competition.

MP picks up two big awards at robotics meet

A showcase for high technology and teamwork

BY KYLE REITAN

Miller Place didn't leave the FIRST Robotics Competition last Friday and Saturday empty-handed. Although the team didn't make it to the semifinals this year, it earned two of the tournament's highest honors, the Regional Chairman's Award and the Woodie Flowers Award. The Regional Chairman's Award recognizes the team that best acts as a partnership. The Woodie Flowers Award honors a top coach for his leadership.

"The Regional Chairman's Award is a very prestigious award," said Zach Wilson, a

Miller Place senior and robotics team member. "We worked very hard to get so far as to be recognized as the Regional Chairman's Award winner."

"This team is so crazy," said Chris Catanese, a student on the Plainview team, which acts as a mentor for Miller Place. "They won the chairman's and they got their teacher the Woodie Flowers. They're so dedicated. They did amazing in the regional."

Just weeks before the competition, the Miller Place team members wrote an essay describing why their coach, middle school

technology teacher Pat Hughes, should receive FIRST's Woodie Flowers Award. The honoree must be an outstanding engineer or teacher who participates in the event and demonstrates teaching excellence in science, math and creative design.

"He demonstrated extraordinary team leadership," Wilson said, adding that Hughes also has earned the team's appreciation for "basically being an overall awesome guy and just helping everybody."

"He definitely deserved the

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