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BENZIE CENTRAL STUDENTS TAKE TOP HONORS AT THE RIVER RAISIN/KNABUSCH VIQC SLAPSHOT MS MI STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Local Team Qualifies for a Spot at the 2023 VEX Worlds Championship

Benzonia, MI March 15, 2023 – Benzie Central students from the Husky Robotics VEX IQ Competition team 74484A, Gassy Cats, secured Teamwork 2nd Place at the River Raisin/Knabusch VIQC Slapshot MS MI State Championship in Monroe this past weekend. The students collaborated with 55 teams from Michigan. This team has qualified for the chance to showcase their skills at the 2023 VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas TX.

Benzie Central's VEX IQ Competition team is comprised of Lucas Lint (8th grade) and Wyatt Jaquish (7th grade). In the VEX IQ Competition, students, with guidance from their teachers and mentors, build a robot using simple, snap-together [VEX IQ](#) parts to solve an engineering challenge that is presented each year in the form of a game. Teams work together to score points in Teamwork Matches and get to show off their skills individually in driver-controlled and programming Robot Skills Challenges.

The VEX IQ Competition fosters student development of teamwork, collaboration, critical thinking, project management, and communication skills required to prepare them to become the next generation of innovators and problem solvers.

Marc Alderman, the team's advisor said, "We are very excited to send the first team ever in the history of Benzie Central and Husky Robotics to VEX Worlds. This is a great accomplishment for this team and the Husky Robotics program. It reflects the hard work that they have put in this season designing, building, programming, and driving their robot"

Benzie Central's VEX IQ Competition team meets after school two to three days per week. They also attend summer camps led by Marc Alderman, from Benzie Central, the week after school starts summer break.

Other Northwestern lower Michigan teams from GTACS, Woodland, and Elevations also participated in this past weekend's event. While RogueBots & Mr. Tank won the event overall, many other teams received esteemed awards. Award-winners included:

Hooba Looba (from Elevations) & Gassy Cats (from BCMS) – Teamwork 2nd Place

Khaos (from Elevations) & Prototypes - Teamwork 4th Place

Zesty Mustaches & Robo Saints (from GTACS) – Teamwork 5th Place

Wings of Woodland "WOW" (from Woodland) - Create Award

“Teamwork, problem-solving, and ingenuity are all on display at a VEX IQ Competition event and students develop these skills all year long by participating on a robotics team,” said Dan Mantz, CEO of the REC Foundation. “Together, with the support of educators, coaches, and mentors, we’re fostering students’ passion for STEM at a young age to ensure that we have a generation that is dedicated to creating new discoveries and tackling life’s future challenges.”

The REC Foundation manages the VEX IQ Competition that many schools participate in around the world. VEX Competitions make up the world’s largest and fastest-growing competitive robotics programs for elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges around the world. There are more than 23,000 VEX teams from 58 countries that participate in over 2,300 events worldwide.

More information about the VEX Robotics Competition is available at roboticseducation.org.

About the Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation

[The Robotics Education & Competition \(REC\) Foundation](http://roboticseducation.org)’s mission is to increase student interest and involvement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by engaging students in hands-on, affordable, and sustainable robotics engineering programs.

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