

# Lake News Online

## Camdenton team headed to World Championships, possible Hall of Fame run

A local high school team has the opportunity to become Hall of Famers as it heads to World Championships this spring.

By Lake Sun staff

newsroom@lakesunonline.com Posted Mar. 14, 2016 at 6:00 am Updated Mar 14, 2016 at 4:09



The Camdenton FIRST LASER (Laker Afterschool Science, Engineering, and Robotics) 3284 robotics team is going back to the World Championship after a successful competition this past weekend at the St. Louis FIRST.

Forty-nine robotics teams from six states participated in the regional qualifying event for the championship.

The Camdenton team made the number 7 alliance with a team from Illinois and Kentucky, according to co-coach Sherry Comer, and the alliance set high score for the event in their first quarter final match with a score of 145. The LASER robot, Ballista, took damage to the camera in the following match and lost the best of three series, losing the last match 114 to 108.

Comer was excited to announce that the team won their seventh consecutive Under Writers Laboratory Safety Award and the most coveted award bestowed on teams - The Chairman's Award - which qualifies the team to attend the FIRST World Championships in April at the Jones Dome in St. Louis and compete with approximately 150 other teams for the international Chairman's title.

Chairman's Award is the most prestigious award at FIRST, honoring the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST.

The return to the World Championship will give the team a chance to become a Hall of Fame team. This is the third straight year that 3284 has won the Regional Chairman Award and the sixth time in seven years that LASER has qualified for the FIRST World Championships.

The Industrial Safety Award sponsored by Underwriters Laboratories celebrates the team that progresses beyond safety fundamentals by using innovative ways to eliminate or protect against hazards.

LASER member Brenden Barbour was also honored as one of two students selected to be Dean's List finalist and will also be recognized at the FIRST World Championships. He too will compete to earn scholarship and prizes at the Championships. Kylie Becker was named a Dean's List Semi-Finalist.

The Dean's List Award celebrates outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining FIRST ideals is exemplary.

The mission of *FIRST*, according to their website, is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

*FIRST* participants are two times as likely to major in science or engineering, and 33 percent of women who major in engineering site participating in FIRST, according to a 2005 evaluation by Brandeis University. This evaluation also showed that FIRST participants report an increased interest in school generally and in going to college, and have improved problem-solving skills, better time management skills, increased conflict resolution skills and strengthened communication skills.

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LASER member Brenden Barbour was also honored as one of two students selected to be Dean's List finalist and will also be recognized at the FIRST World Championships. — *photo provided*  
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