

KICKOFF

On January 7, 2012, over 130 Killer Bee students, parents, mentors, and sponsors gathered at the Chrysler Museum for the kickoff of the 2012 FIRST season. During this exciting event, attendees watched as the live pod cast detailed this season's game. As a rookie on the team, I found this experience exciting and inspiring.

For one thing it gave me a small taste of what the competitions would be like in the near future - from walking into the Chrysler museum hearing the buzz of excited bees talking to the final thoughts on strategizing. As our team settled down into our seats to watch the Kickoff video and the first speaker appeared, claps and cheers erupted throughout the hive as the video began. More and more speakers educated us about the rules of robotics and dropping very "subtle" hints about the game. My mind began swirling with countless ideas about what the game would be. Could it be the hoped for water game? Or would it be a game based off a sport? Maybe it would be a teamwork game, where teams robots would work together to solve a puzzle. As the video began to go into more detail about the kit and more specific rules, everyone sat on the edge of their seat because they knew the game summary would start soon. Sure enough, the summary began and the game was described as a game where a robot would have to score baskets with a ball much like a basketball. The game was called Rebound Rumble and was a play off of basketball. After the credits of the video, every bee exploded into frenzy, pollinating the room with many different ideas. Strategizing began and many ideas were thrown about. By the end of the session though, there was a rough idea of what our robot would have to do and look like. As the bees' buzzing of ideas dimmed to a faint hum, kickoff came to a close and build season had started. The clock was ticking and robotics was on everyone's mind.