

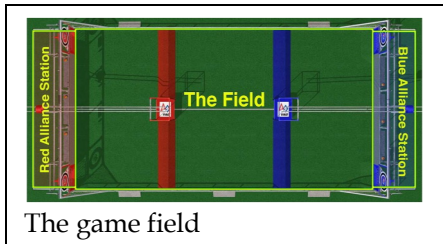
## Team News



### The Game

This year the game that our robot will be participating in is called Breakaway. Some are comparing it to soccer as our robot gets to kick a regulation soccer ball. There are also many differences.

Some of those differences include goals in the corners, ramps dividing the playing field into three sections, and a place for robots to pick themselves up at the climax of a match.



The game field

The game is played on a 27' x 54' carpeted area. The game is played with up to 12 balls on the playing field at one time.

Each match is 2 minutes 15 seconds long with alliances made up of three robots on each team. The first 15 seconds are autonomous as the robots have no human interaction. The remaining time will have shipmate control from a driver's station. During the last 20 seconds robots may elect to hang themselves on a bar frame constructed in the center of the ramps.

Scoring is simple: 1 point per goal, and 2 points to successfully hang at the end of the match. Should alliance members successfully hang on to you than you get two points, three points for both alliance members.

The game is explained in greater detail at our website. Go to our website and select Resources > Articles > Breakaway. Online readers click [here](#).

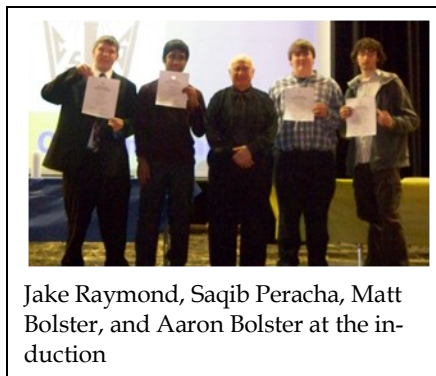
## Grand Valley State University

Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> saw three representatives from the team traveling to Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI. They had a dual purpose learn programming and meeting team benefactors.

They spent the day learning from Andy Watchorn, who has spent the last 10 years with National Instruments teaching NI LabView. NI is a major contributor to FRC and the iPirates are using both their hardware and software this year.

The iPirates also journeyed to meet with one of the team's contributors, joining Cecil and Betty Demaray of Dorr for dinner. These kind individuals donated \$100 to the team this year.

## National Honor Society



Jake Raymond, Saqib Peracha, Matt Bolster, and Aaron Bolster at the induction

While iPirates are dedicated to being "super geeks," they are successful in other areas. This year the iPirates had four new inductees into the National Honor Society.

Inductees are granted this honor based on Scholarship, Character, Service and Leadership. The four new inductees join our web administrator Brandon Dusseau, who was inducted last year. The entire iPirates crew is happy to have these people on the team.

## Shipmate of the Month



### Christian Neal

This is one shipmate truly rising to the occasion while his head is in the clouds.

The second year shipmate has been spending his time on the animation entry. He has also spent time working on the build team and a little battery box etching.

Christian is joined by other family members, his brother Caleb on the iPirates and older brother Cameron on the classroom team Ketronix.

He has been enjoying the fun filled life of being an iPirate. While enjoying the competitions and camaraderie he is beginning to plan for his future. This is where Christian heads for the clouds. He is currently laying plans to work in avionics as a technician or repair expert.

Christian is excelling in Technical classes taking CAD, advanced CAD, and engineering fundamentals.

The iPirates are so confident in Christian's ability that when we fly we will want to be on a plane he worked on.

## Upcoming Events



**MARC**  
Monroe High School  
June 25-26

## ReWalk



One of the most basic tenants taught in medical school is that severe spinal cord trauma will lead to permanent irreparable paralysis. Amit Goffer, an Israeli engineer decided to challenge that thought. With a 1997 accident that left him paralyzed, he began to invent ReWalk. The invention appears like a bulky set of leg braces complete with an eight pound backpack. The backpack contains the instrument's heart: a computer and battery. A small keypad about the size of a wallet resides on the wrist of the patient. This pad allows the communication between user and backpack computer for all the normal commands many of us take for granted to be issued. Things like standing up, bend at the knee, move forward, and the inevitable sitting to rest. Patients use crutches in order to add to the equipments stability. ReWalk is currently undergoing testing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Once the command to stand is given, a high-pitched whine can be heard as motors powered by the backpack computer cause the patient to rise. Patients are not able to move fast or even motivate for long distances. They are, however, able to get around their own houses and achieve a greater sense of independence

The iPirates salute pioneers who improve the human condition. Imagine improvements to ReWalk like no whine, no need for crutches, or longer life batteries. Perhaps one-day, an iPirate will discover and implement them.

## Partner on Deck



The iPirates wish to thank all of its partners by featuring one of them each month in our newsletter. This month, we are recognizing DTE Energy. This wonderful company has been our partner for two years. According to their website, [dteenergy.com](http://dteenergy.com), DTE Energy Co. is a diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. The largest operating subsidiaries are Detroit Edison and MichCon. Together, these regulated utility companies provide electric and/or gas services to more than three million residential, business and industrial customers in Michigan. Detroit Edison generates, transmits, and distributes electricity to 2.2 million customers in southeastern Michigan. With an 11,094 mega-watt system capacity, the company uses coal, nuclear fuel, natural gas, hydroelectric pumped storage, and renewable sources to generate its electrical output.

Founded in 1903, Detroit Edison is the largest electric utility in Michigan and one of the largest in the nation. The iPirates thank DTE Energy for their continued support.

## Marketplace



The iPirates would cease to exist without the support from their wonderful partners. The team offers their gratitude for all that these businesses do for them.

 <p><b>DTE Energy</b></p>	 <p><b>ITT</b> Technical Institute</p>	<p><i>Iceberg's One Hour Heating and Cooling</i></p>
 <p><b>DTE Energy Foundation</b></p>	 <p><b>MONROE HIGH SCHOOL</b></p>	 <p><b>PDS</b> Plastic Development Services</p>