



Diana Martin Photo

ATLANTA BOUND: The robotics team from Blenheim District High School are, front left, Ryan Dunlop, Justin Walker, Wade McEachran and Brian Boundy, with principal Sandy Blackshaw, back left, adviser Terry McConnell, team member Drew Hoy, team leader John Beattie, and members Marie Lambert, Eric Drouillard and Clint Dorssers.

Going for robotics gold

BDHS team in world competition

By Chris McGregor
The Daily News

BLENHEIM — The Roboticats are prowling for a win.

Members of the Blenheim District High School robotics team will take on 340 other teams for world robot supremacy.

They are headed to Atlanta, Ga., April 20 for the FIRST Robotics Championship, the team's first-ever trip to the finals.

"It's going to be intense," said Grade 10 student Justin Walker. Competing in a qualifying

event in Waterloo over Easter, the team placed 10th out of 24 teams, losing out in the quarterfinals.

Mechanical problems plagued the team, but the robot performed well enough to get the attention of judges.

Because of the loss, the team had to apply to be considered for Atlanta and were accepted, said team leader and BDHS science teacher John Beattie.

He said the goal for robot designers is to play a form of tic-tac-toe where the robot needs to place triangles on top of other triangles to achieve three in a row.

Competing teams can try and prevent the placing of triangles or knock others off.

Beattie said the robot is equipped with an arm measuring three feet long and a vertical reach of 12 feet.

Grade 10 student Clint Dorssers, 15, said the robot took six weeks to build, program and test.

"I think we're going to do very well in Atlanta."

Beattie said the students have shown commitment in building the best robot possible.

"By far this is the best educational opportunity I've seen for students."

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