

On Sunday October 17, 2021, we competed in an in-person event for the first time since COVID-19 abruptly cancelled the 2020 FRC season. Our local **NEOFRA** (**N**orth **E**ast **O**hio **F**IRST **R**obotics **A**lliance) group came together to put on our much anticipated annual MVRC (Mahoning Valley Robotics Challenge) event in front of a live crowd at Warren G. Harding High School. In order to comply with local school district COVID guidelines, the competition consisted of only event volunteers and the 17 participating teams from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Among those robots competing were our award winning Team E.L.I.T.E. 48 main competition bot, XM23 and our backup E.L.I.T.E. Metal Benders #9999 demo/exposition bot, affectionately called, "Trailing 9s". XM23 was expertly operated by our veteran Pilot, Senior Aidan Rohrer; his sister and Co-Pilot, Sophomore Renn Rohrer; Technician, Freshman Amari Jackson and Drive Coach/Team Alumnus/Teacher, Mr. Eugene Mach. Trailing 9s was operated by the very talented rookie team of Pilots, Seniors Ean Dodge and Mikayla Shively; Co-Pilot, Freshman Raina Bacon; Human Player, Junior Chris Davis; Technician, Sophomore Ty Hamrick and Drive Coach/Team Alumnus Alex Richards.

The 2007 Buckeye Regional Champion teammates of Warren Harding's Team 48 (E.L.I.T.E. 48) and Girard's Team 379 (The RoboCats) reunited to battle to a third place finish, in a valiant and hard-fought effort against the alliance of Champion High School's Team 2010 (The Lightning Bots), Austintown Fitch's Team 3193 (Falco Tech), Highland High School's Team 2603 (The Steel Stingers) and Shaker Heights's Team 2399 (The Fighting Unicorns) who ultimately won the competitions Best Defense award. But when the dust settled, the E.L.I.T.E. Metal Benders #9999 would avenge their sister team's defeat with the help of their alliance partners, Pepper Pike's Team 1787 (The Flying Circuits), Beachwood's Team 695 (Bison Robotics) and Pittsburgh's Team 3620 (SHARP) by winning the Final's 3rd round rubber match in dramatic fashion and emerging as the 2021 MVRC Champions!

We would like to thank all of the teams and volunteers for their hard work, participation and sacrifices that made this event possible; reigniting the spark of excitement for **FIRST** robotics and the anticipation of the upcoming 2022 season. The full list of participants and awards can be found on our NEOFRA website at the following link: <https://www.neofra.com/2021-mvrc/results-and-media>