



## NOTEBOOK

# Robotics teams compete

A team of nine students from Bayport, Blue Point, East Islip, Sayville and Selden — called Peaced Together — took home the Champion's Award at the Long Island FIRST LEGO League Tournament.

In the competition, held earlier this month at Longwood High School in Middle Island, 48 teams used LEGO play materials and Mindstorm, a programmable LEGO toy, to build robots that could traverse an obstacle course in 2½ minutes. Teams also proposed a solution to a real-life medical problem and gave a five-minute presentation to a panel of judges.

Peaced Together's proposal was a synthetic skin with sensors to restore the sense of touch to arm amputees. The team next will compete against 85 teams from around the world at FIRST LEGO League World Festival in St. Louis on April 27-30.

"Young arm amputees coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan want to be able to do everything they used to do — synthetic skin would make that possible," said Emily Egan, a home-schooled team member.

Other team members were Robert and Matt Sparacio of West Sayville Christian School, Molly McCoy of Oakdale-Bohemia Middle School, Kiersten Varacek of James Wilson Young



The winning LEGO team, from left, Robert Sparacio, Jack Egan, Luke Madden, Emily Egan, Matt Sparacio, Molly McCoy, Frank Egan, Kiersten Varacek and coach Frank Egan.

Middle School in Bayport, and home-schoolers Luke Madden, Samuel Noack, and Frank and Jack Egan. The team also won first place in the robot performance category.

Other first-place teams from Suffolk were Let Me Think . . . of Huntington Station for robot design, Knights of Sayville for creative presentation, Terminators of Middle Island for gracious professionalism, and Clayton Huey Red Devils of Center Moriches for spirit.

The School-Business Partnerships of Long Island in Kings Park sponsored the event.