schools

NOTEBOOK

Robotics teams advance

The robotics team from Longwood High School in Middle Island will compete in a national tournament next week after winning top awards last month at the regional competition at Hofstra University.

Five robotics teams from Long Island high schools will compete next weekend at a national tournament in St. Louis.

The schools — Longwood High School in Middle Island, Great Neck South High School, Southold Junior/Senior High School, Plainedge High School, and North Shore High School in Glen Head — won top awards last month at the 13th Annual Long Island Regional FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition at Hofstra University in Hempstead.

In total, more than 1,200 students from 50 tristate area schools participated in the competition, which requires teams to build a robot over a six-week period using a kit of parts.

"All teams demonstrated tremendous teamwork, gracious professionalism and strategic thinking, but these winners went above and beyond," said Ginny Greco, the robotics competition director for the School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, the event's sponsor.

This year's theme, "Rebound Rumble," challenged three-team alliances to compete on a 27-by-54-foot play-ing field and attempt to earn points by scoring basketballs into hoops. Additional points were earned for balancing robots on bridges.

The advancing teams and their awards are: Longwood, Regional Chairman's Award; Great Neck South, Regional Engineering Inspiration Award; Plainedge, Regional Winner No. 1 Award; Southold, Regional Winner No. 3 Award; North Shore, Rookie All-Star Award.

Other Suffolk County high schools to win in various categories were: Central Islip, Cold Spring Harbor, Comsewogue in Port Jefferson Station, Connetquot in Bohemia, Hauppauge and Patchogue-Medford.