



COMETS team members in the front row: Jasper Nee, Preston Purdue, Nathan Levandowski.  
Back row: Kara Argue, Danielle Coty, Grant Gumina, Ben Abraham, Scott Herdegen, Alecia Galloway.

## FIRST 2010 Kickoff Meeting

The Kick-off for the 2010 season took place on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at GVSU. The leadership of the sponsoring organization, FIRST—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology—did a bang-up job: the presentation was tight; the speeches were informational and inspirational, punctuated by three different state governors; and the game this year is more competitive and much more spectator-friendly.



“Breakaway” is the game designed for this season’s robot competitions, essentially combining the elements of soccer and steeplechase to create real spectator interest. A total of six robotics teams will play an individual match, dividing into two alliances of three teams each.

Employing agreed-upon strategies and tactics, each alliance will strive to shoot soccer balls into goals, while negotiating obstacles – two 12”-high “bumps” extending the width of the field.

You can watch a game stimulation on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/v/Ex90Aw4PdAI&hl=en&fs=1](http://www.youtube.com/v/Ex90Aw4PdAI&hl=en&fs=1) and you can see all aspects of the FIRST organization at: [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

The COMETS are a “rookie” team and have made enormous progress since their first recruiting meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The students are dedicated and determined, but owe much of their success to-date to the knowledge and leadership of the team’s mentors. Special thanks to Mrs. Linda Abraham, the driving force behind organizing the COMETS; Mr. Roger Smith, who has guided software acquisition and programming; and the mentor engineers from Magna Mirrors, led by Mr. David O’Connell, Magna’s VP of Engineering.

### Important Dates

- February 23-----Robot Build Deadline
- March 5-6-----District Competition  
Traverse City
- March 19-20-----District Competition  
GVSU
- April 1-3-----Michigan  
Championship EMU
- April 15-17-----FIRST Championship  
Atlanta, Georgia

