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ASU SUMO WRESTLING ROBOTS WIN TRIPLE VICTORY AT MICROSOFT MEDC 2005 CHAMPIONSHIP

Arizona State University

ASU shook up the 2005 Ultimate Architect Sumo Competition in Las Vegas this spring by winning an unprecedented victory for the university with the creation of an unstoppable battling robot that beat teams from around the world. The annual event hosts engineers from both academia and industry, and despite this being ASU's first time to compete, they managed to win the competition by a landslide, taking the crown from last year's winner, Cornell University.

“ASU team is the undisputed triple crown champions,” said Computer Science Engineering Professor Wei-Tek Tsai. In fact, they were the only team able to construct and program a wireless remote controlled robot within the given time to win the group title. Then, ASU SumoBot outperformed the champion from the robots with built-in artificial intelligence to win the grand champion. Finally, in a showcase demonstration, ASU robot pushed all other robots out of the Sumo-ring to become the Ultimate Architect champion.

The event took place at the Microsoft Mobile and Embedded Development Conference (MEDC 2005), more than 2000 people attended with Bill Gates as the keynote speaker. The ASU team was sponsored by the Microsoft Embedded System program, the ASU Software Research (SR) Lab, and the Consortium for Embedded Systems at ASU.

“It will definitely push us further in future research and our career.” said team member Weiwei Song, a CSE graduate student at ASU. Team mate and fellow CSE graduate student Xiao Wei added, “It is a great self achievement,” The winning team comprises of the principal architect behind the design, Dr. Yinong Chen , and numerous efforts and research applied by SR Lab students and faculty. Two ASU undergraduate students Calvin Cheng and Craig Quiter also contributed to this project.

Competition onlookers are asking how ASU achieved the unbeatable design. The team's phenomenal success makes ASU's embedded system program known among industry professionals and academia in this discipline.

Watch video clips of the competition victory and other robot car

experiments at

http://asusrl.eas.asu.edu/EmbeddedExplorer/experiment.html

Photo: From front and from left: W.T. Tsai. Y. Chen, C. Fan, W. Song, X. Wei, B. Xiao.

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