

Life

Students get charge out of competition

Western News Staff

A group of kids from Naramata Elementary

scored big last week in competition, bringing home a trophy and finishing second only to a much

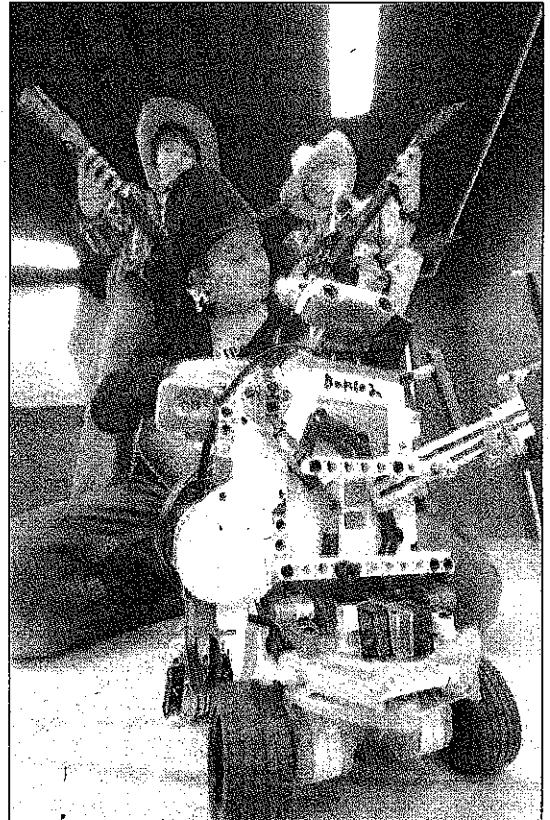
more experienced team.

This wasn't any regular sports tournament, however. The Robo Rockers team from Naramata Elementary went to Kelowna to compete in the Western Canada RoboCup junior games. And in just their first year of competition, they placed second, winning a robot construction kit as well as the trophy, which were displayed at a special school assembly Monday.

Two teams from Naramata entered the games, the Robo Rockers and the Sally Grooves, the only entries in the competition from the Okanagan Skaha School District.

It was just last year that Jen Vozenilek, a parent of two children attending Naramata Elementary, started the lunch hour robotics club, helping students use Lego's Mindstorm robotics kits to construct and then program robots.

A year later, the kids were ready to put their skills to the test by entering the Dance Challenge category at the robot games. This group is reserved for elementary school students — older participants at the games program their robots to



Mark Brett/Western News

THREE MEMBERS of the Naramata Elementary School RoboRockers team Lukas Vozenilek, Connor Oh and Josh Gowe with their Lego creation that earned them second spot in the recent RoboCup Junior primary dance challenge in Kelowna. Missing from the picture is Jacob Kirschmann.

play soccer or complete search and rescue operations.

To enter the Dance Challenge, the students had to do some sophisticated programming, choreographing their robots to

perform a dance routine in time with music.

Teams were judged not only on the construction and programming of their robots, but on choreography, costume design and entertainment value.