

## EDUCATION

# Brothers beginning run at 2nd RoboCup

Special to The Daily Courier

Reigning Western Canada RoboCup junior champions Nelson and Hudson Schier return to Okanagan College today to compete in the fourth annual robotics competition.

After winning the robot dance competition in 2008, Nelson and Hudson qualified to represent Canada at the World RoboCup 2009 in Graz, Austria, where they were awarded best presentation for their performance.

The brothers will travel from Vernon to join student competitors from across the region, all of whom have a keen interest in science and technology. The students will test their problem-solving and team-building skills in a variety of robotic challenges including soccer, rescue and dance.

Hosted by Okanagan College, the event features teams of students ranging from Grade 1 to 12 working in teams to develop solutions to one of three specific challenges using robots.

This year will mark the fourth annual Western Canada RoboCup Games and a record number of students have signed up.

More than 100 elementary, middle and secondary students will compete.

The competition gets underway at 9 a.m. in the college's Pit area, with the soccer and rescue challenges. In soccer, teams comprised of two autonomous mobile robots track a special light-emitting ball in an enclosed field and attempt to score goals. In search and rescue, robots follow a course, negotiate hallways of a two-storey building filled with debris and identify victims within re-created disaster scenarios.

The dance competition begins at 12:30 p.m.

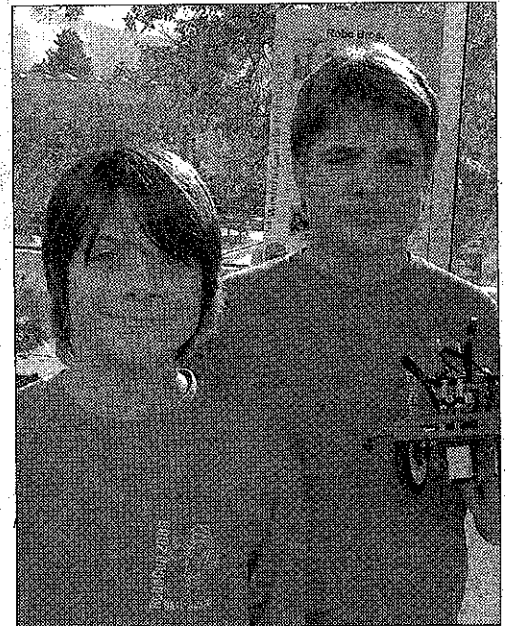


Photo submitted

**Nelson, left, and Hudson Schier are reigning RoboCup champions.**

in the lecture theatre. Teams competing in dance perform with their robots in choreographed routines and will be judged in a range of areas, including robot programming, design, costume, use of stage and entertainment value.

Top performing students in today's competition will qualify to represent Canada in the World RoboCup Games in Singapore in June.

For more information about the Western Canada RoboCup Junior, go to [www.okanagan.bc.ca/robocup](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/robocup).

To find out more about RoboCup International, go to [www.robocup.org](http://www.robocup.org).