

If you ask anyone from FIRST Team 116, Epsilon Delta, to describe Samson Weiser you will hear words like “self-starter,” “hard-worker,” “leader,” “dedicated,” and “motivated.” But this is just a snapshot of who Samson is and of what he has brought to the team in the years that he has been a member. This year, Samson is the head of the mobility subgroup and has had little help from other students in tackling one of the more difficult subgroups of the robot build process. Never one to pass up a challenge, Samson has spent the season learning, adapting, and succeeding.

Samson is a self starter. He looks at every action as an opportunity to learn and searches for problems to solve rather than having to be told what needs to be done. Team mentor Patrick explains Samson’s initiative, “This year he jumped back and forth from mobility to minibot depending on where he could help. He recognizes where work is needed and eager to put 100% of his time in to what he needs to do and makes sure that what needs to get done gets done.”

Samson is also good at taking full advantage of the resources available to him. Whenever he has a problem or doesn’t understand a subject he makes sure to ask for help and is constantly interacting with the engineers on the team to get a better technical understanding about what is going on. He is also dedicated to having a successful subgroup. He frequently looks for ways to better his group and to increase his productivity on the team. His patience with teaching rookies was invaluable this year since more than 75% of our build team were rookies.

Samson is always looking to learn new things. Rather than working on only one part of the robot, Samson makes sure that he is included in every part of the design project. Every year that Samson has been on the team, he has taken a different role to understand as much about the project as possible. He also makes sure to use his time wisely and keeps productive when he sees something that needs to be done. At competitions, Samson is regarded as one of the better scouters on the team because he takes the job seriously and makes sure to give it his best effort.

Through his time on the team, Samson has broken out of his shell and now has no problem sharing his opinion and taking on projects himself. Mobility mentor Andy explains Samson’s growth, “He is eager to learn and has greatly matured since he joined the team. He has really become a great leader and has learned a lot. Last year he stepped up big time moving from the software subgroup to the mobility subgroup when the need surfaced. He has shown that he can be versatile and has done well in retaining what he learned last year and applying it to what he is doing this year.”

Samson is also involved in activities outside of Robotics. He has been a part of the Varsity Tennis team all four years of his high school career and is a heavy participator in the team outreach. During his time on the team, Samson has participated in fundraisers the American Cancer Societies’ Relay for Life and has enlisted his father to help with the team media.

Mentor Dave Lavery says it best, “Samson has been one of the consistently highest-performing student leaders on our team. He has passionately dedicated himself to learning everything he can about the technical intricacies of all aspects of the robot, and sharing that knowledge with others on the team.

His enthusiasm for learning is infectious. When added to his natural leadership capabilities, this has made him an outstanding spokesman on the impact and effectiveness of the team and FIRST.”

Epsilon Delta strongly believes that Samson Weiser is deserving of the Dean’s List award. In his time on the team, he has shown that he is dedicated to following and spreading the ideals of FIRST. He faces every new task with an eagerness to learn and then takes what he learns and teaches others. In short, he is the best kind of a team member any team could want.