



May 18, 2005

Summary of 2005 Mini Baja East

Event	Placing (out of 73 teams)
Location Rochester Institute of Technology One Lomb Memorial Drive Rochester, NY 14623-5603 Telephone: 585-475-2411 URL: [http://www.rit.edu/~mbeast05]	Overall 44th Design 20th Cost 27th Suspension 35th Endurance 34th

Event Comments

This year's SAE Mini Baja East was well orchestrated by the Rochester Institute of Technology, and proved to be a positive experience for the Mini Baja racing team at Western. After sleepless nights and long hours in the shop after final exams, the team was ready to head down to Rochester, New York. This was not an ideal situation however, since virtually no testing was performed due to time constraints.



Nonetheless, the entire team pulled together during "crunch time", and put together a vehicle to compete. Many designs saw full implementation, while others had to be sidelined or modified to meet the fast-approaching deadline. On May 5, at midnight, the rented cube van and all passenger vehicles were fully packed, and a group of 9 members left for Rochester. After crossing the Queenston-Lewiston border at approximately 4 am, and after a few searches and x-rays, the team was through, and headed toward the hotel for at least a few hours of sleep.

On the morning of May 5, safety and static judging took place, along with engine governing by Briggs & Stratton Corporation. The team spent much of the morning tying up loose ends on the vehicle (components that needed finalized assembly), and passed through almost everything in the safety judging. A minor rule oversight proved to be a major pitfall for the team, as new steering stops had to be rapidly manufactured and integrated into the already-existing suspension system. Western's team members defended design decisions against fairly tough design judges from a wide range of industry, and ended up scored in the top 20 teams for design.

Unfortunately, most of the second day at the event was taken up by fabricating the steering stops, and prevented the team from competing in most of the dynamic events.



Hill climb, top speed, water maneuverability, and land maneuverability were all missed, and Western received a score of 0 for these events. Afterwards, the team competed in the suspension and traction event, and then competed in the final endurance event at the end of the competition.

During the four-hour, grueling endurance run, several minor repairs were required. The vehicle performed very well

over rough terrain, and it utilized the large amount of ground clearance that many teams lacked. However, this caused the water speed to be reduced, despite no problems with floatation.

The team is regrouping over the next month to make the needed repairs to the vehicle to compete in the Midwest event held in Troy, Ohio. The competition in Ohio is mainly geared towards motocross racing, and will not include a water portion.

Further information can be obtained at <http://www.eng.uwo.ca/minibaja>, or by emailing the 2005 Manager, Robert Jelenic, at rjelenic@uwo.ca.



2005 Team Members

Robert Jelenic
Zachary Taylor
Jessica Smith
Otto Sosa
Chris Ward
Adam Little
Christine Jenkyn
Brian Clinch
Ryan Welker
Michael Demaiter
Brendan Bonnar
Guatam Vaidya
Jordan Querin
Drew Kennedy
Dustin Campbell

Website

Bassel Anabtawi

Business and Promotions

Christine Jenkyn

Faculty Advisor

Prof. Ralph O. Buchal, PhD, PEng



Figure 3: The Western SAE Mini Baja team after the competition finale.