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Tulsans steak it all on a ribeye

by: MARK BROWN World Scene Editor
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Thirty-three teams competed in last Saturday's first-ever Oklahoma Championship Steak Cook-Off at Trinity Episcopal Church, grilling 1,500 steaks between them. Out of all that, there was one winning ribeye — from team Smolen, Smolen and Roytman, a Tulsa law firm.

"We had a small Weber and the small Hasty-Bake," said Dan Smolen. "One to sear, one to finish."

In addition to Dan Smolen, the team included Jahan Mostofi, Ty Smith, Oleg Roytman and Don Smolen. "Jahan was my sous chef, if you will," Dan Smolen said.

"Never entered a competition before," said event chairman Tripp Haggard. "In fact, they were a last-minute entry. Kind of a neat deal, they donated their \$2,500 prize money back to our charities."

Dan Smolen said, "We picked the last steak. We get this little strappin' piece of meat to work with."

With not a little pride, team Smolen took it to an Arkansas group, When ya Hot ya Hot, winners of this year's Magnolia Blossom Festival & World Championship Steak Cookoff, in Magnolia, Ark.

"They roll up talkin' mad game and we just crushed 'em," said Dan Smolen, who worked on backyard grills. "They were literally laughing at us."

Team Smolen is laughing now. Dan Smolen credits the win on a "secret family rub" 60 years in the making, mixed by a relative in Arkansas who raised Angus cattle. Now, the competition is in his blood.

"We're going to Magnolia in May," Dan Smolen said. "They invited us."

Cookoff results

Here are the top 10 finishers in Saturday's Oklahoma Championship Steak Cook-Off:

1. Smolen, Smolen and Roytman, Tulsa
2. United Steaks of America No. 2, Dallas
3. Certified Pride, Little Rock
4. United Steaks of America No. 1, Dallas
5. 3 Guys Smokin', Tulsa
6. Heavy Bird BBQ, Tulsa
7. Roasted and Toasted. Tulsa

8. When ya Hot ya Hot, Magnolia, Ark.

9. 3 Crosses BBQ, Tulsa

10. Tulsa Bone and Joint, Tulsa

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