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Feature



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Red Hot In Hell's Kitchen

by Bekah Wright March 27, 2009 01:23 AM EST

Each week, competition on *Hell's Kitchen* is fierce. Last night's episode was no exception with the red team claiming victory against the blue team in a blind taste test. The spoils of their battle – tossing off chef's jackets and glamming up for a photo shoot with TV Guide Magazine. Another perk – having the blue team at their beck and call. We sat down with Chef Gordon Ramsay and the red team to learn what makes them winners.

Carol Scott, 31

The Knoxville, Tennessee resident feels right at home in the makeup chair. "I work like a man, but still want to look like a woman," she says. Unlike the other chefs, Carol's secret ingredient isn't found in the kitchen. Her pick – waterproof mascara. Of her signature dish, Roulade of Veal over Caramelized Onions, she says, "It really does say a lot about who I am – a lot of stuff packed into one tiny, tight, little roll." When it comes to her strategy for winning the competition, Carol says her cast mates needn't fear backstabbing from her. "I'm never going to do anything to make anyone else look bad to get myself forward and if that's my demise, I'm okay with that."

Andrea Heinley, 32

"Salt is always your friend," says the line cook and sous chef from Reading, Pennsylvania. The same can't be said for her tumultuous relationship with teammate Carol. Contestants looking to tangle with her shouldn't underestimate Andrea due to her size, though. "I come in a little package, but I've got a lot of fire behind me." That being said, Andrea thinks her biggest obstacle is keeping her nerves and fear in check. Her plan for winning the competition – "I'm treating the entire experience like a six-week interview; just putting my best foot forward every single day and being myself through and through."

Paula DaSilva, 30

The Brazilian-born chef from Coconut Creek, Florida took her teammates to victory in the taste test. "I'm pretty good at dealing with stress and doing what I need to do," she says. "I've always

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been competitive and played lots of sports, so I know how to maneuver the team stuff and the game." As for her chances of winning this season's competition, one need only hear Chef Ramsay's raves to know Paula is a force to be reckoned with. "I've never, ever, ever, in the history of *Hell's Kitchen* had a girl cook that level of perfection before," he says. "I love those little discoveries of that natural talent because to become a great chef there has to be a level of natural talent. She clearly has it."

Giovanni Filippone, 37

The sole male on the team, Giovanni knows when he has an advantage. "The girls gave me the edge," he says of the taste test. The Destin, Florida resident is betting on his teammates to help him round third base and head for home. "Working as a team is the best way to win right now." His own experience at *Hell's Kitchen* has been intense. "I've taken a lot of abuse," he says. "The kind of abuse that makes you a better chef." He definitely has a compatriot in Ramsay on that point, "I was begging to be told off every day," Ramsay says of his early days. "I knew if I got told off 500 times a week my learning capacity had just tripled."

"LA" Limtiaco, 24

No one was more thrilled than LA to have a day in the spotlight. "To break outside of who I am and be a girl for one day was fun." The normally demure Las Vegas-based chef beamed for the cameras, something Ramsay has been asking her to do in front of the stove throughout the season. "He's pointed out that I have no emotion in the kitchen, I just cook." Ultimately, this cost her a spot on *Hell's Kitchen*, making last night's episode her final. Of his philosophy Ramsay reiterates, "I'm not looking for a line cook, I'm looking for a leader. You can be the most talented chef in America, but if you can't lead, then your team will run you."



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