

At steak: Flay, Symon battle for barbecue bragging rights

By Michelle Rose
TV Media

Think you know good barbecue? Bobby Flay definitely does. So does Michael Symon. And they're ready to fire up the grill in a TV battle over who can achieve slow-cooked protein perfection.

The four-part competition "BBQ Brawl: Flay v. Symon" is set to heat up the summer airwaves when it kicks off on Thursday, Aug. 1, on Food Network. The idea is that barbecue bragging rights are on the line for the two Iron Chefs and besties ... except they won't be directly competing against each other. Not the entire time, anyway.

Instead of manning the pits, each chef is tasked with mentoring and inspiring a team of

seasoned barbecue pitmasters. They do go head to head in one challenge, in which they're tasked with grilling the perfect tomahawk ribeye, but their main task is to keep the competitors focused.

Team points aside, these challengers are the ones whose barbecue game will be judged by grilling experts Moe Cason, Chris Lilly and Amy Mills. And they're the ones who face elimination each week until the final two remain.

Who's going to win? It's hard to say. Flay and Symon are good friends who don't often compete against each other, but they're definitively competitive. Their playful banter alone may be interesting to watch.

In the end, the ultimate pit boss will be crowned "Master of 'Cue." They'll also get their

own web series on FoodNetwork.com.

This week's episode takes place in the Lone Star State, specifically Austin, Texas, where you can find some of the country's best brisket. And before any arguments erupt about which regional style is best (I've tried and loved them all), know that future challenges include one that tests the pitmasters' ability to cook up any style — from smoky Kansas City, well, everything, to old-school North Carolina hog.

Can't wait for the Aug. 1 premiere? Beginning Monday, July 29, viewers can access the digital companion series "BBQ Brawl: The Pre-Heat" on the Food Network app, where they'll find videos of Flay and Symon playing guessing games and taking blind taste tests.



Michael Symon as seen in "BBQ Brawl: Flay v. Symon"

cooking this week

WEDNESDAY

3:00 p.m.

KVEW The Rachael Ray Show (CC)

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Four chefs compete for a second chance. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Standup comics team up with Food's all-star mentors. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Chefs must make a comfort meal with only five items. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Chefs receive the most extreme budget to create dishes. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Guy's triple D buddies roll up for a challenge. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Four chefs compete to prove their poultry prowess. (CC)

THURSDAY

3:00 p.m.

KVEW The Rachael Ray Show (CC)

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Tamron Hall and Ted Allen have Bobby in their sights. (CC)

3:30 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Alex Guarnaschelli and Michael Symon join forces. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Alex and Alton have their eye on the prize. (CC)

4:30 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Chefs Anne Burrell and Scott Conant decide who reigns. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Alex Guarnaschelli and Daphne Oz pick a contender. (CC)

5:30 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Pat and Katie hope they can send Bobby packing. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Two Food Network chefs unite against Bobby Flay. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Bobby Flay judges Michael Psilakis. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped All three rounds devoted to beer. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped The chefs gear up for an epic hot dog battle. (CC)

FRIDAY

3:00 p.m.

KVEW The Rachael Ray Show (CC)

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy Fieri checks out breakfast places. (CC)

3:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy Fieri discovers great food in unexpected places. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy's favorites are homemade from coast to coast. (CC)

4:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Some old school favorites and new school stunners. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy enjoys some one-of-a-kind meals. (CC)

5:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Two Irish brothers serve Guinness fried oysters. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy finds real deal authentic eats in unusual spots. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy visits town favorites. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy is checking out funky foods from coast to coast. (CC)

7:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy cruises the islands with his buddy Chef Henriques. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy Fieri dives into hearty helpings of comfort. (CC)

SATURDAY

12:30 p.m.

FOOD Girl Meets Farm Chicken shawarma tacos; carrot salad. (CC)

1:00 p.m.

OPB Steven Raichlen's Project Fire Meatless grilling is celebrated. (CC)

FOOD Cupcake Championship Four bakers are challenged to create pet designs.

1:30 p.m.

KTNW tasteMAKERS Edible Alchemy's from-the-farm kombucha. (CC)

OPB America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated Make perfect pan seared pork tenderloin steaks. (CC)

2:00 p.m.

OPB Annabel Langbein: The Free Range Cook Annabel and her daughter visit an apricot orchard. (CC)

FOOD Worst Bakers in America The teams create uniquely designed cookies. (CC)

2:30 p.m.

OPB Martha Bakes Transform favorite time-tested bread recipes. (CC)

3:00 p.m.

KTNW America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated (CC)

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy's parkin' at joints serving up big flavor. (CC)

3:30 p.m.

KTNW Food Over 50 Certain fish are the best sources of omega-3. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy meets up with rock star chefs. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy cracks open the vault to check on some classics. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

OPB The Great British Baking Show Fraiser cakes are made. (CC)

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy tries Puerto-Rican and Jewish deli specialties. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives An L.A. spot fills bowls with eclectic eats. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

KTNW The Great British Baking Show Stiff competition among nine remaining bakers. (CC)

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy tries spicy pork and knockout gnocchi. (CC)

7:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives There's a true British pub in Wilmington. (CC)

SUNDAY

Noon

FOOD The Kitchen A menu of recipes for the dog days of summer. (CC)

1:00 p.m.

FOOD Carnivorous (N) Courtney has a sandwich that's bigger than her head.

1:30 p.m.

FOOD Carnivorous (N) Courtney has hot chicken and French toast in Nashville.

6:00 p.m.

FOOD The Great Food Truck Race The teams must create a crowd-pleasing pork dish. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

KVEW Chance of Wine (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Two sandwich masters square off. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games GGG winners return to Flavortown to test their skills. (CC)

MONDAY

3:00 p.m.

KVEW The Rachael Ray Show (CC)

FOOD Chopped Four talented teens compete. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Four young cooks compete for a culinary scholarship. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Intensity increases in the second competition. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Four new teen chefs enter the Chopped kitchen. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Four teen chefs battle it out in the Chopped kitchen. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Four remaining champs return to claim the grand prize. (CC)

TUESDAY

3:00 p.m.

KVEW The Rachael Ray Show (CC)

FOOD Chopped Junior The entree basket includes edible slime. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Junior The dessert round includes a lollipop and a sandwich. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Junior The final includes desserts with movie theater popcorn. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Junior The chefs use sweet ingredients in the entree round. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Junior Talented kid chefs set out on a virtual culinary tour. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Junior (N) The junior chefs must remain fierce and focused. (CC)

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