

The Skinny On Competitive Eating

by Sara Ann Harris,

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(NAPSA)—Competitive eaters rallied in New Orleans recently for the Big Easy Eat Off. And the challenge? Who could suck up the most fresh raw Louisiana oysters in ten minutes.

Master of Ceremonies Rich Shay, founder of the International Federation of Competitive Eating, worked the crowd with anecdotes from earlier contests.

“Yes, Dave ‘Mo Ribs’ Molesky of Salamorehols, Ohio is here with us today. ‘Mo Ribs’ put away 45 ribs in five minutes! Why, he won the Great American Rib Cook-Off in Cleveland four years running.”

“And Crazy Legs Conti flew in from New York City. He’s a newcomer to the sport of competitive eating, but don’t let that fool you. Yesterday, in one sitting, Crazy Legs ate 34 dozen raw oysters. He ate for 3½ hours!”

‘Crawfish Nick’ Stipelcovich is a local boy, who holds the title for crawfish. He peeled and consumed 55 pounds of crawfish in 45 minutes.”

“Don’t be shy folks. Step up and witness the performances of some of the world’s best eaters! Now. Let the games begin.”

Cameras were clicking, locals swishing, sponsors bragging and visitors gagging as the 12 big-eaters went nose-to-nose with fresh oysters. Rich provided the play-by-play and the crowd cheered wildly.

“And the winner is Crazy Legs Conti with 14 dozen plus three raw Louisiana oysters in ten minutes!”



Dave “Mo Ribs” Molesky goes nose to nose with fresh, raw Louisiana oysters.

Crazy Legs is a wiry young guy with blond dreadlocks. Rich approached him with the mic. The crowd hushed. “How do you feel, man?”

“I feel good,” he said, a little staid. Then, “Tonight, I’m headed to Acme Oyster House for dinner.”

Crazy Legs sidled over to the Oyster Queen, a beautifully costumed young woman. The queen eyed his face, searched for a clean spot, and graciously landed a quick kiss.

Sponsors of the event were the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, Acme Oyster House, McIlhenny Company (TABASCO Pepper Sauce), Miller Brewing Company, and *Culinary Concierge* magazine.

In a city where people take eating seriously, indulgence was just pushed to a new level. The oyster eating contest is sure to become one of New Orleans’ great annual events.

For Louisiana seafood recipes and quality wholesale seafood suppliers, visit www.louisiana-seafood.com.