COUGARS HUNGRY FOR A WIN IN FOURTH ANNUAL UH VS. RICE CHILI COOK-OFF

Houston, Sept. 14, 2012 – Let’s just call it a split decision.

During last year’s UH vs. Rice Chili Cook-Off, a five-judge panel awarded the trophy to the Rice team. But when the public tasted samples and marked which one they liked the best, the University of Houston entry came out on top.

So now a rematch is set for Saturday, Sept. 29, in the tailgating area of Reliant Stadium prior to the UH-Rice football game. And this time around, the UH team is hoping to recapture the hearts – and taste buds – of the judges.

The fourth installment of the annual competition gets started early. The cooking teams from both schools will begin the culinary challenge at 9 a.m. Four hours later at 1 p.m., the judges will decide who gets to keep the coveted trophy by awarding points based on five criteria: originality, taste, presentation, texture and overall quality. The judging panel will comprise two representatives from UH, two from Rice and one third-party judge.

Students, staff and faculty from UH are encouraged to come out and support the cook-off team, which is being led once again by Chef Brent Gorman, cast their vote for their favorite in a blind taste test, then head into the stadium to cheer on the Cougars at the football game, which kicks off at 2:30 p.m.

“People will be given two cups of chili – one from the UH team and one from the Rice team. You taste both of them and then you mark down which one you think is the best,” said Billy Garner, the marketing coordinator for Auxiliary Services. “The team that gets the most votes wins the People’s Choice competition.”

The cook-off began four years ago when UH wanted to showcase the dining excellence at the university and suggested a friendly competition with Rice. The event has been growing every year since.
UH won the trophy the first year, but Rice has captured it the past two. The People’s Choice Award has been won by UH all three years. Last year, 58 percent of the public vote was in favor of UH’s chili. UH hopes to make it four years in a row.

“We’re trying to encourage as many students as possible to go out to this event and sample both the chilis and have a great time,” Garner said.

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a comprehensive national research institution serving the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. UH serves more than 38,500 students in the nation’s fourth-largest city, located in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region of the country.
4th Annual Chili Cook-Off

FREE chili samples

Judging begins at 1 p.m.

September 29, 2012 at Reliant Stadium (Tailgate Area)