Long Island chef Adam Goldgell still on Food Network's 'Restaurant Express'

Tuesday December 3, 2013 12:52 PM By Tara Conry

Adam Goldgell, 47, a St. James resident and executive chef of Reel in East Rockaway, is competing on Food Network's "Restaurant Express," which airs Sundays at 9 p.m. (Credit: Handout)

After surviving the chopping block in the previous episode of the Food Network's "Restaurant Express," Adam Goldgell stepped up his game during Sunday's show. The final four contestants were challenged to each host a supper club with a budget of $1,000, and the 47-year-old St. James resident won over his guests with a menu that included lobster, filet mignon and crab cakes.

"He's figured out, 'Hey, I really want this more than I ever wanted this before and I'm going to try and get out of my comfort zone,' and he's done that with this menu," show host British celebrity chef Robert Irvine said in the episode.

Goldgell's performance allowed him to retain his seat on the "Restaurant Express" bus. The show began airing six weeks ago with nine contestants boarding the luxury bus in Las Vegas. As they traveled around the West Coast during the summer, when the show was filmed, they competed in challenges and each week, the weakest performer was kicked off the bus.

The winner will open a restaurant at The M Resort, Spa and Casino in Las Vegas with the title of executive chef.

Goldgell currently holds that title at Reel in East Rockaway. He helped the restaurant, formerly known as The Fishery, reopen after it suffered damage from superstorm Sandy, and assisted with its conversion to Reel.

Goldgell said his experience gave him an advantage on the show, but his confidence and New York attitude didn't make him a fan favorite. "I've definitely been made out to be the villain," he said. Although Goldgell can't reveal his fate on the show, he said the experience was enjoyable. He's also adding a few of the dishes he crafted for the cameras to Reel's menu. "Restaurant Express" airs Sundays at 9 p.m.