

Day 1

We all meet at Perth airport at 2pm to get all our stuff checked in we probably had enough equipment to open a small cafe and it just keep on coming box after box trolley after trolley I just didn't stop, once we got on the plane me and Cameron could start to get down to business, I think we would of discussed a lot if we didn't have TV's in front of us but it was good just to relax for the 3 hrs that we could cause we knew once we got to Sydney it was game on.

Day 2

Me and Cameron get up at 7am after around 5 hrs sleep, this would of been the first time I've not slept in a single bed in about 3 years and it was not a comfortable sleep, we end up going down for breakfast and head off to the fine food shop, we had a few of our team competing, the center pieces that were there was amazing I've never in my life seen a chocolate samara fight, a horse make out of butter and a dragon out of salt, myself Cameron and team manager peter Tischhauser leave for out menu planning and master class with MLA, humpty doo Barramundi and herbie's herb, we spent around 4 hours on our winning menu, our whole menu was black box. After getting our menu down we both realised we didn't have anything to put our soup in. So after deb said we could leave we jumped into a taxi go to the apartments where the rest of the team was saying grabbed as much stuff as we could use for our menu. We go back to the hotel and start to write up workflow plans, shopping list, tool equipment anything we did was on a piece of paper, and just when we think it's all over peter knocks on the door brings in pages with circles on it and tells us were going to plate up now, this for me was really good so instead of thinking on the day what do I do where do I put it, it's right in front of me. We ended up getting to sleep around 1230, 1am

Day 3

The day of the competition where it all comes down to one simple stupid mistake, at this stage I'm feeling really nervous I mean this is mine and Cameron's last chance as apprentices to prove ourselves, we went down stairs from breakfast it was every team and there manager at a table, hardly anyone looked at each other. We knew it was game on,

Maybe know I realised I should of eaten breakfast instead of just having a coffee, we get to the college

Everyone is starting to feel like it's now or never, I've never been in a situation like this before it was amazing the thrill of everyone grabbing tools bowls, pots, pans anything they needed and more!

Myself and Cameron I believe had the up to this we had every container with weights on it so in it went and on went the lid, next part, and so on and so forth. It comes to the last ten minutes remaining for the team manages to be allowed in here this stage I've already gone to the toilet twice since I've been here.

First hour passes I already have our braise on, carrot custard on the go lamb back strap with spitchock and pistachio farce done Cameron is busting it all to get it done I was proud of Cameron today we worked like the best team we ever had, then I hit a bit of trouble, never have I cut myself filleting fish, I look down and I see half the barramundis' dorsal fin in my finger I just look at cam he knows I'm in pain. Judge Pete Di Pino see cam finished off and Kylie fixes me off. I get straight back into it. I and Cameron worked that clean, Patrick O'Brien asked if we were actually doing any work this brought a smile onto our faces

We were both glad when the day was over I was exhausted and dehydrated, my lips were red raw

We go into the room where all the plates were kept, I knew from there and then me n Cameron did WA proud but I still had the feeling that there were team that could of beaten us.

That night we all get on a water taxi and go to Lanzafame at the casino which was an amazing 5 course degustation menu one of the best nights so far

Day 4

The day where we all are friends again, we go down to the show to eat lunch as a treat from deb

Which was a beautiful lunch made by two of the Australian Olympic team members and one of our Western Australian team members, I've never eaten deconstructed Waldorf salad or pea foam before but

it tasted better than it sounds. The night of the presentation where all the nerves set back in for me, we all walk over as one big happy family, we all sit down on our table and the dinner with speeches and our awards get given out, the first lot of awards entree

We get a silver very happy about this is when I start to get very nervous one team gets gold for their entree, its main course now and I still haven't eaten anything, they call out the awards, bronze medal goes past, silver medal goes past an I'm starting to get a smile on my face I knew I didn't do anything wrong for the main course. GOLD team Western Australia best feeling so far.

Dessert medals get called out and I and Cameron get silver and one team gets gold! Now there are 2 teams with one gold and two silvers this is starting to feel the nerves a lot now, we all go outside for a break, straight away I'm on the phone to my family and friends.

Peter Wright gets on stage and thanks the major sponsors one last time and opens that envelope that has the winning names on it.

'Could Shane Middleton and Cameron Wetton please come to the stage?'

Our whole table is going nuts, I looked over at our team manager Peter Tischhauser has the biggest smile on his face and our executive chef Claire Lewis is crying and we knew we have done her proud.

We go on stage and the flashes keep coming picture after picture, I tell my speech and then I go blank half way thru the speech. The crowd laugh, I finish off the speech and go around and we all get a group photo of all the teams. We leave the function and meet the rest of the team at our hotel, as soon as we walk in our whole team is cheering for us and telling us how proud they were, I never thought in my life at this young of an age I would be representing Australia in one of the biggest competitions in world. Dreams really do come true.

Shane Middleton Team Captain

Nestle Chefs Golden hat winner Joondalup Resort Hotel Western Australia