
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015 AT 9:01 AM

Four Brewers, S2E14 Notes

Saison Showdown

Public link to 4B scores spreadsheet:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OCRqLUMn5-Yxrm07tAikdkNjXFnVe0au7xEdfgjkRs/edit?usp=sharing> <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OCRqLUMn5-Yxrm07tAikdkNjXFnVe0au7xEdfgjkRs/edit?usp=sharing>

- Start show (01:44)
- Two shows happening, style showdown
 - last one was the BA imp stout shows
 - little bit different format
 - did 9 beers last time
 - thought we'd do 32 beers for March Madness, not a good idea
 - cut it down to 16 beers
 - beers are limited by availability, so we couldn't find all the whalez
 - took all saisons available, Jason took Rate Beer and Beer Advocate rankings and averaged and rank their scores, took top 12 of those, then we each chose a wildcard beer
 - duplicate breweries were eliminated
- Beers on this show:
 - Anchorage Love Buzz
 - Boulevard Saison-Brett
 - Fantome Saison
 - Logsdon Seiozen Bretta
 - Dupont Avec Les
 - Supont Saison
 - Crooked Stave Surette
 - Grassroots Arctic Saison
 - Lost Abbey Carnevale (Was supposed to be Jolly Pumpkin, but Jason left the beer at home
 - Mat happy this beer made it
 - Ommegang Henneoin
 - The Bruery Saison Rue
 - Prairie Ales - Prairie Ale

- These are the wildcard beers
 - John: Boulevard Tank 7
 - Jason: Propolis Beltane (won GABF gold in 2014)
 - Greg: Firestone Walker Opal
 - thought they deserved a spot because they won the BBA stout show
 - Matt: Monkish Saison
- These beers will all be blind
- scoring up to 100 points
- our pourers and helpers:
 - Sara Kidd
 - Bob Vreeland
 - Dr. Zack
- beers are all served random
- Beer 1 (07:52) Hennepin:
 - Matt: hazy, fluffy head
 - Jason: sweet malt nose
 - Greg: spicy herbal nose
 - Matt: pilsner malt doughiness
 - John: soft
 - Matt: potent
 - Nagel: full flavor
 - Jason: sweet character, aggressive funk
 - Matt: noble hop character
 - John: cereal characteristic
 - Jason: like Captain Crunch
 - Matt: not offended by it
 - Jason: not offended it, but not loving it
 - (We're scoring up to 100 points for the beers)
 - Nagel: doesn't like the alcohol heat
- Beer 2 (08:58) Saison-Brett:
 - Matt: completely different
 - John: flower, Brett
 - Jason Nagel agree
 - Matt: new american
 - Nagel: lemony
 - Matt: grapefruit, citrus, hop forward
 - Jason: diggin it. Fruit hop, fruity floral
 - Matt: 1 is old world
 - Jason: old school vs. new school
 - Matt: Beer 1 85, beer 2 80, prefers beer 1

- (this comes down to new school vs. old school, Matt leans to old world)
- John: going to lean toward Brett saisons
- Jason: tried to keep stout show homogenous, this show showcases diversity of saison
- John: Greg's homebrew was made with Brett trois, but wasn't prominent, yet still a great beer
- Jason: beer 2 is what he looks for in a saison
 - 3 of us gave it a 90
 - beer 2 might be winning this
- Nagel didn't care for boozy kick on beer 1
- Beer 3 (13:05) Avec:
 - no guessing the beers
 - John is palate cleansing with Hite
 - Matt: a lot of bread on nose
 - not a lot of yeast character
 - Nagel: smells like a bakery
 - Matt: old world character, noble hop, spicy
 - Nagel: slight haze
 - Jason: old world, likes it more than first beer
 - smooth, not complex, but refreshing
 - John: more fruity/candy than first
 - Nagel: Jolly Rancher on the finish
 - Matt: this beer has rye in it, spicy lip smacking
 - Nagel: rating to style of what he prefers
- Beer 4 (15:25) Surrette:
 - Matt: completely different beer
 - Matt scored 3 a 75, as well as John
 - Jason: this one smells very sweet
 - John: has a sour tip on it, sour
 - Nagel: puckery, fully sour
 - Matt: good, but way out of place
 - John: gonna stand out if moves on
 - Matt: a bit acedid, not a fan
 - Jason: it's good, takes you back if you're looking for saison
 - Matt: this beer is old, OLD world
 - Nagel: scored 40
 - Jason: 75
 - liked it, but out of place
 - good in a sour beer showdown
 - Matt: 65, on it's open it's great but out of place, under carb'd

- Nagel: beer 3 wasn't ahead of it, but better than beer 4
- Beer 3 wins
- Beer 5 (17:56) Selah:
 - John: fragile head that looks like it will go away
 - Matt: head is rocky
 - Matt: more american hopped brett trois vibe
 - likes it better than the other American
 - Greg: Cheese, bleu cheese
 - Matt: more fuck, brett influence
 - Jason: fruity, pineapple brett character
 - Nagel: fruit, pineapple and funky cheese
 - Jason: very pale for this field
 - John: tastes "dirty"
 - Nagel: earthy
 - Matt: next beer is earthier
 - Jason: 77
 - John: residual sweetness, earthiness
 - Matt: 80, liked it
 - John: 60
- Beer 6 (19:43) Fantome Saison:
 - Matt: not liking 6
 - John: smells like candy
 - Matt: smoke
 - Matt: 50, not liking
 - Jason: burning Jolly Ranchers
 - Matt: not into it at all
 - John: has an odd smoke thing
 - Jason: floral, but flavors combined are not good
 - Nagel: too dark for what he likes
 - Matt likes more color
 - John asks if we can alter scores of previous beers, wants to raise 5
 - Jason: make this beer a bit lower
 - Jason: beer is like a kitchen sink. Scored 50
 - John: 55, last one 60, John didn't like 5
 - Matt: 6 gets a 50
 - Lowest score today
 - Nagel: beer doesn't seem finished
 - Matt: nobody was into this beer
 - Nagel: what are you looking for in saison, Matt?

- Dryness
 - proper CO2 on high side
 - pale color
 - lots of yeast character or even blend of yeast and hop
- Nagel: looking for dry and effervescent, lots of yeast character, spice notes, funky yeast
 - Matt doesn't look for funk
 - Saison Dupont has no funk, white pepper
 - Nagel: noble hoppy
 - Matt: white pepper
 - has unique yeast character
 - John gravitates toward brett saisons, but likes Dupont
- Jason would drink all of these, more than likely - people will know which beers are which - announce today?
- Beer 7 (25:38) Arctic Saison:
 - John: this is nice. Clean, good CO2
 - Dupontish?
 - Matt, no
 - too acidic
 - Matt: this is a wild type of saison, but not in your face sour
 - close to what matt likes
 - a bit bright, even though a bit sour
 - Jason: fav so far, good flavor, sweet, funk, refreshing, dry effervescent,
 - Matt: 90
 - Jason: 91
 - Nagel: 95, 100 if not so tart
- Beer 8 (27:20) Tank 7:
 - Nagel: aroma not there
 - Jason: funk, horsey
 - Nagel: dirty
 - Matt: American hops
 - Jason: old Cascade
 - Nagel: beeswax, a little waxy
 - Matt: really good
 - Jason: floral, tart, a little darker
 - Nagel: this bracket is tough
 - Matt agrees
 - Matt, Jason: could use more dryness
 - Matt: 85

- Jason: 87
- John 75, average. Would drink again
- Jason thinks 6 is the only one he can't finish
- Matt: we're not doing a definitive, end all be all type of ranking
 - Jason: were trying to make a show here
- Beer 9 (29:50) Opal:
 - Anyone have a beer they want to see succeed?
 - Jason: Monkish
 - Nagel: Monkish, Love Buzz
 - Jason likes Anchorage
 - Matt: Saison Dupont or Avec
 - Jason: Belgian beer at a Belgian bar
 - Matt: skunked
 - Nagel: aroma: lemon drops, fresh cut grass, a little skunky
 - Matt: smell like his armpit
 - it's good though
 - Jason: not a lot of skunk
 - John provided Avec beer, was worried that sun may have skunked beer since in garage, but it's in a brown bottle
 - Matt: green bottle imports suffer from green bottles and skunk
 - Avec is in a brown
 - Fantome is in green bottle
 - Jason: green bottles look good
 - Jason: it's good, but doesn't have little something extra, 80
 - Nagel: has a lot of what he likes
 - Matt: american hopped. 75
 - Jason: gets old world vibe
 - Matt: yeast is spicy, but hop profile is american
 - John: 77, this beer is good, above average
 - Matt: are first beers we tasted advantaged?
 - John thinks maybe they're disadvantaged
 - Jason: first beer isn't winning
- Beer 10 (34:18) Love Buzz:
 - Matt: oak, wild, vanilla
 - Nagel: maybe a wine barrel, oak is prominent
 - John likes aroma
 - Jason: might be a sweet attack, but it's not
 - Matt: CO2 not there, Jason agrees
 - Nagel: tart
 - Matt: flat on tongue

- John: feels heavy
- Matt made a weird noise
- Jason: likes it, but a hair under the first beer
- Matt: this is tough. 10 would be good, but CO2 would kill it
- Jason: lost abbey, matt: not carnevale
- Nagel: watermelon, wine barrel
- Matt: wine barrel
- Nagel: tasty in its own right
- Matt: 80
 - carb being correct would have taken it higher
- John: 77
- Beer 9 wins 78.25%
- Beer 11 (37:10) Saison Dupont:
 - Matt: old world and skunky
 - Jason: classic saison
 - Matt: super dry, likes it
 - Jason: biscuit
 - Matt: pepper, fresh cut grass
 - Jason: liquid bread, tastes like a roll
 - John: Hawaiian rolls are the best
 - We passed the Kings roll factory when shooting shows in LA
 - john had Citra and Mayberry from El Segundo. Were both awesome
 - Matt doesn't know what to think of this beer
 - Nagel: it's a ghost
 - Matt: 85. Old world and likes it
 - Jason: 75. reference saison, no frills, solid down the middle
 - Nagel: missing a punch, Jason agrees
 - Matt: too subtle?
- Beer 12 (40:37) Saison Rue:
 - Nagel: subtle
 - Matt: very clear
 - Nagel: fails on saison cloudy level
 - John: malty caramel
 - Matt: toasty
 - John: hot?
 - Jason: backbone isn't there, doesn't come together well
 - Jason: 70, Matt 70.
 - Matt would enjoy this alone, but not in comparison

- Nagel: missing something on nose
- Matt: not particularly aromatic
- Jason: beer 11 was similar, but this one is a little bland
- Matt thinks this is American
- Jason thinks he knows this beer
 - both widely available in US
- Beer 11 wins, got same score as beer 10
- Beer 2 and 7 are early leaders
- Beer 13 (44:00) Beltane:
 - Matt: American and armpit
 - Nagel: has a sulfur bite, smells like snatch
 - Mitch Steele's book mentions this
 - Matt agrees
 - John: smells like ketchup
 - Matt: tartness
 - Nagel: acetic dill pickles
 - John: ketchup and pickles
 - Jason: nose is bad, flavor not
 - Matt: 65
 - Jason: 60
 - Nagel: 40
 - John not feeling it
- Beer 14 (46:00) Prairie Ale:
 - Matt: creamy nose? cloudiest
 - Jason: lingering head, smells vanilla, oak
 - Matt: stone fruit, peach nectarine
 - John agrees
 - Nagel type of beer, tone of character
 - Matt likes CO2
 - Matt: maybe smokey
 - Matt: 75
 - Jason: 80, feeling it
 - Nagel: 95. This beer is his happy place
 - Beer 14 wins
 - Nagel loves everything about this beer
- we talk about everyone's scores at this point
- #4B4L (Four Brewers For Life)
- (talk of different people on Patreon)
- Beer 15 (50:58) Seizoen Bretta:
 - Matt: smells like dirt

- Jason: super-foamy
- Nagel: not expecting the flavor
- Jason: not much on nose
- Matt: has funk, Brett, but plastic
- Matt: 50
- Nagel: earthy, ashy
- John doesn't think it's that bad
- Matt: there's some kind of earthy dirty funk
- John: 80
- Matt changes score to 65
 - something isn't working
- Beer 16 (52:33) Carnevale:
 - Nagel: smells like a textbook saison
 - Matt: honey nose
 - John: smells like his first saison
 - Nagel: lemon drop
 - Matt: flavor better
 - Jason: better than 15
 - Matt: 75. Aroma earthy, but not ashy like 15
 - Nagel: like Ricola with eucalyptus
 - John: carb is prickly
 - tasted like it has residual sugar, so carb might be helping
 - scored 73
- We're all mid 70's on this beer
- Jason: 16 won this round
- Next round:
 - 2
 - 3
 - 5
 - 7
 - 9
 - 11
- Matt: first time he put this many saisons next to each other
- Jason: 6 is the only beer he might not get again, 15 has issues
 - Matt says 15 smells like twigs
 - round 1 over
- Thanks to Zack, Bob and Sara
- Next show is final rounds and reveals

END SHOW
